



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

Know Who You Are

December 2013



Victorian Adventist
COMMUNICATIONS



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With 2014 being designated by the South Pacific Division as the Year of Evangelism, a year to focus personally and collectively on sharing what we have and know with those around us, it is well worth taking a moment to consider what it actually means to be a Seventh-day Adventist – to find your Adventist identity.
Dr Barry Oliver from the SPD has this editorial message for you.

This year we are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the establishment of our global Church organisation. In 1863 we had just 3500 members in a few isolated locations in the North-eastern United States. Today, the Seventh-day Adventist Church spans the globe with a family of adherents of close to 30 million people. We are people of hope—hope for a better life in Christ today and hope for the new world to come when Jesus returns. We are a people of prophecy—people who build their conviction and certainty in the Word of God on the demonstrable fulfilment of Bible prophecy. We are people of holism - we believe that this prophetic message of hope is couched in the context of the abundant life that Jesus experienced as he “increased in wisdom and stature and favour with God and Man. (Luke 2:52) We are people who are focused on Jesus as the “way, the truth, and the life.”

Jesus must be the centre of all we are and do.

We look forward to His return and take His commission to make disciples through the presence and power of His Spirit seriously. We honour Him by keeping His Sabbath day holy and we share its blessings with all.

We are Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

Dr Barry Oliver

South Pacific Division President

This is the last issue of IntraVic for 2013, so the editorial team would like to take this moment to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and year end.



Please note, the Conference Office will be closed from December 24 at 12.30 and re-opens January 2, 2014



IntraVic September 2013

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Explore Your Identity

Written by IntraVic Editorial Team

In this article we challenge you with a series of questions to think about your own Adventist identity – what does it really mean to you to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. Do you identify with the description of a stereotypical Adventist, or does it fall far from the mark? Included throughout this edition is feedback we received when we asked some people how they saw their own Adventist identity.

Some of us grew up in an era where being a Seventh-day Adventist meant being different.

Very different.

To young impressionable minds, that was hard, being different – living in the world, but not be a part of it... it took courage to admit you were a Seventh-day Adventist, with the great long list of things you didn't do that made you so different. Some carried that subconscious difficulty with them into adult life.

For others, admitting to being an Adventist and living accordingly, meant more than being self-conscious – it meant being picked on by students and teachers alike, families being discriminated against, losing jobs, being persecuted...

Now, we sometimes hear our young people saying "I consider myself more a Christian first, than a Seventh-day Adventist."

And the pendulums are swinging both ways. How is it possible that while some are minimising

“ STEREOTYPED ADVENTIST: A person who finds special meaning in the seventh day of the week, observes a practice of rest on that day, and has a special hope for the future. A Seventh-day Adventist is likely a vegetarian and adopts other healthy lifestyle habits. Adventists are generally known for fostering their own sub-culture, operating church-affiliated schools and universities, defending creation as an event that occurred in seven literal days, and, in the past, registering for non-combatant status in the military.⁵

our differences with other denominations, others are maximising our uniqueness? After all, we are all Christian, both within our church and inter-denominationally. We can take our differences into the world and be part of it without taking on its ways... can't we?

Or is that too much compromise? But then, maybe we are not so different anyway... having given up some of our dogma (interestingly at a time when the rest of the 'world' is beginning to see the truth in what we said!). Or perhaps these and other creeds are essential to our identity and need to be firmly re-established?

In today's era, as Jo Ann Davidson, Professor of Theology at Andrews University, told our ministers earlier this year, some Adventists are saying that not all scripture is equally inspired, while others think the doctrine of the Trinity is a Catholic doctrine. She said that many Christians no longer believe in a literal cosmic-wide second coming of Christ and that there are

some within our church saying we should no longer preach it.

Are we, as a church with many fourth and fifth generation Adventists, losing our identity?

In 1978, retiring General Conference President, Robert Pierson appealed to denominational leaders to retain Adventism's distinctive profile. He described a typical process of growth of a church, from a small group with a charismatic leader and tremendous drive and commitment, to the second generation where children are born into the church, rather than having hammered out their position.

The third generation involves organisation and buildings, leaders studying methods of spreading their faith, through to the fourth and fifth generations – with their machinery, great church councils and a move to become 'relevant' and accepted by contemporary society. Over thirty years ago, he pleaded with the leaders not to let this happen.¹

...continues on page 15

“ ADVENTIST IDENTITY: Hope for an end to all that is evil and Hope for a never ending growth of all that is good – with my best friend Jesus.

- Church member

Be Loyal to Your Identity

Written by Hensley Gungadoo

Marie Durand was a woman living in the 18th century, who understood her identity at the young age of fifteen, and remained true to it against incredible odds. Preacher Hensley Gungadoo, minister for Bendigo Church, recently went on a Reformation Tour where they visited Aigues Mortes and learnt of Marie's story.



THE ROOM WHERE THE WOMEN
WERE IMPRISONED (ABOVE)
AND THE STONE ON WHICH
MARIE CARVED THE WORD
'REGISTER'

In 1643, Louis XIV became the king of France and wanted France to be ruled by one king and one religion. He moved to revoke the Edict of Nantes (1598), which had guaranteed freedom of conscience and religious liberty to everyone in France in 1685. Basically this had granted the Huguenots the right to practice their religion without persecution from the state, ensuring they could worship God in freedom and let the Bible be their only rule of faith.

King Louis had his way and on October 18, 1685, the Edict of Fontainebleau made it illegal to be a Huguenot and persecution resumed.

Marie was born into a Huguenot family and her brother, Pierre, was a minister. Unable to arrest him, as the authorities desired, they imprisoned her father, Etienne. Hoping to hide her identity and keep her safe, the family married Mary to a man named Matthew Serres but at the age of 15, she was arrested and soon after, Matthew was taken too.



“ ADVENTIST IDENTITY : to stand apart from the crowd – to live a life reflecting the values and teachings from the Bible. It means sharing my faith and love for the Lord through everything I do
- Teacher ”



And all that time, freedom was just one word away. J'abjure.

From time to time, the prisoners were allowed go into the fresh air at the top of the Tower, and view the town around them – not for their pleasure, but to demonstrate that liberty was so close. J'abjure.

All Marie needed to do to be freed, was to say that she abdicated – j'abjure – denying her Huguenot faith. A priest would visit regularly urging her to do so. But she could not bring herself to do it, even though she would have gained freedom from the atrocious conditions she existed in.

Instead, she painstakingly carved out the word 'register,' meaning resist, into the stone of her cell. And so, in 1767, at the age of 53 Marie was released. Her father, brother and husband were no more and she too, died seven years later.

W. Stevens wrote a poem about the Tower of Constance. As you read it, you can almost feel the agony of Marie Durand during the 38 long years.

Her life was a commitment to her beliefs and the truths of the Reformation. It reminds me to stand firm in what I believe as a Seventh-day Adventist.

It reminds me that I should at all times live with a clear conscience before God, even when living from day to day for my faith may prove difficult. By God's grace "resist" we may.

That word – Resist – stubbornly reminds me of the need to be faithful despite the circumstance – to remain true to my identity.

To do that, I need to know and understand my identity.
Do you know yours?

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ <http://www.leben.us/index.php/component/content/article/56-volume-3-issue-1/215-marie-durand>
² AUC Conference 2103 Reformation Lands Tour notes p. 158

More drear, more drear the circling years
Within those walls of gloomy fame,
Where the bright dawn like eve appears,
And joy and sorrow seem the same.
None goeth forth but must forswear
The faith that is the soul's true breath;
Yet love is stronger than despair,
Life crowns the faithful unto death.

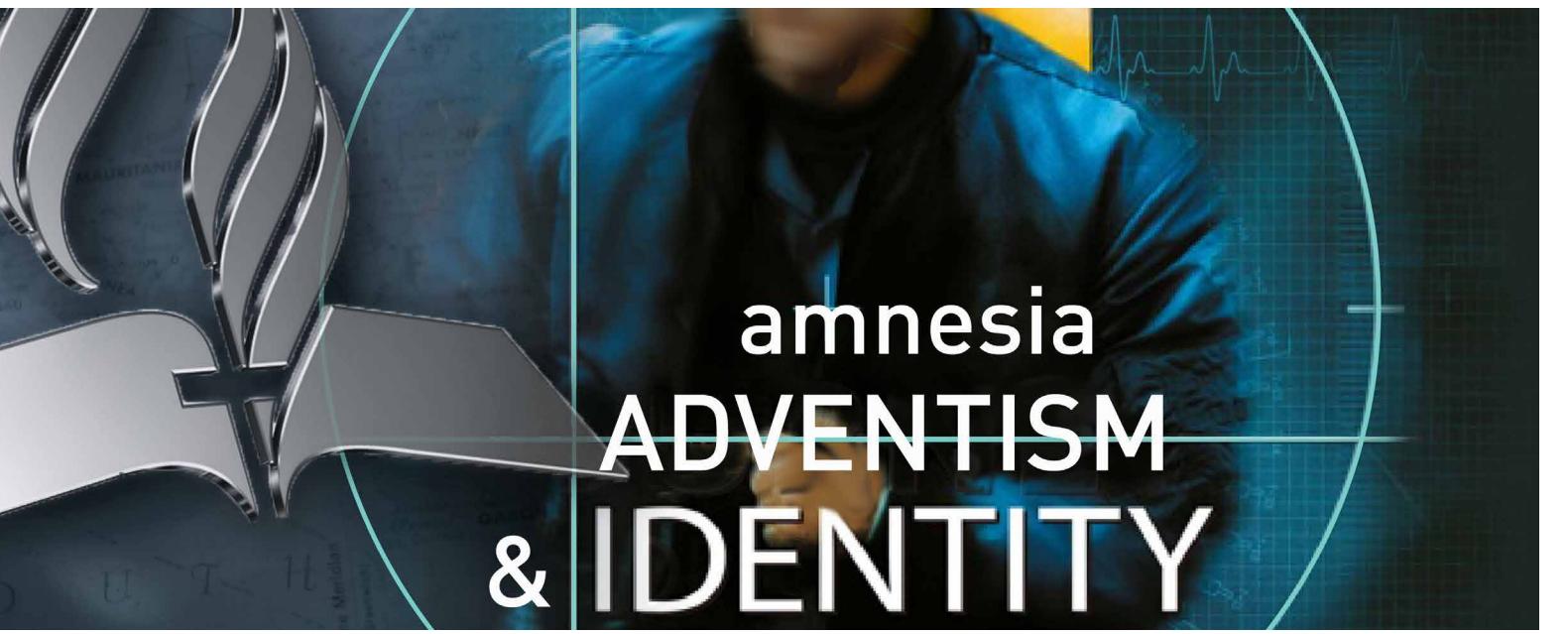
Here pines the mother for her child,
The wife laments her husband lost,
The grandame withers, maiden mild
Droops like a flower in northern frost;
Slow pass the years, yet each one grows
To riper virtues in her lot;
Come summer heats, come winter snows,
She knows the Christ who changeth not.

Here weaker woman waits and prays,
Enduring in the strength divine;
A simple faith her spirit stays,
And round her unseen glories shine:
She fades and dies. One word alone
She leaves to rouse the drooping will,
Fast graven in the dungeon stone,
"Résiste!" - still that word abides,
In strenuous strife of good with ill;

The years shall come, with summer glow,
Past shining seas, o'er lands all fair,
And wide the gloomy portals throw,
And breathe the life of God's free air.
"Résiste!" - still that word abides,
In strenuous strife of good with ill;
"Résiste!" - gird thy fainting will.

W. Stevens²

“ ADVENTIST IDENTITY : people who are compassionate, caring and non-judgemental
- Non Adventist ”



Written by Anthony MacPherson

Pr Anthony MacPherson has prepared this devotional on Adventist identity for us, where he discusses the relevance of history and how internal and external forces influence our identity.

In the movie, The Bourne Identity, Italian fishermen rescue an unconscious man floating in the Mediterranean. When he revives, he has no memory of who he is – his only lead is the number of a safe deposit box in Switzerland. Assuming the name on a passport found in the box, Jason Bourne, the man embarks on a quest to find his real identity. In the whirlwind of action that follows, Bourne discovers he is fluent in multiple languages, lethally proficient in unarmed combat, and wanted by very dangerous men.

The waking amnesiac is such a favourite plot device for movies that it has become something of a cliché. But what makes it so appealing is the desperate desire each of us has for identity. Who am I? Tell me I'm someone! Tell me I belong! Tell me I have a history, a home, an identity!

Identity is essential. Without one we don't "exist." Having an identity is good and necessary, but not every identity is good or necessary: identities can be as challenging as they are comforting.

When Jason Bourne finally discovers his real identity, it is not

a pleasant one (he is the result of an experimental CIA program to develop a new breed of assassin). That revelation begins a whole new struggle and – surprise – several more movies to follow!

Spiritual Amnesia

Bourne's psychogenic amnesia may be fictional but it illustrates how crucial identity is to us as human beings. Identity brings challenges and opportunities; it both enables and confines us. In our 21st century era Adventist identity can be just as promising and as challenging.

And like Bourne, one reason is amnesia. I don't mean the psychogenic amnesia of Jason Bourne but a troubling loss of theological, doctrinal, historical memory. As a result I get the feeling that many Seventh-day Adventists, especially the young or those new in the faith, feel a little like Jason Bourne. They are unsure of their identity. And when they begin to find out they are not sure what to make of it.

Why is this? I would like to suggest some reasons external to Adventism and some that are internal.

External Challenges: Secular and Spiritual

Outside of us there are powerful external forces which challenge our identity. We live in a culture that is profoundly secular and spiritual at the same time.

The secular ethos tells us that religion is a private individual matter best kept to oneself. Any view is as good as another's because each is as non-ultimate as the next. Faith makes no claims beyond the personal ones you believe in your heart.

Far from eliminating faith, as the atheistic and sceptical secularists would hope, such a society produces a new popular generic spirituality. It is easily identified by its beloved creed "I'm spiritual not religious." This essentially me-based spirituality compliments rather than challenges the status quo. It is all about personal individual preference. It has a mix and match consumerist quality to it. If you don't like something about your faith which conflicts with contemporary morals or values, simply change it and reshape your faith to reflect what is more acceptable. This spirituality wilts before the slightest accusation of intolerance. It will not go against a dominant moral or ideological consensus even if the consensus is hostile to God or Scripture. This spirituality is about fun, success, human happiness, prosperity, and comes in plenty of non-Christian as well as Christian forms.

"We live in a society that is profoundly secular in its spirituality"

Society doesn't like exclusive or absolute truth claims. They are considered arrogant and offensive. It is 'bad' enough that Adventists uphold key Christian moral positions in the area of sexuality or claims that Jesus is the only way to

salvation.

But of course Adventists go further than that. For example, we claim, above and beyond all other Christian groups, that we have been raised up by God to herald in a special way the Second Coming of Jesus. We claim that God is calling the world back to keep all of the commandments of God, including the Sabbath, and that this will become a test for the inhabitants of the earth. We claim that all of Christendom got it terribly wrong when it imagined an austere deity bent on subjecting sinners to eternity in a blistering hell.

The push-back to such claims that comes from secular society and contemporary Christianity unnerves many Adventists. They ask themselves "Do I want an identity that produces such a reaction?" It is at this point that spiritual, theological amnesia proves devastating and even fatal. Unsure of the basis for our position, people experience a profound lack of confidence; at its worst, this leads to a rejection of Adventism.

Internal Challenges: Distorted Versions

While external challenges expose weaknesses, it's the internal challenges which are the source. Real Adventism is only the genuine article if it is about the first and second advents of Jesus Christ. If it isn't centred in Him and His advent, it's not from Him.

Unfortunately it is all too easy to add minor or foreign elements and allow these to push Jesus into the background – even to the point of replacing Him – confusing non-essential, optional, cultural and tribal elements found in Adventism with the real essential core. As we focus more on these things rather than on Jesus, we risk division, disunity and intolerance and the very real possibility of



Pr Anthony MacPherson
Minister for Plenty Valley Church

having Adventism without the Advent, that is, Jesus. Spiritually mature people don't want some crude substitute for Jesus – they want Jesus... and all too often the reaction to a distorted version of Adventism is to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

"Watering down our distinctive doctrines often leads to watering down Christ Himself, as the same philosophy is at work"

Substitute Identity

Alternatively we could simply water down Adventism to a slight variant on generic Christianity. In this version we keep the Sabbath, focusing more on its benefit than its divine requirement. We champion whatever everyone else is championing and mute what is distinctive. In this response we emphasise the positive elements and remove or downplay anything that might create tension. This is right in that it affirms the positive but wrong in denying the distinctive.

While we should reject the unnecessary additions and the



“ We are sign posts and Christ is the destination – we should find our identity in proclaiming HIS identity ”

extreme versions of Adventism, it is crucial that we remain gospel-centred, unashamedly recognising and rejoicing with other Christians who are also gospel-centred. Yet we mustn't retain the name Seventh-day Adventist but empty the content.

More importantly, watering down Adventism often leads to watering down Jesus as the same philosophy is at work.

Learning from 'JB'

In response to this I suggest we look to 'JB.' I don't mean Jason Bourne this time. I mean John the Baptist. In my mind John is most helpful as a model for Seventh-day Adventists wanting to have a strong identity that is balanced and biblically faithful. John managed to do two very difficult things simultaneously; he maintained a

sense of his unique calling without making his message about himself.

A Humble Confidence

John the Baptist knew his identity was wrapped up in preparing the world for the Messiah (John 1:22, 23). Others spoke of the coming Messiah but John was specifically called by God to prepare the world for Jesus. It would have been a false humility for John to back down and say his message was just the same as everyone else's. It wasn't. A clear sense of identity was essential to faithfully performing his mission. Seventh-day Adventist mission and message is based in a self-understanding that we are modern 'John the Baptists' called to prepare the world for the Second Coming of Jesus. If this isn't so then we need to quickly figure out what we have been doing for the past 150 years.

The Right Focus

Because John's identity was clearly defined and strongly held he knew it wasn't about him. It was about the Messiah. John understood his prime role was as witness to Jesus not as witness to himself. John 1:7, 8 says that John "came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light." He expressed this beautifully when he said of Christ that "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Real Adventism is not about Adventism. We are not the light but must bear witness to the light. It is about Jesus' first and second advents. If we truly know who we are, then like John, we will focus on Jesus and preparing to meet Him a second time.

What We Should be About

Our message and method should be about describing, worshipping, obeying, imitating, embodying, reflecting and teaching the full truth about Jesus. This means developing a deep theological, doctrinal, spiritual experience with Jesus. Jesus the eternal Son of God, Creator and Law-giver, Lord of Sabbath, crucified Saviour, our Life and Resurrection, Judge and only High Priest, our Slayer of dragon, beasts, death, Satan, self and sin, returning King and everlasting Friend.

If questioned about our identity we should not be defensive or even focused on it, but we should lead people to the fullness of Jesus and encourage them to follow Him. In following Him they will find they are walking beside us and will join us freely as God so moves.

“ Real Adventist Identity is not an emphasis on our uniqueness but on Christ - we are not THE light, but bear witness TO the Light. ”

Overcoming Amnesia

To do this we need to overcome our amnesia which has occurred through poor and distorted examples, by ignorance, fear, or laziness. We need to restore our identity by recovering a healthy spiritual, doctrinal, and theological memory. This doesn't mean adopting some fanatical form of Adventism, retrieving the Adventism of the 1950's or reproducing every detail of our pioneers. The proper memory for our real identity predates all of us and is found in the fullness of divine revelation.

It is a 'memory' of the Great Controversy – the big epic story of Christ and His victory over Satan. This memory God has shared with us.

And this story is not about us – we are mere carriers and stewards. It predates us and reaches back to vast ages of the past as well as reaching forward beyond us to the universe restored.

The plotline is cosmic and the hero divine. The villains and victims include us. This means the only way we can tell the story and include ourselves is to admit complicity in wrong and dependence on incredible divine grace.

Not 'Me' or 'We' but 'Him'

This world is trapped in a present-oriented 'me' focus. We are told that our wants and needs, our personal esteem are what really matters. It is about pleasure and prosperity, comfort, career and consumption. If we come to a 'me-centred' world with an 'us-centred' message, we are just offering a slightly better spiritual, communal version of the same outlook.

What we all need is to have our worlds invaded by Jesus. Only when people are turned inside out by Christ and become truly Jesus-centred are they ready for His return and to share that Advent hope. So let's recover the fullness of truth, including the distinctive elements of Adventism, but in such a way that it is about Jesus and His Advent. We are signposts, He is the destination.

Like John the Baptist let us have an identity that is about proclaiming His identity. An Adventist is defined by the Advent of Jesus Christ in all its eschatological, saving, prophetic, timely, sanctifying, spirit-filled, biblical beauty.

Therein lies the answer to all identity problems – to have our own swallowed up in the greater identity of Jesus Christ.



Reflections

Ellen White & Identity

Written by John Skrzypaszek
DIRECTOR EG WHITE/ADVENTIST RESEARCH CENTRE, AVONDALE

People today search for meaning and a sense of identity in many diverse places. A century ago, Ellen White addressed this very issue, suggesting the answer was to be found in a faith-oriented relationship with Jesus Christ.

Dr John Skrzypaszek, Director of the Ellen G. White/SDA Research Centre at Avondale College prepared this article for us.

Some time ago I came across an article entitled "The Search for Fulfilment Enriches Us." It caught my attention for it argued that, in Australia, fewer people believe in God. The writer, however, observed that "for many Australians there is a void in their lives, a space that once was filled by belief in a god and afterlife." Consequently, they are now searching elsewhere for the fulfilment "they cannot find in material pleasure and tangible achievement."¹

I wonder how the modern life, with its focus on human resourcefulness, consumerism and a variety of other alternatives, impacts our sense of identity. Are we looking for fulfilment by cluttering our lives with material resources, ideas we can be proud of and definitions that tantalize our inquisitive minds? And is it

“
ADVENTIST IDENTITY : I have a special obligation to tell others about living healthfully – we have been given amazing information on health and happiness
– Volunteer Health Presenter ”

just possible that still the void remains? A space from which we seek a place of rest to rediscover our identity?

Ellen White directs our mind to the heart of the matter, associating identity with a faith-oriented relationship with Jesus. "Strive earnestly for identity with the Redeemer," she wrote. "Live by faith in Christ."² He shapes our symmetry and weaves the softening influence of God's love into the fabrics of our uniqueness. "God has given each of us an identity of our own, which cannot be merged in that of another."³

In her understanding such identity has a unique focus. "It is impossible to be in union with Christ and yet be unkind to others and forgetful of their rights." With this thought she makes a significant comment so

relevant to life as we know it today - "Many long intensely for friendly sympathy"⁴

Evidently Ellen linked identity with the "religion of Christ", by which she meant the reflection of the spirit of Christ's life.⁶ These qualities can only flow from the heart attached to the Source which eliminates human insecurity, rebuilding a sense of personal worth, potential and uniqueness. Only then will "the natural inclinations [be] softened and subdued. New thoughts, new feelings, [be] implanted. But while every faculty is regenerated, man does not lose his identity."⁷

Ellen highlighted the value of Christ-centred identity. She believed identity was not grounded in knowledge-oriented argumentative convictions, but in what she defined as a "practical

...continues on page 14

“
Our lives should be consecrated to the good and happiness of others, as was our Saviour's. We should be self-forgetful, ever looking for opportunities, even in little things, to show gratitude for the favours we have received from others, and watching them for opportunities to cheer and lighten and relieve their sorrows by acts of tender kindness and little deeds of love.⁵ ”

Reflections

continued

“ Many people may be brought together in a unity of religious faith whose opinions, habits, and tastes in temporal matters are not in harmony; but if they have the love of Christ glowing in their hearts, and are looking forward to the same heaven as their eternal home, they may have the sweetest and most intelligent communion together and a unity the most wonderful.⁸ ”

religion”.⁹ Such religion develops unity not conformity. She maintained that the religion of Christ did not eliminate the sense of individuality. Rather, the inner security created respect for others. “Our hearts should ever be open to kindly sympathy and all aglow with the love that Jesus had for all His brethren.”¹⁰

She also saw a similar purpose for institutional identity. Institutions were to maintain individuality while at the same time living in harmonious relational unity with other entities. “Union with one another comes through union with Christ. In Him, each institution is united to every other while at the same time its identity is not merged in that of another.”¹¹ Free of self-orientation, they were to engage in the harmonious task of expanding God’s mission to the world.

Ellen White said “The world needs to see worked out before it the miracle that binds the

faith may live.”¹⁴ More importantly, while she reiterated the importance of living up to all the Seventh-day Adventist name stood for, she urged the necessity of learning “what it is to be a Christian – that is not the name; but it is (in) having the mind of Christ.”¹⁵

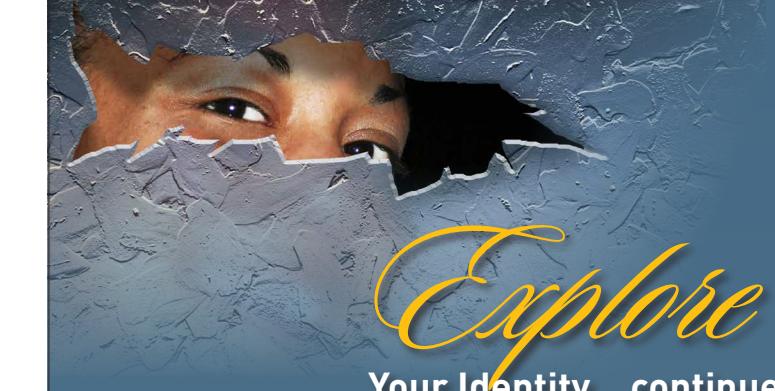
In the depth of such spiritual space, the relational and faith-oriented attachment to God and Jesus anchors identity in the hands of the Potter who shapes its beauty. On the pathway of life’s journey, the question of identity moves beyond the exercise of definitions. Rather, it involves a re-creative contextualization, a metamorphosis of values, feelings and emotions relevant to the complex needs of our contemporary life.

In her last letter, Ellen White wrote this challenging yet comforting message for those who are troubled with doubts and fears. “It is our privilege to trust in the love of Jesus for salvation.” Here, identity flows from the reassuring conviction of personal worth. “He loves me, He receives me, I will trust Him for he gave His life for me”¹⁶ Her understanding of identity was deeply anchored in her personal attachment to Jesus, her Saviour and friend.

John Skrzypaszek



4 Ibid.
5 _____. Testimonies, Vol. 3, 539.
6 _____. Testimonies Vol.4, 65.
7 _____. Signs of the Times, October 13, 1898
8 _____. Testimonies, Vol. 4, 65.
9 _____. Testimonies, Vol. 3, 197.
10 _____. Testimonies, Vol. 4, 65.
11 _____. Testimonies, Vol.7, 171.
12 _____. Testimonies, Vol.9, 188.
13 _____. Review and Herald, July 7, 1891
14 _____. Testimonies, Vol.8, 50.
15 _____. Testimonies, Vol 1, 152, 150-1.
16 _____. Letter 2, California, June 14, 1914.



Your Identity... continued

But change is inevitable. Culture is changing. There is a shift in the way people think and analyse, truth is considered to be relative and so much more information is readily available to us.

George Knight, History Professor at Andrews, warns of negative ways of relating to change. Living in the past to preserve a ‘golden age’ risks losing voice and relevancy to the current generation. Focusing exclusively on the future results in being out of touch with today’s needs and realities. And focusing entirely on the present, disengaging from both the past and the future risks disorientation in the present. Relevance alone is not enough if it means loss of contact with the historical past or the predicted future.²

Spectrummagazine posted an article in 2010, where the author suggests that perhaps Adventist identity could not be reduced to a set of beliefs or a standard experience, but is a sum of beliefs, experiences and interpretations of each member and thus is an ongoing process and subject to change.

Or maybe identity is more a matter of a balance between doctrine and deed – one or the other, or both. But is there a temptation today, to mute our preaching of the end time message, in favour of busying ourselves doing something useful in the world? Knight warns that Adventism could evolve into a well organised institution for sharing the end time message, but still lose the meaning of the very name that originally gave us our identity.³

Yet surely there is room for the beastly powers of Revelation to retain their original validity without excluding the contemporary beasts society faces such as injustice, abuse and oppression.⁴

Maybe though, our identity should be based on something much more basic, and yet far bigger than a belief system, individual and community experiences and interpretations. Something which will survive change.

Perhaps it is time to stop and think about what being a Seventh-day Adventist actually means to each one of us, regardless of how long we have been ‘in’ the Church. To look at our past, and re-assess where we stand and on what we build our identity – and be at peace with who we are.

“ ADVENTIST IDENTITY : waiting for Christ’s return, and our other doctrines, but while waiting, doing what God wants me to do and showing compassion for others, and that while I don’t live up to this ideal, my salvation and grace lie in Him

- Church member

ADVENTIST IDENTITY: Knowing something too good not to share

- Marketer ”

Footnotes

- 1 Cathy Wilcox, Sydney Morning Herald, 17 July, 2011
- 2 Ellen White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6 [Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1948], 416.
- 3 _____. Testimonies, Vol 3, 539.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2002/10/adventist-identity-in-a-changing-world.html>
- 2 George R. Knight, The Fat Lady and the Kingdom (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Assn, 1995), 158,159 as quoted in <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2002/10/adventist-identity-in-a-changing-world.html>
- 3 ibid, 163
- 4 <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2002/10/adventist-identity-in-a-changing-world.html>
- 5 <http://spectrummagazine.org/node/2687> The Identity of the Real Seventh-day Adventist by Trisha Famisaran

Church News

Action film heroes are thrust into a series of challenges that typically include physical feats, extended fight scenes and frantic chases. These films tend to feature a resourceful character struggling against incredible odds, life-threatening situations, a villain or a pursuit. All this generally concludes in a triumphant hero.

Does this sound like a personal testimony you wish you could share with others? Action packed, full of low and high points. Hollywood has taught us that this is exciting storytelling, the only way to capture the audience! So should we expect anything different when it comes to our personal testimonies?

Though Hollywood will tell us to focus on explosions and fight scenes, what really makes us feel good is the hero's ultimate triumph.

The Remaining 99

Many young people who are born into and have never left church, feel that their story is not special or exciting enough to share with others. When we read the parable of the lost sheep there is a focus on the one that is lost. Although many of us can relate to that sheep, there is little mentioned about the 99 which remain.

I would like to introduce Nathan Jakupec and Daniel Tasevski. These two young men are part of the 99; characters that Hollywood will not celebrate but thousands of angels rejoice for their decision to be baptised. Talking to Nathan and Daniel impressed me to believe that there is nothing more powerful than a young person who has not been drawn away by the pleasures of this world but instead has chosen to cement their faith and love for Jesus Christ.



Nathan and Daniel's stories are a powerful testimony for God

“ Time is short - It's time to stop mucking around and take a stand for Christ ”



Nathan Jakupec

Daniel Tasevski

can sit around and wait for a special moment to happen and then be baptised but when it really comes to the crunch, it's time to stop mucking around and make a stand for Christ because when you look back you will be glad you made that decision”

Enthusiasm for Christ

Despite lacking the typical Hollywood sequence of an action film, is this “love-for-Christ” character a powerful testimony? I say yes!

Why? A powerful testimony (like any good infomercial) does not come from its content but it packs a powerful punch through the enthusiasm of its presenter and the end result.

Dare to be a Daniel! Dare to be a Nathan! Dare to be like Jesus! Forget Hollywood's blockbusters and the expectations you may have for what makes a great testimony. You do not have to leave church and “experience” the world for you to have a “great story” on your baptism day. The secret to a powerful testimony is to love Christ – enthusiastically!

The greatest story will be told to us by the heavenly angels who guarded us and kept us from the Satan's worldly snares. We will have access to the entire movie and behind the scenes footage when we get to heaven. Don't miss out because you only wanted a good trailer.

For those of you waiting to be baptised... What are you waiting for?

God is enthusiastically calling you today to stand up and surrender 100% to Him. He has something incredible in store for you.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future [Jer 29: 11].

So keep praying, keep up with your daily devotions and Bible study. Be an active member in your church and stand up for Jesus.

When we follow God's will, it is never boring because then, no matter what, the hero always triumphs.

Velina S Jakovac



The Mass Choir at Warburton church saw people from all ages and interests coming together to enjoy the ‘miracle’ of making music and singing praise to their heavenly Father

Many Voices Lifted Up

Warburton Church

On Sabbath afternoon October 12 the Warburton church was filled with people eagerly singing praises to God as part of Warburton's first ever massed peoples choir. Well over 500 attended – from the young to the young at heart.

Singers from choirs and churches of all denominations in the Yarra Valley and greater Melbourne area came to participate in an afternoon of singing a wide range of great Christian music with a quality orchestra for support. They came, they sang for two hours and they went home inspired by the experience.

The Institute of Worship Orchestra (IOW) supplemented by members of the Gospel Big Band (GBB) made up an orchestra of fifty players. They came from around Victoria, as well as South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales for this very special occasion. A chorale of nine singers supported Kingsley Wood in leading the massed choir. Pastor Lyell Heise, IOW director and Paul Woodward, GBB director, led the musicians. Five children featured in performances with the orchestra.

Warburton's massed peoples choir was received with acclaim by those who participated and by the church's wider community. It drew many new folk to the church, promoted the outstanding work of the ADRA Redwood Community Centre and raised over \$2000 towards its operation.

The Warburton church is most grateful to all those musicians who generously gave of their time to make the afternoon a terrific success.

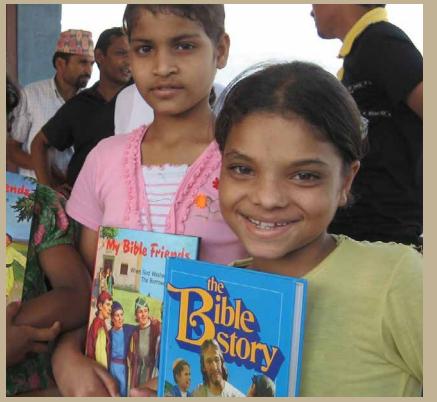
Brian Way



“ ADVENTIST IDENTITY : As I see it, it affects your whole life – you guys live it.”
- Non Adventist, chance encounter ”



Volunteer Helen Eager and visitor Judy Walker in the crowded playground at The Three Angels Mission School in Pokhara, Nepal



“ADVENTIST IDENTITY:
Being the only ‘Jesus’
some ever see...
- Church member”



Ram Chandra Dulal (far right) with his parents and sponsors, Alan and Judy Walker, outside his parents mountain home in Nepal

Far Reaching Impact Bairnsdale Church

On Sabbath 21st September 2013 Bairnsdale church had a missions focus. Darren Jacob, one of our elders, introduced the subject of some of the overseas trips our members had made sharing the gospel and meeting people's needs.

Up first, Kate Twining spoke on behalf of a group of women who went to Myanmar (previously Burma) last year. They are all involved in the Op Shop “Gems ‘n Jams” here on our church property. When they were in Myanmar they first thought to sponsor only a small number of children in desperate need at an Adventist orphanage, but the project has grown enormously. To support it, they have created a charity named Gems for Life (GEMS stands for “Gaining Education, Maximising Self-sufficiency”).

Next to speak were Alan and Judy Walker who visited Nepal late 2012. They have been sponsoring young people there through Asian Aid for some years and the church has also sponsored a child. They took two large suitcases of clothing, books and toys donated by Bairnsdale folk. While there Alan was asked to preach at the Sheer Memorial Hospital church, not far from Zenith Academy in Katmandu. (Some years ago Sheer Memorial Hospital was where Darren and his wife Beth did volunteer nursing.)

The Walkers visited their two boys, Ram Chandra Dulal and Sagar Bohara, who both attend Zenith Academy. Later they went to Pokhara where The Three Angels Mission School is located and met the Bairnsdale church sponsored boy, Sunhil. This is the school where Australian Helen Eager

does wonderful volunteer work. Again Alan was asked to preach on Sabbath.

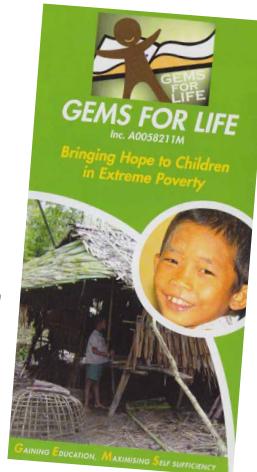
Then Leo Hamulczyk spoke for his wife Rose about their mission to the Philippines in May 2013. Rose ran an evangelistic series in Bangui, Philippines in May 2013 with Emanuel Millen from Melbourne presenting and 25 people were baptised, including an Australian team member.

Following this, in June another three evangelistic series were run at three sites in northern Iloilo province, Philippines, in conjunction with the West Visayas Conference, resulting in a further 55 people giving their hearts to the Lord and being baptised. The presenters for these series were Jason Gardner (Cann River), Leo Hamulczyk (Bairnsdale) and Mark Kocur (Melbourne).

Ken and Lorraine Ryan also went to Nepal last year working for ADRA at another school there, but due to time constraints we didn't hear about their visit at the Mission Sabbath.

Judy Walker

More information can be found at
www.gemsforlife.org
or by emailing
info@gemsforlife.org



A New Approach Warragul Church

This year church members tried a different approach to the Annual ADRA Appeal – and they were pleasantly surprised...

Rather than recruiting people to go door-knocking, helpers were rostered to take two hour shifts with collection tins over two weekends at the entrances to our local Woolworths and Coles Supermarkets, and Sam's Warehouse.

Shoppers gave freely without all the usual (and sometimes antagonistic) questions about the charity and what it does locally!

One man entering the Supermarket said “I wouldn’t give to that!”

“Why not?” asked a cute little girl beside the collector.

When he came out of the shop, the man sheepishly dropped something in the tin.

The results were surprising. Including a free-will offering from Church members, we raised over \$7300. This far exceeded what had been raised in past years by door-knocking!

Praise God for His many blessings.”

Alan Woppard



Tom Simpson collecting for ADRA at a supermarket - God can use you, no matter when, where or how



It was a day of celebration as these women publicly declared their decision to follow the Lord

A Tale of Three Women

Wantirna Church

Earlier this year at Wantirna Adventist Church, Pastor David Riley conducted a baptismal service for three ladies of the church: Tanisha Sidaya, Emily Williams and Sharon Kepper. Each had a story to tell.

Tanisha was the youngest of the three and she decided to be baptised after attending a ‘Gospel Night’ at Heritage College. On that night there were testimonies on how God was performing miracles and changing lives. Tanisha felt that God is great and she wanted to meet him. The experience of losing elderly relatives also impacted her. She wanted to claim the promise of the resurrection. And she wanted to be saved and be part of God’s family and inherit the heavenly kingdom.

Emily has only recently started attending church at Wantirna and has no Adventist background. One of her university classmates brought her to church and it was not long before she was requesting studies in preparation for baptism.

Sharon described her journey to baptism this way: “My decision to be baptised was a long time in the making. It was what I wanted to do but I was held back by the weight of fear and my past failures in life. The Holy Spirit finally won out and I accepted the peace and serenity that I knew would come from leaving all my burdens at the foot of the cross. Baptism day was a wonderful celebration of the Holy Spirit that has been ever so gently working on my heart for so long - a victory I am grateful for every day.”

In performing the three baptisms, Pastor Riley commented: “One of the great rewards of being a gospel worker is the privilege to baptise people who have chosen to follow their Saviour. Each of the three women baptised have a story of how Christ has spoken to them, and the Wantirna church family is looking forward to helping them to continue growing in God’s grace.”

Jamie Hegarty

“ADVENTIST IDENTITY : Knowing you are saved without needing to be worthy of it
- Conference Worker



Looking Back -Moving Forward

Mont Albert Church

On Sabbath the 19th of October, the church members celebrated 100 years as an organised church, 90 years of the building at its current location and the dedication of a new extension. The theme for the day was "Looking Back and Moving Forward."

As one of the oldest Adventist churches in Melbourne, there was certainly plenty to look back on. The Box Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church was formally organised on the 3rd of February 1912, by Pr Gates. Members of a Balwyn group, raised up as a result of a tent mission after the 1922 Camp meeting, agreed to join together and pool their funds with the Box Hill Church and build a church half way between the two suburbs at York Street, Mont Albert.

During the afternoon program reminiscing about the past, the head elder, Stephen Gurban, highlighted the sacrificial dedication of those first believers who stepped out in faith. Despite their limited finances, they put money, time and plenty of their own effort into building the church.

Pr John Denne, who first proposed building an extension, took the Sabbath sermon inspiring all present that moving forward,

Paul Kotanko

Current and past pastors who were in attendance at the time of cutting the cake. From left to right: Pr Kingsley Andrews, Pr John Denne, Pr Paul Kotanko, John Beament, Pr Rob Steed



Ligh Bulb Moment

Shepparton Church

Lynden Oppy, wife and mother of three, has been attending Shepparton Church for over two years. Her search for a greater meaning to her life led her here, where she became involved in a small group with other church women. Along the way, she checked out everything we believe and earlier this year indicated that she would love to be baptised. She began planning, selecting a date to suit her family and friends. It was to be a big event!

Then one day Lynden told the pastor she'd had a light bulb moment. At the baptismal service on October 5 this is how she explained it to the congregation:

"I had been thinking about the when and where and what I would wear. But that all seemed a bit false and plastic. I wanted to get back on track to what baptism is all about. So I got back to the Bible. In prayer the words that came to me were: 'Do not worry about what you will eat or drink or what you will wear.' (Matt 6:25) And that

do not worry about what you will wear really hit home to me. If this baptism isn't about me what is it about? Baptism is about what has already been done for me by Jesus. It's not about clothing, or me being dunked. This day is a celebration of what has been done for all of us."

It was a wonderful celebration too! Lynden's husband Ian and two of her sons, Cameron and Hamish, came to see the lady of their lives celebrate what Jesus has done for her in a most beautiful way.

Pastor Graeme Christian



(Conference President) gave the sermon and thoroughly enjoyed being back at the church where he and his wife, Marcia, were married.

Light bulb moments - where do they come from? As it is God who leads people to Himself via the Holy Spirit, and convicts them of their need of salvation, He has to be the source. Thank God for light bulb moments! The more the better!

Russell Bryan

It's Raining Baptisms

Werribee Church

The church family has been blessed with a significant number of baptisms over the past few years, and we are quite familiar with multiple baptisms, but the Sabbath of October 12 surpassed any past effort.

With Pastor Nikola and Pastor Danijela working in tandem, we witnessed the baptism of nine candidates into our community of believers. Given that we share the church and the font with the Karen (Burmese) Adventist Church, Werribee has been witness to a total of 17 baptisms in the space of only one week.

On this occasion, the scripture reading (Romans 6:3-5) prior to the baptisms, reminded us that we are baptised into a new life. Expanding on this theme, Pastor Nikola, speaking to a packed church, reminded the candidates that baptism is the beginning of a spiritual journey, not the end. It was an extremely joyous occasion

and an opportunity for each of the members of the congregation to reflect on their spiritual journey and their relationship with Christ.

It seemed appropriate that after each candidate had been baptised, and was assisted from the font, that his or her wet footprints could be seen on the floor, leading out to the foyer of the church. Yes, their journey truly had begun. Having changed out of their wet clothes, they returned into the church to be presented to the congregation,

where we all prayed that on their journey, the rest of the Werribee congregation will be with them, and that Christ will be the guide for all of us.

Robert Bryson

Pr Nikola Trajkov with David Bander Merwe, Zach Tan, John Guling, Khystriel Rey, Khaizer Rey and Antonio Da Cruz.



Pr Danijela Trajkov with Judith Appiagyei, Kimberly Otieno, and Loida Moreno

KID'S SPOT

Who Am I?



What do you get when you cross a kangaroo and a sheep?
A woolly Jumper!

What is black and white and 'red' all over?
A newspaper!

Trying to figure out the answers to jokes can be lots of fun but have you ever had someone ask you, 'What is a Seventh-day Adventist?' or 'What do you believe about God?'

The answer to those questions can be a little tricky. As Seventh-day Adventists we believe that the Bible is God's special message to us. We believe that God loves us and that He wants us to love Him and love other people. As you do the puzzles and activities on these pages you will find lots of things that make our message something worth sharing!

Help the children find their way to the Bible



GOD'S HOLY DAY

Draw something you and your family like to do on the Sabbath

look up Exodus 20:8-11 to learn more about this special day

This month's COMPETITION

God's Temple... Read 1 Corinthians 6:19 to answer the following questions...

- 1. What is the temple of the Holy Spirit?**
- 2. Where does the Holy Spirit live?**
- 3. Who does our body belong to?**
- 4. Do you think that it is important we look after our bodies?**

Why?

Jesus IS coming Back!

Look up
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NKJ)
and fill in the blanks

For the _____ will descend from _____ with a _____, with the voice of an _____, and with the _____ of God. And the _____ in Christ will _____. Then we who are _____ and _____ shall _____ up together with them in the _____ to meet the Lord in the _____. And thus we shall _____ be with the _____.

THE LAST WORD



There are some great stories about how the Seventh-day Adventist Church began. You can download them free from the internet at the Ellen G White Estate website so get a grown up to visit: <http://www.whiteestate.org/pathways/pioneers.asp> and happy listening!

Victorian Children's Ministries

Katherine Darroch
po Box 215 Nunawading 3131
KatherineDarroch@adventist.org.au
PHONE 03 9264 7777

From the President's Desk

Executive Committee & Board of Directors

These committees have met for the first time since the new appointments following the recent Constitutional meeting. A number of significant issues were dealt with on the night.

An independent Review Panel has been established as directed at the Constituency Meeting, for review of the current situation of AdventCare Victoria, to ensure lessons from the past are retained and that good governance is in place for the future, and to make recommendations regarding future directions to the Executive Committee.

In 2011 an Infrastructure Fund was established and an Infrastructure Coordinator appointed by the Conference. As a result of a number of discussions over a period of time, it became clear there was an additional need for the establishment of an Infrastructure Committee to effectively manage this fund on behalf of the Executive Committee, and was another matter dealt with. This will have significant potential in relation to church buildings and the establishment of Conference and Local Church partnerships. The scope of responsibilities of this committee will include the Nunawading Estate Project and other matters as determined by the Executive Committee.

Approval was given to the Infrastructure Coordinator to negotiate the purchase of land for a church, as requested by Pakenham Church, and this project will be under the guidance of the Infrastructure Committee.

A brief Nunawading Estate development update was received at the committee, and the following evening the Infrastructure Coordinator was to attend a community meeting facilitated by the Whitehorse Council, where community members would have the opportunity to express their concerns. It is anticipated that the Council will make a decision early in 2014.

The next Executive Committee will meet on December 2. The Conference is facing significant challenges and we ask that you pray for the Conference, for our leaders and committee members, as these matters are attended to.

If ever we needed prayerful support, wisdom and guidance, we need it now.

Graeme Christian

Congratulations

General Secretary, Darren Croft had additional things on his agenda during this time. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Darren and Rosie, and their children Jayden, Rylan, Lacey and Tiarey, on the safe arrival of Amity Rae Croft, who was born on the evening of October 29.

We pray for a special blessing for you all, that God will be with you and guide you as you welcome this precious child into your family.



Evidence that God Exists

Grenville Kent and the Big Question Films

Grenville Kent has been working on a film series on Christian Apologetics, which is nearing completion. IntraVic asked him some questions about this series, which he kindly answered, while struggling with jetlag in Ulaan Baatar.

In a sentence, what would you say the series is about?

The evidence that God exists. To quote the Big Questions Films facebook page, 'In this series, Grenville Kent turns the atheist microscope onto his Christian faith to see if it is blind or based on evidence.'

What has motivated you to undertake this project?

To be quite honest, I saw a few good friends lose their faith while we were studying Theology, because one guy read atheist books and no-one seemed to have any up-to-date counter-arguments. One book really rattled me because I couldn't answer the attack, so it became personal and I started reading and eventually studying this area.

I've also noticed we are losing a lot of university students, and for many it's because the foundations of their Christian worldview are attacked in almost every class.

And finally, I want to give the church a resource for faith-sharing. Two generations ago, most Australians believed in God, but today militant atheism is popular with a minority and many Australians sit on the fence wondering whether there is a personal God or not. The New Atheists have done us one favour:



it's now OK to discuss these matters at uni or on the train to work, and I see this as an outreach opportunity.

What you are working on right now?

I'm typing in the hallway in the hotel in so I don't wake my sleeping son Marcus, my co-presenter in the series and a great source of curious questions. We've just shot a segment on Genghis Khan, the ancestor of 1 in 200 people alive in the world today! Talk

about survival of the fittest - his genes have done pretty well for themselves! Leading atheists like Sam Harris, whom I interviewed at the Atheist convention in Melbourne recently, claim that we don't need God to tell us right and wrong because we can get our ethics from nature. But when I think how Genghis spread his genes largely through rape and violence, I think that theory comes a bit unstuck. Can a 'selfish gene' ever really care for others or motivate ethics or altruism? We argue in this film that only a belief in God can really make me love my neighbour.

In a few days we wrap here and go to Israel for a film about Messianic prophecy.

How has God confirmed His leading in this project?

Ha! My own faith has been massively strengthened by researching this series - looking at the best arguments atheists can launch, and then at what Christian thinkers say in response. We do not have to be ashamed intellectually.

Plus, I've seen so often seen the Invisible Producer turn up for us. It can be little things. On a US trip our schedule was packed wall-to-wall. We'd shoot, then dash to the next city to shoot again, and we had only one free day. We needed to land interviews with two professors who are globally known and ridiculously busy with work, regularly jetting around the planet.

After months of asking and polite reminders, they both said yes for the same day, one in the morning, one in the afternoon, in the same city - and it was the one free day in our schedule.

Producing is not easy, and I can't tell you how many times, under huge stress I'll mumble out a desperate prayer, only to see Providence step in and turn things around. Seriously, you'd think I'd relax and just show a bit of faith by now!

Who is the target audience and how do you anticipate the series will be used?

Anyone who thinks. People who are really curious – and many wonder can they really believe in a loving God, or is it too good to be true. I hope Big Questions will be a workhorse series for faith-sharing; that it will entertain and begin to convince people God is real, stimulate their curiosity and keep them asking big questions for eternity.

Witnessing can be challenging at times, but it's not hard to give a friend a DVD and say, 'I enjoyed this film: see what you think.' If they say, 'It was rubbish', well then you can ask them why and maybe respond with your view, and you're at least beginning a conversation about faith. If the film makes them curious, you can give them another one or invite them to something.

Do you have an expected completion date yet?

I'm a bit behind schedule because making 7.5 hours of television in 30+ countries with about 40 expert interviews is no small task, and because I really want to do the best job I can, not just rush something. But I'm working huge hours with a great crew, and hoping to have a series to market early 2014. I've booked a place in a retirement village for the next day.

I'd appreciate your prayers.

Right, it's 3:30 am and I'm sleepy again, so I'll hit send.



A New Direction ADRA

RECON is branching out into a new area.

One of the aims of ADRA, whether it be locally or internationally, is to provide aid in such a way that the recipients reach a point where the aid is no longer necessary – sustainable aid. And after a number of years working with Operation Stitches and students living in the Office of Housing, this has been the case for RECON.

So in the last few months, a new project has commenced. Partnering with AMES Settlement and the Migrant Information Centre, this project will include driving programs to enable immigrants to 'clock up' their driving hours, and regular excursions for new refugee and migrant women – an opportunity for them to discover some of Victoria, practice their conversational English and associate with other people in a relaxed way – something they desperately need in this difficult transitional time for them.

October saw the first excursion, where a group of seven Iraqi and Chin ladies along with RECON volunteers travelled by bus together to Philip Island for a day of sight seeing. This seemingly simple outing was not without its challenges... forming any sort of bond between these women and the volunteers who accompanied them did not come easy, however slowly the ice was broken, and the group was able to enjoy a day marvelling at beautiful scenery, sharing lunch and getting to know each other.

If you would like to know more about these RECON projects, or are interested in getting involved, email sarahcourtney@adventist.org.au.

Our Values

Our values are encompassed between the pillars of Love and Service. God's love for us and our love response to Him through service to Him and others, is expressed through our Christian values.

We live our Christianity through:

Excellence

Using God's gifts to do our best

Compassion

Showing kindness and empathy to all

Humility

Accepting our achievements without boasting

Respect

Thinking and behaving well towards others

Integrity

Living at peace with ourselves

Justice

Seeking what is right

Discernment

Making wise choices

Responsibility

Owning our actions

Hope

Living with joy because our future is certain

For a list of Adventist Schools in Victoria, visit our website

asv.adventist.edu.au



**Edinburgh
College**

It's Official

The VRQA (Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority) recently approved registration of our 'newest' school – Edinburgh College. This 'new' school combines Lilydale Adventist Academy (LAA), Edinburgh Adventist Primary School (EAPS) and Edinburgh Early Learning Centre as a one campus school under Adventist Schools Victoria. Although Edinburgh College will officially begin operation on 1 January 2014 a number of things are being done to prepare for the new year – these include; the design of a new logo which is a blend of old and new – the traditional crest with a contemporary element, an updated website and new school fees that transition from Prep – Year 12.

School Photo Tours

Over the next few months, the team at ASV are rolling out a new feature on all our schools websites. You will be able to click on the school photo tour and get an inside glimpse of what each school and its facilities look like. With so many changes happening in each of our schools, it is important to show the different stages our schools are at with their building projects. We have already completed Nunawading Christian College and Heritage College Officer campus with the other schools set for completion before Christmas. Thanks again to Jason Bradshaw and Sandy Rogulic who did a marvellous job on the design and photography.



Head of Campus - Gilson College, Taylors Hill

We are looking for a Head of Campus to become a key member of the leadership team who can support the Principal and contribute to the implementation of Gilson College's vision. Key responsibilities would focus on maintaining and encouraging our Special Character, supporting Learning and Teaching, leading School Improvement, actively strengthening Community Partnerships and working closely with the heads of primary and secondary.

For more information or to apply, please send your resume and covering letter to Lorraine Anthony, HR Manager at asvhr@adventist.org.au

With 10+ years of teaching and administrative experience, the successful candidate must have a comprehensive understanding of the

ISV Thank you event

After a successful School Council Members Event in July, ASV hosted another unique event for our Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) Consultants. This event was the initiative of Schools Development Officers, Sandra England and Betty Lakovic, as was designed to commemorate the consultants who have assisted our schools in ISV's National School Partnership Program over the past four years.

Our very own Pam Stott cooked up a fabulous Asian feast which was shared amongst much laughter and chatter. After dinner everyone was given the opportunity to express their thanks and share the experiences they had enjoyed over the four years the program was running. Pr Graeme Christian was introduced as the new Chair of the Board of Directors for Education and prayed for the continued blessing on all those involved in the education of our school families.



Lilydale's Success Story

This week, two past students of Lilydale Adventist Academy were recipients of Academic Awards at Avondale College Joshua Dye and Emily Thomas.

Joshua Dye received two awards!! The Adventist Media Network Journalism Prize and also the ADRA Social Justice Prize.

Emily Thomas received the Avondale Conservatorium Alan and Yvonne Thrift Perpetual Shield for Musical Excellence.



Avondale Prize Winners

Recently, Avondale College handed out 35 awards to students for excellence. There were a number of Victorian Alumni and teachers who were recipients and we would love to make mention of them here:

Adventist Media Network Journalism Prize
Adventist Media Network, Josh Dye (\$1000)

Avondale Conservatorium Alan and Yvonne Thrift Perpetual Shield for Musical Excellence
Avondale Conservatorium, Emily Thomas (\$1000)

Sydney Adventist Hospital Clinical Excellence Prize
Sydney Adventist Hospital
Jodie Barons (\$500 plus gold medallion)

Faculty of Nursing and Health Prize for Consistent Effort and Accomplishment
Faculty of Nursing and Health, Madeleine Doyle (\$250)

Adventist Development and Relief Agency Social Justice Prize
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia, Josh Dye and Vanessa Reynolds (\$500 each)

Congratulations - we are all very proud of you.

“ ADVENTIST IDENTITY : Hope. I have a loving God who has great plans for me and the children entrusted in my care - Teacher ”

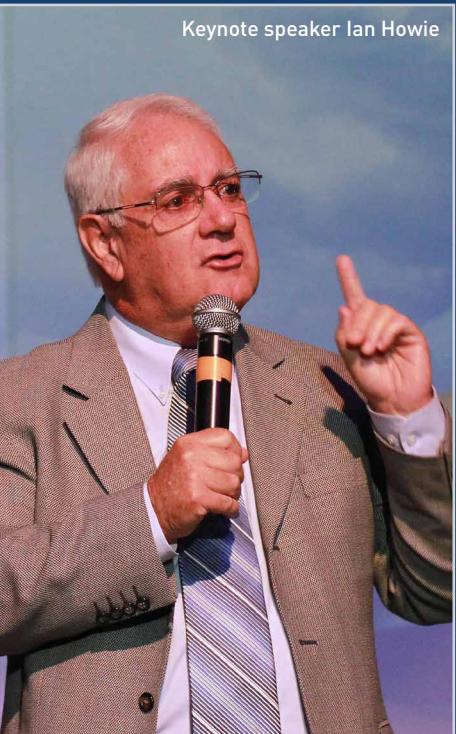
NCC Celebrates 50 Years of Christian Education

Nunawading Christian College celebrated its 50th anniversary this year with a full weekend of events. Past students, staff and parents came together to reminisce, share stories of days gone by and see how their school has changed over the years. The guest speakers, including past principals and students, spoke on the theme - Light - and how NCC was a light in their lives and in the community it serves.

Highlights on Sabbath included wonderful musicians and speakers, an afternoon of reminiscing and a sumptuous international food fair. A evening concert showcased the many talents of our primary school students before the climax of the evening which saw guests being led from the school auditorium by students bearing lanterns, to an awesome fireworks display on the school oval.

The weekend celebrations concluded with a family fun day on the Sunday with activities for the young and young at heart, a BBQ lunch and jazz band. It was great to see Mr Calais, our past secondary school principal, finally getting to play on the new school oval. Mr Calais was among the original members who had a vision for a full sized oval at the school.

Thank you to all involved, and to all who attended.



50th Anniversary Primary Principals in Order

Secondary Principals

Principals - Primary & Secondary

Visiting Tasmania Literature Evangelists

The Glenorchy Seventh Day Adventist church was the home base for 17 enthusiastic Literature Evangelists that visited the Hobart homes for the week beginning Monday 21st October.

Our six Victorian LEs were privileged to be a part of this tremendous outreach. Supported by four of our Hobart churches, the team worked 440 hours, gave away 2,786 pieces of literature, prayed in 159 homes and had 320 people accept to watch our Beyond DVDs.

We thank the church Pastors, Victor Alcuna, Mark Falconer, Bruce Grosse, Conference President Darren Slade and the numerous church members for the help they gave in making the outreach possible.

May our great and awesome God continue to be with the work as the follow up teams visit and establish friendships with those that we contacted.

Joe Paola



Pr Slade captured this shot of the three ministers and the seventeen Literature Evangelists who called Glenorchy Church home for a week.

About VAAS Victorian Adventist Adult Singles



All individuals are equal in God's sight. Individuality is precious and it is often on single people that many of the great enterprises are built. Singleness is not a problem to God and should not be to the church. There is nothing in scripture or in psychology to suggest that being unmarried is a bad idea. In fact there are many examples that show the effectiveness and power of the single life.

Community is essential for everyone – single or married. In community we live connected, fruitful and supported lives. We are all created to be interdependent and connected with one another and are healthier when we are supported and help each other. It is sometimes said or implied that marriage is the cure for loneliness but married couples know that loneliness and disconnection can be part of the landscape of marriage too; it is not peculiar to singles.

God's saving grace operates on a one-on-one basis. Jesus showed great respect for the one-person audience. As Adventist Christians we believe in the potential, power and priority of one.

The gospel allows for both singleness and marriage as valid options for adult living, including ministry as single persons like Jesus and the apostle Paul (1Cor. 7:7, 8). While some, by choice or circumstance, are single, they may experience wholeness as individuals, connect with others through family and friends, and bring glory to God as single men and women (Matt. 19:12; Mark 3:33-35; 1 Cor. 7:7, 8).

Unfortunately the term 'singles' has negative connotations for some. They view singles as a group of high-needs people frantically looking for a partner, and any singles event as a marriage-partner market. This image isn't accurate at all, but seems to linger. Some singles are reluctant to attend organised events for singles because they believe they will be considered "losers." There are also some who have expressed nervousness

about having single women or men at church events (especially social programs) because of their perceived fears that singles will be a risk and a temptation to those who are already married.

There is also some research that suggests over half of those who separate leave our church, which means we lose many of our singles from church membership.

VAAS operates as part of the Division-wide Adventist Singles Network.

We provide a blend of social and spiritual activities where single adults can meet, associate and worship together in an atmosphere that recognises and affirms Christian values. We also provide a forum for single adults in which their common concerns can be heard, shared and addressed.

We offer acceptance and support for single adults experiencing loneliness and loss. **VAAS desires to empower individuals to see their God given potential and rediscover their value.**

Come and join in our monthly activities. Look for details in each month's Intravic or email vaasingles@gmail.com . We look forward to meeting you and making you feel welcome.

Rod Ferris & Trafford Fischer



IT'S BACK!! - the Big Camp Shop

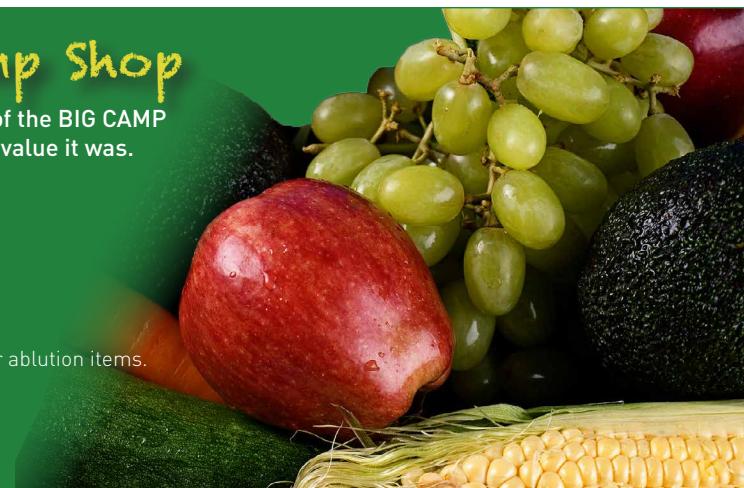
Bigger and better than ever, for those of you who took advantage of the BIG CAMP shop run by the Nunawading Pathfinder Club, you know how good value it was.

WELL ITS BACK FOR 2014.

So don't stop and shop on your way to Elmore...

- Get your fresh Bread and rolls daily (except Sabbath)
- Fruit and veggies and grocery items galore.
- Forgot your tooth brush? No worries we will have some, as well as other ablution items.
- ICE for the esky will also be available.

All profits go towards Camporee expenses.



THE DEVOTIONAL CHALLENGE

I often talk about the importance of literature for sharing our faith but we should never forget the importance of books and reading for the nurture and growth of our spiritual lives.

Personally, I cannot survive a day without

some kind of spiritual nurture from a book. I love to read early in the morning and that is a foundation for my faith. When reading, I am a highlighter—I underline and write thoughts in the margins. I write a different Bible verse on my hand each morning and that becomes an important reference for me throughout the day. In our home, we read together every morning. It brings our relationship closer together, linked together on that common foundation. In my literature ministry, we always read together and discuss what we have read at the beginning of each day of work, and to share a devotional time together eliminates distraction and unites us as a group for the day. Why not take on a seven-day challenge—just for a start? Pick up a devotional book and read it each morning, and I guarantee that this will re-charge your spiritual life. If you are not already doing this, you might be

surprised to discover what you have been missing out on. I know the good this habit has done for my life and I want it for you as well.



John Brereton, director of Publishing Ministries, South Pacific Division



Starting to think about buying presents for family and friends? Visit the ABC first for music, books and other Christian-themed gifts. And don't forget your 'christmas drinks', as well as an increasing range of vegetarian foods.

Visit us during Road to Bethlehem

Monday December 9: 9-5 and 6.30-9.30

Tuesday-Thursday December 11-5 and 6.30-9.30

Friday December 13: 9-12.30



Adventist Book Centre
121 Central Road, Nunawading
Open Mon-Thurs 9-5 & Fri 9-12:30pm

Delivering THE BEST CHRISTIAN TV PROGRAMS TO YOUR HOME

The Official Television Channel of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

- The latest in church news.
- Inspirational and devotional programs.
- Mission and evangelistic stories and reports from around the world.

Locked Bag 1115 Wahroonga, NSW 2076 Australia Phone: (02) 9847 2277 Email: info@hopechannel.com www.hopechannel.com

Taking Control of your Health & Wellbeing Seminar

Think you missed the dates to hear Barbara O'Neill's presentations? Not so!

Her presentations at Macedon Ranges Church have been rescheduled to commence Monday November 25.

Booking essential so call now – 0425 781 581 (Louise) or 0419 133 966 (Mark)

The Orchard

Have you considered joining us? The Orchard meets each Sabbath in Melbourne's CBD. The Sabbath School segment commences at 2:30pm and is followed by the Main Church at 4pm.

We meet at Victoria University, 300 Flinders St Melbourne, opposite Flinders St Station.

There is plenty of onsite parking, with trams and trains at the door step.

You are very welcome. For more information go to theorchardmelbourne.org.

QLD Property Sale

The owners are keen for their beloved property to go to another Adventist family. 35 acres with views of the Maleny foothills, this property includes a 4BR brick home plus a rentable granny flat, tractor sheds and workshop. There are 30 species of fruit trees, a permanent creek and a rainforest. 30 min from coastal beaches.

Adventist Values: space, natural wonders, platypuses in the creek, fossils, lovely established garden.

\$880K. Call 07 5494 9920.

“ ADVENTIST IDENTITY:
I love most that
we focus on our
community
- Volunteer presenter ”

Position Appointment - Infrastructure Coordinator

Applications are invited for the position of Infrastructure Coordinator for the Victorian Conference. This role assists the conference in the management of designated infrastructure assets and projects.

The successful applicant will:

- be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- possess graduate qualifications in Engineering, Business, Finance, Planning or a related area
- demonstrate commercial acumen as evidenced by results achieved
- have knowledge and experience in working in either property development, building management, real estate or a related area
- possess a working knowledge of the church, its operations and management

Applications must be received before the next Executive Committee meeting on December 2.

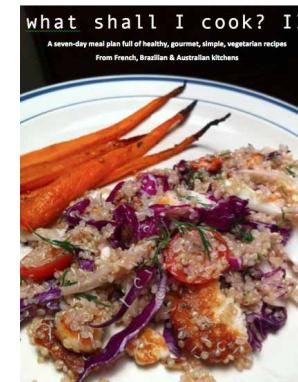
For further information and to apply, contact the General Secretary by email DarrenCroft@adventist.org.au .

Eat Well and Support ADRA

A group of foodies at Chatswood Church (NSW) have collaborated to put together this 7-day meal plan full of healthy, gourmet, simple, vegetarian meals from French, Brazilian and Australian kitchens. This comes complete with shopping list and all recipes.

To raise money for ADRA we would like to offer purchase of this as an e-book for \$15 per book. 100% of money donated will go to ADRA with tax deductible receipt from Chatswood Church.

Contact Estelle to arrange payment estelle.payne@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 7-10

2014

ADVENTURER FAMILY CAMPOREE

WITH DARON PRATT & GRAEME FRAUENFELDER

ROAD to BETHLEHEM

Road To Bethlehem

Allow the star to light your path on the Road to Bethlehem this Christmas. Share this beautiful journey with loved ones and friends and experience the extraordinary gift of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Tickets are available from 9.00am Monday, 25th of November.

Visit www.roadtobethlehem.org to book online or call 03 9264 7770

Road to Bethlehem provides the opportunity for you to do something special for the people of our community! It takes a team effort to bring this program to our community, so whatever your talent or gift, we have the right role for you. No prior experience is required. Mothers of newborn babies...we need your babies (under 3 months of age) to play Baby Jesus. If you are able to help, please call Shelley Fairall urgently on 0407 543 815.

These are the days we need you...

SET UP DAYS:

Sunday 1st December 8am-1pm
Sunday 8th December 8am – 5pm.

PACK UP DAYS

Thursday Night 12th December
11pm – 2am

GIFTBAG PACKING

Saturday 7th December 2pm
onwards

PACK UP DAYS

Friday 13th December 9am – 5pm

Sunday 15th December 8am – 2pm

To volunteer contact:

Simone Mifsud on 0413171916 or Anthony Henriques on 0414892455. Alternatively you may contact us via email at rtbvic.com



13-16 FEBRUARY 2014

RE:VOLUTION 2014

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

SPEAKERS: DEREK MORRIS, JOHN BRADSHAW, KAMERON DEVASHER, SEBASTIEN BRAXTON, NICK KROSS AND MORE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: ADVENTISTYOUTHFORCHRIST.ORG/REVOLUTION2014

[POWERED BY] Adventist Youth for Christ [HOSTED BY] GATEWAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Sabbath	Opening	Closing
Dec 6,7	8:31	8:32
Dec 13,14	8:37	8:38
Dec 20,21	8:41	8:42
Dec 27,28	8:44	8:45

Bairnsdale time is 10 minutes EARLIER
& at Hamilton the time is 12 minutes
Later.

OFFERING SCHEDULE:

DECEMBER



Dec 7	Mission Extension
Dec 14	Conference New Church Buildings
Dec 21	Education/ Camping Ministry
Dec 28	Local Church Budget

“ ADVENTIST IDENTITY:
Our salvation is in
Jesus alone and for
that reason we try to
follow His example
- Local youth leader ”

ONE IN CHRIST

50th Anniversary
Seddon SDA Church

27-29th December 2013

World Renowned Guest Speaker

Miroslav M. Kis, PhD
Professor of Ethics,
Andrews University
Chair, Department of
Theology and
Christian Philosophy

21 Hotham St
Seddon

Register & Contact
Pr Boris Soldat
boriss2676@hotmail.com

SUMMER Camps 2014

JUNIOR CAMP 10-13 YEAR OLDS
JANUARY 07-12

TEEN CAMP 13-16 YEAR OLDS
JANUARY 13-19

YOUTH CAMP 17 + YEAR OLDS
JANUARY 21-26

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.VICYOUTH.COM OR CALL (03) 9264 7740

VicYouth
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

VAAS Christmas Dinner

Where: The Cuckoo Restaurant
508 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Olinda

When: 15th December , 6.30pm

Cost: \$35 each
Booking and Payment essential

Payment: BSB: 063 535 A/C: 1048 0183

RSVP: 9th December

Phone: Judy - 0407 510 545
Cherryl - 0411 481 930

A night of fun, fellowship and delicious food

Concert of Beautiful Music

continues at
AdventCare Whitehorse Auditorium
163-165 Central Rd Nunawading

Saturday - November 23

seating by 7.40 pm

YOUNG OR OLD - ALL WELCOME

Featuring the Ring Family (Brass, flute and voice), Leana Papadela, Nina Chen and Vivian Hill (voice), Stephen Bottrell (flute), Kinglsey Wood (flugel), Jacinta Prado (violin), Judy Botrell, Karen Wood and Romney King (piano).

Free entry, with freewill offering toward AdventCare facilities.

Car parking available in Nunawading Church grounds.

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

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

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