

22nd OCTOBER
2011



IntraVic

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

Romans 10:14 (Clear Word)

Safe Places...



...Safe People

high Sabbath

Saturday
November

12

Dallas Brooks Centre
300 Albert Street
East Melbourne
Mel Ref. 2G:C1
10:00 am - 4:30 pm

SHARE

celebration • worship • food • music • fellowship • prayer



Come and hear General Conference President

Pastor Ted Wilson

*Enjoy the strains of orchestral music and guest vocals.
Celebrate as three of our local ministers are ordained/commissioned.
Lunch is also available with the opportunity to give a \$5 donation.*

*Paid Parking available at:
Metro Parking, Freemasons Hospital Day Procedure Centre
320 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. VIC 3002
Wilson Parking, Eye & Ear Hospital
410 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002.*

*Mark this date on your calendar.
November 12, 2011*

A Note from the Editor...



Over recent years, our Australian Church has developed a very advanced Safe Places policy. Victorian Conference Coordinator, Sue Mercer, tells us that other denominations that look at the process we have in place are impressed with our attention to the spiritual imperative to protect children and vulnerable people. They are hopeful of emulating our victim-focused foresight in designing and implementing specific policies, our courage to conduct risk assessments and our determination to continually review the management of Safety Agreements with known offenders.

Many of our local churches have already adopted the Local Church Child Safe Policy and associated Code of Conduct, and Conference administration thanks you for this. And for those of you who have not yet done so, or are in the process of considering it, we urge you to take action and be pre-emptive. This battle is not just something that belongs in the Local Church Board, although it certainly can begin there. It is not something that is contained within the Local Church Safe Places Committee with the coordinator being the only person carrying the banner, although it may seem that way. This is a battle that must take place in the hearts and minds of our church members – each and every one – so that, working together we can help make our churches a safe place for all. To this end, this issue of IntraVic is focusing on Safe Places and introducing an on-going series of articles on topics the Safe Places Committee believe will help increase your awareness and understanding. So join in the battle to make our Places Safe, and our People Safe.

A NATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER

General Conference President, Pr Ted Wilson has, in his brief time in office, very earnestly and intentionally called the world church to revival and reformation; we live in urgent times and need a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit to renew our clarity and focus, so that we can be a people whom He can use in a powerful way. This call to renewal and revival is particularly appropriate for our church in Australia, given the constant pressure our members are under from a very secular culture. With Pr Wilson visiting Melbourne for our regional meeting on November 12, churches across Australia are being asked to participate in a special season of prayer during their main worship service, joining our world church leader and those present at Dallas Brooks Hall in a corporate prayer imploring the Lord to renew and revive us through His Spirit, for the challenging task we have in presenting the Gospel message to everyone. "My appeal," said Pr Chester Stanley, Australian Union President, "is that as a national church family worshipping in over 500 congregations across Australia, we will be found together on our knees on this Sabbath morning. I believe there is something inspiring and powerful about the thought of our people right across our vast country, earnestly beseeching the Lord together in Prayer." So wherever you find yourself on Sabbath morning, November 12, join your fellow church members across Australia, as we plead for an infilling of the Holy Spirit.

In this issue

- The Adventist Journey to Safe Places by Pr David Robertson, Director of Safe Place Services for the AUC Pg 4
- Devotional - Am I the ONE by Sue Mercer, Victorian Coordinator for Safe Place Services Pg 6
- Are You There Yet? A look at why your church should be involved, and how Pg 8
- Safe Places... Safe People introducing a new series Pg 9
- News from our Churches Pg 10
- Healthy Mind and Body Pg 15
- Conference News Pg 16, 18-22
- Ads and Notices Pg 23,24

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The Adventist Journey to Safe Places

Pastor David Robertson is the Director for Safe Place Services for the Australian Union Conference. In this article he tells us a little of how his department came to be, and of its resolution and determination to see our churches and institutions become Safe Places.

With the documentation of the widespread nature of abuse in society, there is an ever-growing awareness of sexual victimization of children and adults at home, at work, in schools and churches. Given that many factors mitigate against disclosure, it is difficult to fully quantify the extent of sexual abuse within the Adventist Church.

Historically the Adventist experience and response to sexual abuse appears similar to other religious cultures and communities; trends thus far clearly showing a similar rate of abuse to that in the wider society. This is evident in the limited research available such as the 1992-1994 Valuegenesis study, as well as the many anecdotal reports of varied administrative responses to reports of abuse, including the relocation of offenders to another role or place of work.

Ill-informed responses to complaints about abuse tend to discount and disempower those who are trying to reveal extremely difficult, embarrassing and traumatizing experiences. When abusers are not appropriately challenged and held accountable, the culture continues to be unaware and hence unsafe for those who are vulnerable, and the whole church community is negatively impacted.

Discussions around the topic of sexual abuse typically generate reactions of denial, disbelief, apathy, outrage and despair, as well as feelings of hope. Initiatives and structures developed within the Church over the last decade have enabled leaders and members to respond to sexual abuse issues with more awareness, candour and compassion as well as strengthening their resolve to minimize the frequency of abuse.

The documentation of abusive behaviours within the Adventist community that came out of 1992-1994 Valuegenesis studies prompted the Family Ministries Department at the South Pacific Division to produce a 30-page resource for pastors, entitled *Understanding and Dealing with Family Violence*, and the then Trans-Tasman Union Conference production of a 34-minute

video: *Too Close to Home*.

In the late 1990's there were other responses from within the church. For example, a committee of Adventist professionals, including some church employees in the West Australian Conference, convened a conference on sexual abuse issues, to which church employees and members of the wider community were invited. A publication of the Association of Business and Professional Members, 'Adventist Professional' focused its summer edition on the issue, with a number of articles on sexual abuse, including a report from the conference.

The Sydney Adventist Hospital Christian Centre for Bioethics also convened a significant conference on Sexual Abuse within the Church for employees and laity from all levels of the Church in Australia and New Zealand. Issues were presented in a very graphic form by the key speaker, Ray Wyre, a specialist in paedophilia based in the United Kingdom.

Major themes that emerged from the conference challenged the church to:

- develop an "aware culture" within the Church, with clearly identified boundaries or "arenas of safety" and a willingness to encourage the disclosure of abuse;
- be proactive in educating on issues of abuse and harassment;
- establish procedures and policies and call on our spiritual heritage to be truly pastoral in confronting these issues.

The South Pacific Division responded by commissioning an *Abuse and Harassment Committee* that provided a model and guidelines for this proactive

approach. As a direct consequence, *Adventist Support* was established under the direction of a dedicated management committee, which became the predecessor of the current service: *Safe Place Services*.

Adventist Support initiated a support telephone line and refined the policy and procedures document for dealing with sexual abuse and misconduct. As enquiries and workloads increased, the office incorporated a full time Director, an Investigative Coordinator and an Office Manager.

Today, *Safe Place Services* operates on a refined model of *Adventist Support*, actively incorporating principles of procedural fairness and natural justice and working in close cooperation with the Safe Place Committees now functioning in most conferences.

Safe Place Services planned and organized a groundbreaking conference event in Sydney for 85 delegates from across Australia and New Zealand in March, 2011. This was the first time that Conference and Union-level leaders, administrators, volunteers, victim-support professionals and para-ministries of the Church have ever come together

with the sole purpose of addressing the topic of sexual abuse within our Church. The conference affirmed the progress that the Church has made in challenging a 'culture of denial' over the past decade, and advocated the need for ongoing action to transform the Church's culture into an intentionally 'Safe Church' environment for all children, youth and vulnerable adults.

The conference featured keynote presentations from Patrick Parkinson, Professor of Law at Sydney University and author of the book "Child Sexual Abuse and the Churches" (2003), and Hetty Johnston, a well-known child protection advocate and founder of Bravehearts organization. The over-arching theme for the conference, "*Transforming Church Culture—Learning from the Past, Shaping the Future*", was embodied in the release of butterflies as a closing activity - a poignant symbol of the church's commitment to a safer and freer future for all.

The final day featured a Plenary Session, chaired by the General Secretary of the AUC, Ken Vogel. Attendees passed the following motion:

We acknowledge - that God's call to justice and integrity provides the compelling motivation for protecting all people from abuse and harm.

We acknowledge - the genuine pain, grief and loss victims of all forms of abuse experience within the Church, by both the abuse itself, and by the responses of congregations, leaders and administrators which can be insensitive to the ongoing effects of abuse.

We acknowledge - that it requires a sustained commitment to establish and maintain a 'safe Church' culture, characterized by an awareness of the dynamics of abuse, and does not remain silent or passive.

We acknowledge - that the efforts of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will always be inadequate and incomplete in isolation, and it will find its greatest strength through collaborating with other faith organizations, specialist government and community services, and a network of supporting professionals and para-church organizations, to respond appropriately to abuse and harm,

We acknowledge - the tension between the Church's call to forgive as well as to stand for justice and to protect the vulnerable.

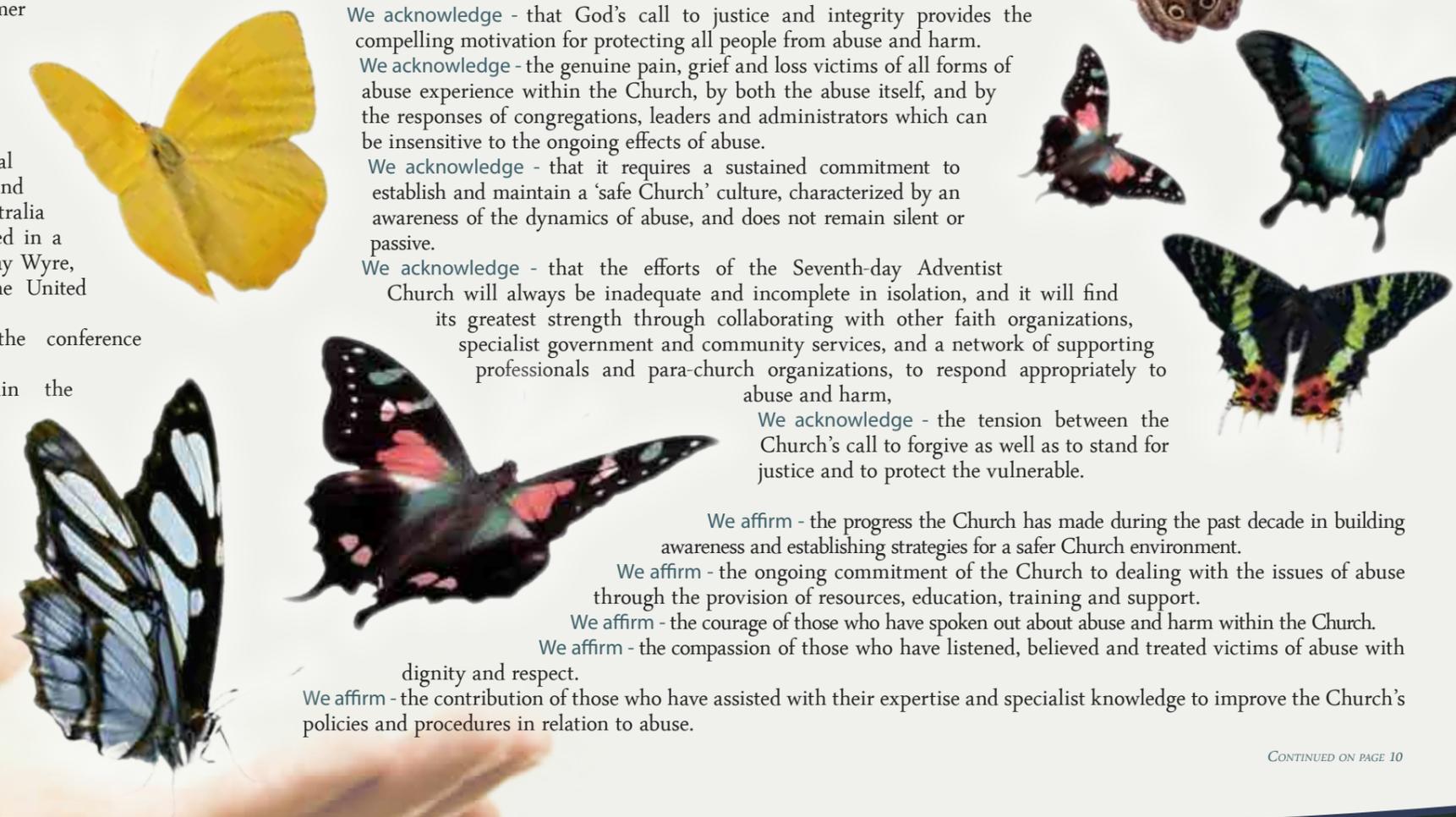
We affirm - the progress the Church has made during the past decade in building awareness and establishing strategies for a safer Church environment.

We affirm - the ongoing commitment of the Church to dealing with the issues of abuse through the provision of resources, education, training and support.

We affirm - the courage of those who have spoken out about abuse and harm within the Church.

We affirm - the compassion of those who have listened, believed and treated victims of abuse with dignity and respect.

We affirm - the contribution of those who have assisted with their expertise and specialist knowledge to improve the Church's policies and procedures in relation to abuse.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Devotional... Am I the ONE ?

In Australia, it is reported that ONE in three girls and ONE in eight boys will have been sexually abused by the age of eighteen years. These children can be from any age, from babies to older teenagers. While these statistics are of concern, what may be of more alarm to us as Seventh-day Adventist Christians is that we are not immune to these figures, with similar data being recorded for our own children. In this devotional, Safe Place Services Coordinator for the Victorian Conference, Sue Mercer, looks at the power ONE individual can have, for harm or for good, and encourages you, as you read, to choose to connect to the ultimate power source and stand up with Him, that ONE can become MANY.

ONE look... ONE word... ONE touch... ONE life can be inexorably changed by sexual abuse from being energised to powerless, engaging to lonely, connected to feeling lost and unfortunately for many, life-seeking to life-ending.

The power of ONE person's influence for ill can be seen from the very inception of time with Satan using his singular influence to start a chain reaction that has left us shackled to this world ever since. It is not hard to see how the power of ONE can affect many – just look at how an individual dictator can impact and divide a nation, stripping it of wealth, credibility and spirit. Sadly, as a result of so much negativity in our world, it becomes easy to see ourselves as just one person and to feel that one cannot change anything.

This conundrum is powerfully noted in the 'bystander effect'; an individual's likelihood of helping a person in need is directly tied to the number of people witnessing the person's need at the same time. According to the psychological literature, a person is far less likely to help someone in need if he or she is not the sole witness to that need; the more witnesses, the more confusion as to who should help and the greater the assumption that someone else will.

The most striking example of this is an instance that shocked the world in 1964. Kitty Genovese, a native New Yorker, was sexually assaulted and killed in front of her very large apartment building. Many dismissed her calls for help as a domestic fight between a couple. Several calls were placed to police but no one left their apartment to help. Subsequent reports exaggerated the number of people witnessing the crime, but it was evident that too many people thought someone else would help or dismissed the incident believing it was

*Wherever two
or more of you
meet together
in my name,
my presence is
there with you –
Matthew 18:20*

*But anyone who
causes even one
of these to lose
their faith in me
would be better
off to have a
large stone tied
around their neck
and be thrown
into the sea –
Matthew 18:6*

none of their business.

Calls to police from witnesses to Kitty's murder were seen as 'ending' that person's social responsibility – 'someone else' more qualified would help. Psychologists also suggest this 'bystander effect' may be due, in part, to the reactions of other witnesses – when no one around is reacting, no single person is likely to.

Interestingly, the converse is true – with no friends or other witnesses nearby, a bystander is much more likely to intervene.

But what would happen if just ONE person chose to get involved? Would there be a ripple effect; would those around begin to react?

Psychologists agree this world needs each ONE of us to choose to say "I am the ONE!" I will stand up... speak out... tell someone... be the ONE for someone to confide in... act on ONE's own conscience. And with God's grace, we can choose to reclaim the power of ONE for good, not evil; to follow in the steps of the Mother Teresas, the Ghandis, the Fred Hollows, the Wilberforces, the Bravehearts within our midst.

Jesus repeatedly encouraged His listeners, and us today, to look out for the weak and underprivileged among us, for the hurting and the vulnerable. He said that when we did this, we were doing it for Him – He cares that much.

And He knows, has always known, that when ONE steps out, taking a stand, others will join and they will gain strength. The writer of Ecclesiastes spoke of this. "We begin to see the possibilities that two are better than ONE because they have a good return for their work: If ONE falls down, his friend can help him up... Though ONE may be overpowered, two can defend themselves... a rope made from three strands is much stronger than a rope made from ONE." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

*Our lives begin to end the day we are
silent about things that matter
- Martin Luther King Jr*



After all... ONE seed can become a tree which in turn can create a forest... ONE spark can begin a flame that burns brightly... ONE dream can become a reality ... ONE word of prayer can yield wisdom... ONE life CAN make a difference.

What if that ONE is us – the power of ONE becoming the power of MANY? Begin by asking yourself what ONE skill has God given you; what ONE program could you get involved in; what ONE agenda item or discussion you could initiate. With God, who is the ultimate Power of ONE, begin today - start the ripple and watch it grow as the power of MANY work together to make our churches, schools, aged care facilities and homes Safe Places.

*Have a giving attitude
in all you do and you'll
get back more than
you give. God will
return blessings to you
abundantly - packed
in and flowing over.
Whatever you give out
to others will be given
back to you*

- Luke 6:38

ONE life linked with another life and then linked with another and another.....in a chain that cannot be broken, for we have been given the greatest example:

For the ONE and ONLY GOD so loved this ONE WORLD that gave His ONE AND ONLY SON, that even if ONLY ONE person believes in Him, he/she will have a 'ONEDERFUL' everlasting life!

*Sue Mercer
Coordinator Safe Place Services*





SafePlaceServices ...are you there yet?

As mentioned in the editorial, many of our churches have already got 'on board' with the Safe Place policies from the Australian Union Conference.

Due to changes in legislation, older local church-based policies made prior to 2009 will be out of date and it is important that this be rectified.

If you would like to look into this further, visit www.safeplaceservices.org.au and search for the policy under the menu heading RESOURCES. Chinese and Spanish translations are now available too. Get your church board to discuss the updated 2011 Local Church Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct, and work together to adopt them.

Safe Place Services provides assistance with this process, including sending a representative to discuss it with your church board or to conducting a church service to increase awareness. It also offers training for local church coordinators and ongoing advice. This is a valuable work – protecting and caring for children and vulnerable people within our community and we

urge every one of you to arm yourself with understanding and stand up in defence of them.

The King will reply "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matt 5:40

Resources available

Safe Place Services has many resources available and offers these along with advice, training and victim support, through its website.

Visit the site at safeplaces.org.au or vic.adventist.org.au and follow the link in the menu



As well as the AUC's Safe Place Services website, there are many other sites where you can go for more information and advice...

...Awareness and education is the key - so log on today.

CALL 1800 BRAVE 1
www.bravehearts.org.au

Child Wise's primary focus is to prevent abuse before it happens...
www.childwise.net

STOP CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING
Find out how to help our campaign!

HELPLINE
Click here to find out more about the services they offer.

www.napcan.org.au

To stop child abuse and neglect, and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every Australian child

NAPCAN
PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

every child deserves the chance to shine

www.ozchild.org.au

Australian Childhood Foundation
Protecting Children
www.childhood.org.au

www.acma.gov.au

offering a comprehensive suite of cybersafe resources

Safe Places... ...Safe People



Some of the keys to succeeding in the battle to keep our church environment safe are education and increased awareness. To that end, we are including in IntraVic a series of articles pertinent to the topic. They will be relatively brief; however the full articles will be made available online for those wanting to know more, and for reference purposes.

The first article in this series comes from Jan Petrie, who works with families as a Social Worker.



Safe Churches: How can we do it better?

We want our churches to be safe; places of warm and rewarding friendships with those of like faith, refuges from the trials of life, places where God is honoured. Yet churches are full of people, and wherever there are people things can become complex.

One complexity that can be hard to talk about publicly and which often excites the strongest reaction is that of allegations of sexual abuse within the church - particularly when it comes close to home. We all agree that sexual abuse is wrong, but we can't always agree on what to do when allegations or suspicions of abuse arise, or when someone comes to our church with a history of being a perpetrator, now asking to be in fellowship with us. God has given us many gifts; blessings when used as He intended but causing much harm when abused, and none more so than sexuality. Sexuality is such a personal thing - a gift intended to draw into intimacy two adults who choose to become vulnerable with each other. Hidden and private, in a committed and loving adult relationship it can strengthen and bring joy. But when abused it is also hidden and private, and the result can be devastating. No-one can know exactly what has or hasn't happened, except the victim and the abuser.

I worked for several years in Child Protection, investigating allegations of all kinds of child abuse. In the process I worked both with perpetrators and those falsely accused, with partners and children impacted by the allegations, with police and with professionals who worked therapeutically with perpetrators and victims. Now I work with vulnerable families where childhood sexual abuse is a recurring theme. Many of the parents are struggling in their role because their sense of themselves and understanding of healthy family relationships and boundaries are fundamentally challenged by the abuse they suffered. Healing can occur if the issue is handled well, but if handled poorly it can magnify the effects of the abuse. When allegations are made, we can, at best, assess its likelihood or, in the case of a person with a history of abuse, determine whether it is likely to recur, and work to

ensure safety. But how do we do this? This subject is huge, with so many questions. How can we know if an allegation is true? Are child sex offenders readily identifiable? Can we trust that a converted perpetrator will not offend again? If charged by police but the case does not go past the Committal Hearing or the person is found 'not guilty' in Court, does this mean the abuse did not occur? How can you know if a child has made false allegations? What if the child is perceived as provocative? Are some children more vulnerable? How can we support alleged victims, alleged perpetrators and people who want to leave a questionable past behind? Where can we find more information on this subject? These and other questions are addressed as we explore this topic further in the full article. Go to vic.adventist.org.au and follow the link to Safe Place Services for this, and other resources.

Jan Petrie, Social Worker



THE JOURNEY TO SAFE PLACES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The issue of abuse will continue to require focused action and vigilance by the Church in Australia and New Zealand.

We therefore call upon - the AUC and NZPUC, along with local Conference administrations to ensure that Conference Safe Place Committees and Coordinators are empowered and adequately resourced to lead in the transformation of the Church's culture through awareness, education, training, networking and in-service opportunities.

We also call upon - local Conference administration to ensure that:

- all pastors are trained in Safe Church ministry practices;
- Conference administration utilise and draw upon the role and advice of SPS and Conference Safe Place Committees in responding to situations of abuse or harm when they arise;
- they build a close working relationship between local Conference Safe Place Committees and pastors, and encourage pastors to maintain a clear pastoral role as opposed to managing the crisis in isolation.

Valuegenesis Study: 1992 – 1994, studies' conducted in the Adventist Church, targeting young Adventist adults (18–25 years) in Australia and New Zealand, showed little apparent difference between the rates of abuse in the Adventist community and the community at large. Abuse was experienced by almost 30% of the sample.

Women were more likely to have experienced all varieties of abuse, especially sexual abuse. 28.8% of women and 5.1% of males experienced sexual abuse .

Craig, B & Strahan, B (1996) Responding to Abuse in Religious Families. The Adventist Experience

David Robertson
Director Safe Place Services

Monkey Matters

DARETON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Earlier this year, church members joined forces with youth from a number of our churches, along with some of their non-Adventist friends, invited several members of the local community to join in and got up to Monkey Matters with the local children.

The daily program included breakfast, singing, a Bible story, crafts and games and the children prepared their own lunch.

There was an average daily attendance of 50 children, with some of their parents staying on and this was a wonderful opportunity to meet a need in the community, establish a presence and break down prejudice. This year's



program built on previous years' programs such as VBS, StormCo, Healthy Lifestyle and Cooking programs, and provided a setting where the youth were able to develop leadership skills and be involved. And it had the added joy of seeing two of the children begin to attend Sabbath School on a regular basis.

100 and Not Out!

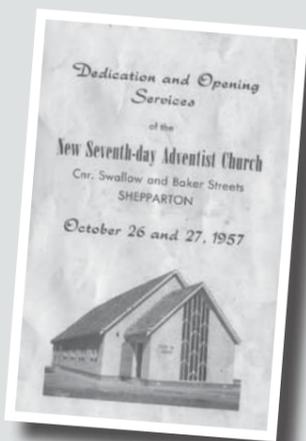
SHEPPARTON CHURCH

One Hundred NOT OUT! That's a score most Cricketers live for. We are very pleased that in Shepparton we have reached that desired score and are moving forward without fear of losing our wicket.

In 1911 a church was established in the northern Victoria town of Shepparton. At that time the area was famous for its sheep farming and its increasing prosperity. Over the years sheep have been replaced by orchards and dairy cattle but the city continues to prosper. SPC is a brand which many around the world are familiar with - Shepparton Preserving Company: the second largest cannery in the Southern hemisphere. Another famous Shepparton company is Furphy's Foundry Ltd - of Water Cart fame. Greater Shepparton boasts a growing population of over 60,000. And as the city has grown, so has our church.

The original church building was a weatherboard structure built on the same site where we still worship. In 1957 the church had grown so much that the original building was replaced

with the current brick one which celebrated its golden jubilee four years ago. The church continued to grow and we now find ourselves in a similar situation again and are making plans to move to a larger site. So we are very proud that we are 100 and increasing with maturity. To commemorate this momentous event we will celebrate on Sabbath, December 3. Services will be at our usual times of 10am Worship and 11:30am Sabbath School. We'll have a celebratory lunch with an afternoon program of memories and fun. If you'd like to be there we'd love to see you. Come and enjoy being 100 NOT OUT! Russell Bryan



Taking the Good News to the Community

MELBOURNE ASIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

This church is an ethnic, multilingual church comprising of people from many nations. Meeting in Forest Hill and for the last ten years, members have held a number of local evangelistic meetings which have been successful in reaching Mandarin and Cantonese speaking people from China and Hong Kong, most of whom have no Christian background.

This year the Evangelism Committee identified the Wantirna, Wantirna South, Scoresby and Knoxfield areas of Melbourne as suburbs which have seen a recent influx of migrants from many Asian countries. Many of our church members live in these suburbs and have friends and contacts who attend large evangelical Christian churches in these suburbs. The Evangelism Committee recognised a big and different challenge in reaching these people compared to our previous experience of reaching people with no Christian background.

Preparation for the evangelistic series included much prayer throughout a revival month led by Pastor

Darren Croft, General Secretary of the Victorian Conference, before launching into the three week program based on the revival and reformation themes found in the book of Nehemiah.

It was a team effort, with the Children's Ministries Department organising a social bridging event by inviting young families to a parenting seminar and fellowship meal at the series venue, Knox Gardens Community Hall, and church members letter boxing 7000 invitation pamphlets over two Sabbath afternoons in Wantirna, Wantirna South and Knoxfield. The five night series of evangelistic meetings commenced beginning of

September and we were privileged to have Pastor Darren Croft as presenter. The title was "Unlocking the Past, Present and Future" and the series included topics which are uniquely Adventist. The average nightly attendance was 92 of which 27 were not church members and consistently attended all five nights. Four people requested bible studies and six accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. Follow up meetings are commencing. Our church experienced unity and God's providence through the series and we praise God for his leading. We are committed to continue to share the good news to our community. Ken Cheong



Revelation Seminar

PRESTON CHURCH

Under the leadership of Pr Georges Latchman, Preston church members are holding a weekly Revelation seminar.

The program commenced on October 15 and they plan for the series to continue through until December 31, with the sessions running on Sabbath afternoons, from 3 - 4 pm. Members are making the most of today's communications, phoning, texting and emailing their family

and friends who may be interested, inviting them to attend. And they are extending the invitation to you to attend too, as well as offering this chance to invite someone you know who may enjoy the program. They hope to see you there at 94 David Street, Preston.



The Ripple Effect

GATEWAY

We are all familiar with the words of Jesus - that the gospel is to be preached to all the world then the end shall come (Matt 24:14). In the last eight years the Lord has blessed Gateway with over 100 baptisms of which a good number are well educated, intelligent young people from Chinese background. If the harvest is truly ready, then the resources must be in the harvest - and indeed they are, as these precious people create a ripple effect as they themselves reach out to those around them, even to as far away as China!

Here are some of their stories.

Steven was a sworn atheist three years ago but today he is a baptised member sharing about Jesus to his friends. God is using Steven and his wife, Amy, to reach a vast number of people in Melbourne and worldwide. He works with a Christian broadcast site, www.777cn.org, and produced Chinese Roots, an outreach DVD series looking at Chinese history, characters, literature and the gospel. It has now been sent to churches in Europe, Asia, the South Pacific Islands and throughout Australia.

Gateway recently held a Chinese Evangelistic Camp, where Amy served as camp director. "Our speaker was Pr John Ash, chairman of the Chinese division of HopeTV," she says. "Although American, he

preached in Chinese and has been an Adventist missionary pastor to the Chinese for 41 years. 85 campers came of whom ten made decisions for baptism and another 26 requested Bible studies." Pr Ash reported that through the miracle of God, since July 1 this year www.chinesehope.tv is broadcasting 24/7 on satellite TV into homes throughout China. "Gateway is working in collaboration with Chinese HopeTV to provide content for their broadcasting," says Johnny Wong, an elder at Gateway.

Charlie grew up in a communistic atheistic background and came to Australia to study, seeking a better life. Suffering cultural shock, isolation and loneliness, he became depressed. John Labas invited him to attend Gateway church after they had met, however Charlie's condition worsened, and he eventually tried to suicide and was hospitalized. Upon his discharge, Charlie went home to China for the holidays, but when he returned, he began attending church and having Bible studies with Steven. As he studied the scriptures, he met Jesus, the Man of Hope. His heart was softened and his spirituality progressed. Charlie was baptised by Pr Cristian in September.



JOHN ASH



AMY AND STEVEN



CHINESE ROOTS DVD SERIES

was no need for God.

While studying at Victoria University in Melbourne, he was attracted to the free dinner before the evangelistic series run by Gateway in August last year. Enjoying the dinner, Chris stayed for the meetings. At their completion, he was deeply attracted to the Bible and agreed to study it further. Steven studied with Chris and invited him to attend care group where he saw the love of God in members of the group.

He felt the need to change his lifestyle - to quit smoking and drinking - but struggled with this over the summer holidays. Returning to Australia and resuming the Bible studies, Chris realised his life was affected by other people's ideas and was aimless. At Gateway's Easter camp this year, when an appeal was given, he didn't want to commit but could not resist the call of the Holy Spirit and eventually chose the unchangeable truth of God.

Today, Chris is a baptised member and shares his faith with others at Victoria University campus.

Caroline comes from Botswana where she and her five siblings were raised by their Christian mother after their father died when she was eleven. When he died, her life turned upside down in many ways, and heartbroken, Caroline questioned God's love for her and whether He even listened when she prayed. For many years, the emptiness in her heart grew. She felt isolated and unloved, and she hated attending church. She felt so lost.

Last year, Caroline was excited to come to Australia with a scholarship, but rapidly became homesick and depressed. One Sunday she was

visiting a friend when Bible workers knocked on the door. She accepted their invitation to come to a Care group, and from there began attending seminars and studying the Bible. Bit by bit she reconnected with her Saviour, encouraged by Luke 19:10, which says "...the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost."

Another two of Gateway's members have recently graduated and

returned to China and both are now teaching English to flight attendants of a major Chinese airline. In the process of travelling and teaching at crew bases around the country, they share Bible stories in English, and the students find these interesting. Flight crew members need to reach a level of proficiency in English to travel and work on international flights and so, because of the influence and witness of our Gateway graduates, Bibles have now been placed in these corporate

libraries throughout China.

Please continue to pray for Gateway as it extends its' Chinese Ministry in media, broadcasting, community outreach and campus ministry. If you would like to support the Chinese media and local Chinese outreach please email us at pastor@gatewaysda.org (www.gatewaysda.org).

Jeffrey Samuel and Johnny Wong



CHARLIE, CHRIS AND CAROLINE WERE BAPTISED BY PR CRISTIAN

Christ in the Old Testament

EAST PRAHRAN CHURCH

Dr Peter McGowan continued the series of Christ in the Old Testament at East Prahran on October 1. He enthralled his listeners as he discussed the prophecies of Daniel - not from the book of Daniel but from the final sermon of Jesus as told in the Gospels, and Pr Hensley Gungadoo took the Sabbath School lesson study. Romney King contributed to the program with his music, as did Narelle Arthur with a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace. Gaby Bujor and her team also made a significant contribution

caring for the children. The last in this year's series will be on November 5th. The Sabbath School discussion, led by Dr Richard Siemienowicz, will commence at 10am and the main service at 11, with Pr Peter Roennfeldt being the guest speaker.

Visitors are most welcome and we look forward to worshipping with you. So come and join us for a special message where Peter, who is well known to many of you through his 40 years of service as a pastor, church planter and lecturer, tells us how



God is like Jesus, through the wonderful prophecies of Isaiah, and then stay and join us for a fellowship lunch.

Mary Drost

Reaching Out to India

A JOINT EFFORT

Nigel Arulanandam, a year 12 student who attends Ringwood Church, is planning to go on a mission trip in January next year. He is joining a group of 20 young people, largely from Wairoonga Adventist Church in Sydney and they will be travelling to Garmar Adventist Academy in South India. However this is more than just a joint effort between the two congregations, as church members and businesses across Victoria, Tasmania and NSW are offering support.

The team plan to take 3,000 Bibles with them, which cost \$3 each, for the outreach program they will be running each night while there. Nigel's family is hoping to receive



enough donations from Victoria to supply 500. They young people will be assisted by one of Wairoonga's ministers who will present each evening. During the day, there will be a medical clinic supervised by several doctors, including Dr Richard Gee from Sydney, and Nigel, along with some of the other young people, will be helping give health checks. The rest of the team will spend their time running a VBS. In addition to raising money for the Bibles, a special Indian Cuisine lunch will be held at Paramatta Church,



Back from Mongolia

YARRA VALLEY CHURCH

Mongolia has a population of around 3 million, with 1 million people living in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. Church membership is around 1700. There are eight Adventist churches in the capital, and fourteen in the surrounding countryside.

Back in April, Dr Harold Waldrip appealed to church members to help provide blood glucose monitoring supplies that he could distribute while visiting the country, at the invitation of our Mongolian Mission, to help establish diabetic education programs. Church members in the Victorian Conference generously donated \$14,000.

Dr Waldrip and his team visited four hospitals, including the University

hospital where they met with the endocrinology registrars and discussed effective diabetes education methods with patients. They also visited the children's hospital and met with children suffering from insulin dependent diabetes, and their parents. Around 90 glucose monitors were given to patients attending the diabetes education programs and the medical staff of the hospitals expressed their gratitude for the help given to their patients.

One Victorian church member also donated \$1,000 to buy food parcels for needy church members. Forty parcels were handed out, comprising rice, oil, legumes, fruit and vegetables. The people receiving the parcels also

Sydney on November 27, at \$30 per head, the aim being to raise \$15,000 for bunk beds for the two hundred underprivileged girls at Garmar Academy, who currently sleep on a sheet on the floor. Victorian Gospel singer, Jolanta Mielczarek from Oakleigh Polish church, along with singers from Wairoonga, will provide music, and there will be an auction. If you would like to be part of this joint effort, through donation, support, or perhaps even purchasing tickets to the lunch in Sydney, call 0419 421 702 and talk to Sam, Nigel's father.



expressed deep felt gratitude. Just before returning home, Dr Waldrip attended the Moore Memorial Adventist church in Shanghai. Over 2,000 people attended the service and the preaching lasted for an hour and a half. He was amazed to see that the preacher, speaking enthusiastically, didn't use any notes! And while the service was in Chinese and he did not understand a word of it, Dr Waldrip still felt blessed to have had the opportunity to be there.



health... mind & body



Trading health for time...

Time is a precious commodity in modern life; without realising it we buy it every day - whether in the form of air travel, road tolls, internet or take-away - we are willing to part with our pennies for that little bit of extra time.

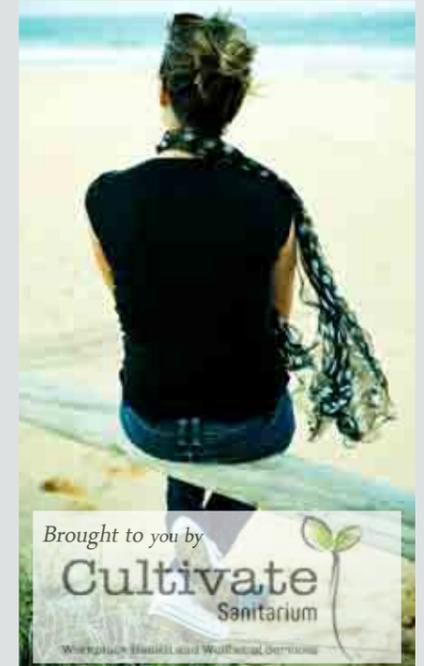
Modern day demand for time-saving technology is ironic; the more quickly a task is completed, the more free time we have 'bought' which we then swiftly fill with yet another task! We even pride ourselves on our multitasking within the time frame it once took to complete a single activity.

From an economic perspective, this is productive utopia. But in reality we create a plethora of tasks to be completed in minimal amounts of time and the result is increased stress

levels and a rushed environment. We need look no further than the angry beeps of busy parents during peak hour traffic or the light of a late-night laptop in a bid to meet deadlines to see that the effects on our health are far from beneficial; high blood pressure, stress and exhaustion are common signs of an overloaded schedule.

Perhaps we need to stop buying time and instead trade it; time spent in arguments, self-doubt and mindless television for time with family, spiritual growth and exercise. Efficiency may be important and necessary but when it jeopardises your health, there exists a very real need to reassess your regime and slow down the pace.

Jessica Evans Health & Wellbeing Consultant



Let Him do it!

The road to recovery is not easy even though there are times of incredible joy. I remember waking up one morning wanting to celebrate, I felt so good! "What's up?" I asked God. "This is health..." He answered. I laughed out loud and decided at that moment I would fight for this... and made a 'decision' to turn my will over to the care of God.

As one author wrote, "Imagine the insanity of trying to perform surgery on ourselves. At the first hint of pain from the scalpel, we would stop. Healing would never happen. It is just as insane to think that we can manage our own recovery. We must put our lives into the hands of God." (The 12 Steps)

So I decided to hand the scalpel over to

God, asking Him to take control of my recovery and of my life...

...and then went to work on my many issues. Over the next few years some really great things happened in my life but there was still a gnawing feeling that my 'emotional junk' was just underneath the surface.

Then one day, my husband of ten years said, "Cheri, one of these days you are going to let me love you..." I had never stayed in a relationship lasting this long in my life! I laughed and said, "What are you talking about - we are still together!" He just smiled, repeating "One of these days..." His words played around in my head until I asked God what he'd meant. To my surprise I heard God say, "One of these days you're going to let Me love you..."

I was stunned! But over the ensuing weeks, God showed me how I had repeatedly taken control of

my recovery... I got all the books I thought I needed... went in different directions I thought would help... but I'd never asked Him for His opinion. So I asked and He gave it - I hadn't learnt to trust or receive and give love. The wall of protection I had built now trapped me in and every time I prayed to Him to help free me He'd reach for a brick... but my fear was so great, He'd reluctantly pull His hand back.

The truth hit me, but I just didn't know how to break through down the brick wall. "I don't know what to do!" I finally cried. "I do," He answered. "Really give it to me." Trying to direct your own recovery is like grabbing a scalpel from the surgeon. God has your best interest at heart. He knows the causes of your dysfunctions and He can heal them. So trust Him with your junk. Daily ask Him to direct your recovery. And see how crazy He is about you!



Cheri Peters
True Step Ministries

Servant Evangelism with a Christmas Theme

PERSONAL MINISTRIES

The lead up to Christmas brings high expectations, deadlines to meet, crowded shopping centres and, all in all, a huge cocktail of stress and emotion for many families in our communities. And it is a prime time to be out there serving; meeting needs and bringing a smile to people just as Jesus would do.

The November Experiential Learning Seminar run by the Victorian Conference's Personal Ministries Department will feature ideas and practical tips on how you can impact your community this Christmas, at a time when people's eyes are already on love, giving and Jesus, if only for a brief time.

Mario, a single man aged about 41, lives a block away from me. He had just suffered a marriage breakup and was lonely and hurting because he has a daughter whom he didn't get to see as much as he would like to. Each year at Christmas time, which is a lonely time of the year for many people, my wife makes 300 Christmas cards which I place in letter boxes around our home. Mario received one and the day after Boxing Day he knocked on my door! I invited him in and we chatted for two hours or so. That was the start of our friendship. After a few weeks of sharing time with him, he turned up at church one Sabbath and is now a part of our church family.

Besides Mario we have other friends in our neighbourhood who leave presents on our doorstep, say hello to us when we walk past their homes or come up and talk to us at community

events, all because we took the initiative and reached out to them with a homemade Christmas card. The impact is that real.

Four years ago church members went doorknocking in our church's neighbourhood with bottles of non-alcoholic wine decorated in Christmas ribbons and cellophane. Folk were delighted with the gesture but not one person said they knew our church existed, ever though it was on their very street and with what we thought was great signage! However, after giving away the non-alcoholic wine all that changed and we still have people dropping in from time to time just to check us out, still talking about that gift we gave all those years ago.

This proves that relational evangelism does have a lasting effect. People love being loved.

In November's Experiential Learning Seminar, we will be looking at these and other similar ideas – simple, yet filling a need at Christmas, letting the community know they are loved and appreciated.

A 'hands on' workshop, after discussing the various ideas, participants will have the opportunity to choose one, make it and then give it away, enabling them to experience doorknocking in a fun and non-threatening way.



They will receive notes on all items talked about and shown (including some samples), and the discussions will stimulate thinking as they consider what could be done in their own churches.

The seminar helps engender confidence in reaching out in a meaningful way, but it also teaches how to follow up on these contacts, with tips on how to bring them from an unchurched culture into a loved and cherished fellowship. It is our desire that participants find themselves inspired and excited that they too can be a link in the chain for Christ and His kingdom, this Christmas.

So, please come and experience Northpoint Church at 11 am on Saturday the 19th November, at 3 Trade Park Drive, Tullamarine, mingle over lunch with people who are involved in this ministry, then participate in the seminar which runs from 2:30 until 3:30. Participants will then put what they have learned into practice before returning to the church at 4:30 for a debrief.

If you wish to attend this ELC, please book through the Conference Office on 9264 7777 or Northpoint office on 9338 1898, so I can prepare the materials for you. *Pr Loren Pratt*

food for a day." - Nikita (Yr 4)

"I want to help people who are poorer than us - to be able to help them get some food." - Alex (Yr 4)

"I feel sad that they don't have enough food to eat and I want to help them and experience what it is like to go hungry." - Sally (Yr 4)

"I want to help these people because they don't have as much as we do." - Chloe (Yr 4)

"These people have been hungry for a very long time and I'd like to help them." - Austen (Yr 5)

"This is a great opportunity to help others and I think it's good to experience what it is like to go without

No Food for a Day!

EDINBURGH ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

A number of students from Years 4 to 6 were happy to participate in a day of fasting on Thursday, August 25, to help raise funds for thousands of East African children who go hungry every day. The students raised over \$3,000. Why did they sign up? We let them tell you...

"These people are suffering a lot and it would be good to help them." - Martin (Yr 4)

Looking At Money Meltdown

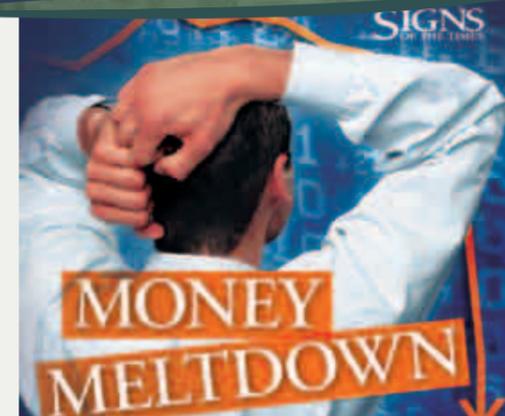
Signs of the Times has produced a flyer to help churches share with those seeking an explanation for the world's current financial climate.

"The US economy was on the brink of financial meltdown in August over the extension of the government's credit limit. Economic bloodshed ensued and confidence in the US dollar shattered," says Lee Dunstan, editor of *Signs of the Times*. "Financial markets plummeted, investors lost billions in just a few days and the markets have been see-sawing since. Everyone is on edge, wondering where and when this will all end."

The flyer, called "Money Meltdown,"

gives Revelation 18's biblical perspective on what is happening in the world of finance, and what people can expect in the future.

"It gives the spiritual dimension—the outworking of the great controversy in these end times—pointing readers to the only safe haven for our treasure, the Bank of Heaven," says Lee. "It is the hope of Signs Ministry that the community receives this message, that they know this isn't the end, and that the Bible offers them



great promises for what is to come." Find out more about "Money Meltdown" at www.signsofthetimes.org.au/meltdown.

News from Heritage College

...STUDENTS VISIT AVONDALE

Senior students from our schools spend several days at Avondale College where they learn about what courses are on offer and absorb a little of the atmosphere. Heritage students went recently and in this article, Rachael Torella tells us about her experience.

The 2011 Avondale Trip was honestly great. I would like to thank Miss Lawson especially, but also Mr Wilson and Natasha Wilson on behalf of the thirteen Year 11's who went on the trip, for organising the camp and for not kicking us out when we were noisy! Snoring, Uno, basketball and a lot of talking were all on the cards during the Avondale nights, however, during the day we were all business as we got to tour the Sydney Adventist Hospital, Signs Publishing and the

Avondale College campus, plus an activity day in Sydney.

Avondale surpassed my expectations in a very large way. I expected the best part of the trip to be the shopping. Though the shopping was good, it came second to the unexpected strengthening and creation of friendships, new and old.

Avondale in my opinion, was a great experience spiced with a couple of deadly bridges (we walked across both the Avondale Swing Bridge and



Sydney Harbour Bridge), ferry rides and great mates. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone!

...FATHERS DAY



Dozens of fathers and grandfathers descended on primary classrooms for our Fathers' Day program.

Students proudly involved their 'dads' in a variety of in-class and outside activities followed by a scrumptious morning tea prepared by Mrs Stark and her talented helpers. The time concluded as Year 5 students and staff, together with a couple of dads, went to neighbouring houses and

delivered cards and small gifts to say "Happy Fathers' Day" from our College.

We trust all dads had a brilliant day, and that Fathers' Day is something that is not just isolated in homes to one day a year! As one dad stated: "EVERY day should be Fathers' Day... I've had so much fun!"



With
Pastor Dave



Twenty Eight Stories

Saving Lives

Joseph trembled as Pharaoh used his limitless power to transform a slave into a prince. A snap of the royal fingers and the Interpreter of Dreams was living a dream beyond imagination! While just a few moments before, he was dressed for a dungeon, Joseph now stood attired in Egypt's finest, with the king's ring of power on his finger.

"With your God revealing things to you, you are the wisest in the land. Only I will rank higher than you. I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt. I am Pharaoh... I say no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land, without your approval."

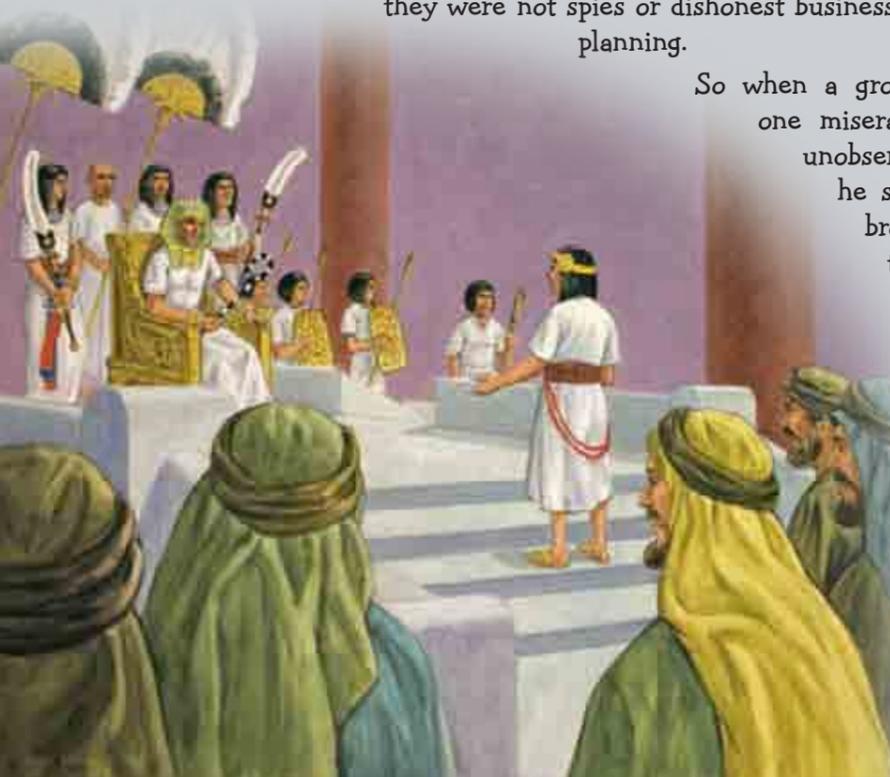
Pharaoh gave Joseph an Egyptian name, an Egyptian wife, chariots and servants. At thirty years of age, he was the second most powerful man in the most powerful kingdom on Earth. But in a land worshiping many gods, Joseph never forgot his God – the one true God, the one who had been shaping him for this role since he was a boy... who had used every step along the way, each dream, each pit, each choice, as wrong and painful as they sometimes were, to mould him into as strong, steady leader.

Joseph immediately began implementing his taxation strategy. Storehouses were built and he required the people, enjoying seven years of bumper crops, return 20% of every harvest to the king. This was not easy – the farming people, thinking only of what they were losing, complained. However Joseph persisted, applying the wisdom God provided to his leadership, and the storehouses were filled.

Then the land dried up. The fields stopped producing. The desert took over. The people came to Pharaoh, begging for help. He sent them to Joseph – "Do whatever he tells you!" Joseph? That man who 'stole' from them? But they soon found that his overtaxing had been worth it, and they did not go hungry.

The famine spread beyond the borders of Egypt, as did word spread that there was food in Egypt. With the security of the realm in mind, Joseph put foreign purchasers through a careful process of scrutiny to ensure they were not spies or dishonest business men looking to profit from Egypt's wise planning.

So when a group of weary Hebrew travellers arrived one miserably hot afternoon, Joseph knew. As, unobserved, he watched them draw nearer, he sucked in a quick gasp. They were his brothers! The ones who had mocked him, tore off his special coat. The ones who had thrown him in that horrid pit, then sold him to the slavers. They were the reason he was here... Then it hit him with a jolt – they were the reason he was now here in Egypt supervising the storehouses that were keeping many alive through the famine. His God had used their treachery to bring out good, and he was now in a position to save them... or repay them...



A desperate struggle began between this mighty man's head and his heart. His heart wanted him to run and embrace his family, tell them of God's goodness in providing this blessing, be reunited. His head remembered the selfish nature of these men. The pain they had inflicted. It warned him they may try and abuse their connection to him and his position of power. Had their natures improved or worsened with the passage of time?

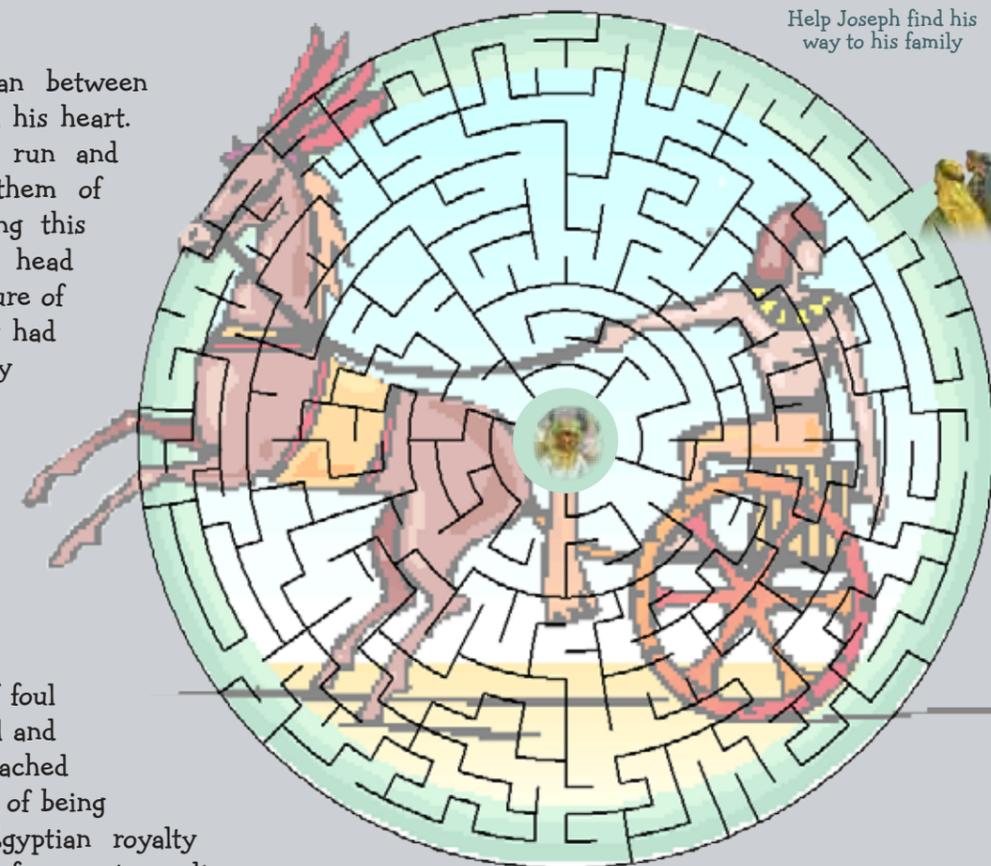
So he tested them, as he did anyone he suspected of foul play. Every bit the powerful and arrogant Egyptian, he approached the men and accused them of being spies. They saw only Egyptian royalty descending upon them in fury, not needing to understand his language to know what he was saying. They were terrified.

And he found no satisfaction. It hurt. But he yelled at them, put one in prison, sent the rest home to bring back proof they were not spies. If they had a younger brother, if that were true – bring him back to Egypt... or never show their faces in Egypt again and leave the brother in prison to rot. Some time later they returned – with their youngest brother in tow, fear in their chests. Fear of the Egyptian ruler. Fear they would fail their father... again. Fear of their past.

Joseph's heart swelled to see his little brother alive, a grown man. But still his heart and his head were at war. So he planned one more test – the youngest son, his brother – was set up as a thief and threatened with imprisonment. Would the remainder of the men shrug in resignation, put up a token resistance and walk away, leaving Benjamin condemned to a life of slavery as they had done Joseph all those years before? They wept. They begged. They pleaded. Judah, who had caused Joseph much grief with his hardness and malice, offered himself as a substitute. "For how can I return to my father if the boy is not with me? I couldn't bear to see the anguish this would cause him."

The Egyptian ruler's head was silenced and his heart praised God. He ordered everyone to leave the room but the Hebrews, and then, in halting Hebrew, he spoke to them. "I am Joseph! Is my father truly alive?" The men could not take it in. Joseph – this Egyptian lord? Impossible!

Joseph ran to Benjamin and hugged him. Then turning to the others he repeated "It is true, I am your brother! The one you sold to the slave traders. But don't be frightened, or angry at your selves. Don't you see? God used that evil and turned it to good. How can I but forgive you? God placed me here where I am today, to help preserve a nation and save our family."



Help Joseph find his way to his family

28 STORES IS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN ADVENTIST FAITH, AS YOU EXPLORE THE 28 FUNDAMENTALS OF OUR BELIEFS. FOR A STUDY GUIDE FOR ALL AGES, TAKING YOU DEEPER, 28 STORES IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE.

Launching the Annual October Appeal

ADRA VICTORIA

On Saturday night, September 17th ADRA leaders and volunteers from across Victoria came together to launch the annual ADRA Appeal at Vive Café in Croydon.

The special night was hosted by Jonathan Duffy, CEO of ADRA Australia and Rebecca Auriant, Director of ADRA Services (Victoria). As the leaders and volunteers shared in a beautiful three course meal provided by the Vive Café volunteer staff – many were thanked and awarded for the years they have faithfully served in an ADRA project

or raised funds for the annual Appeal. Organisers used this opportunity to launch the new commercial kitchen for Vive Café which was made possible through the financial generosity of the ADRA Op Shop in Mitcham and the many Vive Café volunteers who dedicated their time. “Vive Cafe is a community diner established to provide not only

a home-cooked meal to those in need, but more importantly a listening ear,” says café coordinator, Julie Judd. “Building caring and loving relationships is one step toward reducing marginalisation and supporting guests, allowing them to feel genuinely accepted and part of the community. We thank ADRA and all our volunteers and for their support.”



DON STANFORD FROM FTG CRISIS CENTRE



JOAN BOTTRELL & PAULINE BONHAM - GEELONG



HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS - MITCHAM OP SHOP



PAWELL CIESLAR FROM OAKLEIGH POLISH CHURCH



PEKA SUA, OUTSTANDING LOCAL ADRA LEADER



VIVE CAFE TEAM IN THE NEW KITCHEN

Thank you to the following Churches, ADRA leaders and Volunteers who received awards in the following categories:

Excellence Award: Pr Pawell Cieslar from Oakleigh Polish Church raised over \$24,000 for the Appeal in 2010.

Hall of Fame: ADRA Mitcham Op Shop

Service Award: given to an individual in recognition for years of service collecting for the Appeal. Alex Buckler began collecting for Appeal for Missions 50 years ago, at the age of 19. Last year he raised \$8,000 in 19 days.

Quiet Achievers: Donald Stanford (Ferntree Gully), Joan Bottrell and Pauline Bonham (both from Geelong) have all served in ADRA Crisis Centres for over 20 years.

Outstanding Local ADRA Leader: Peka Sua (North Melbourne Samoan)

Certificates of Appreciation: ADRA Leadership Team and Julie Judd

To nominate someone you know for one of these awards at next year's ADRA Appeal Dinner, or for more info on how your church can help or volunteer in an ADRA project overseas or in Victoria with a Crisis Centre, at-risk youth project or Women's Refuge - call Rebecca Auriant on 9264 7777 or email her at ra@adventist.org.au

General Secretary's Report ~ Pr Darren Croft

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

•August saw Pr Anthony MacPherson welcomed as a new Director and Executive Committee Member. Anthony currently cares for the congregations meeting in Plenty Valley and Croydon.

•Approval was given for continuing Heritage College Development and loans. This project involves the construction of two new buildings at the Officer Campus. Stage 1 is for Home Economics and Industrial Technology in 2011 and Stage 2 for Art in 2012. The total cost for both stages of the Project is \$3.83m funded a mixture of government grants and loans.

•The St Albans Church hall building project and loan were also approved.

This project involves the demolition of the existing house on site, the combining of the two property titles and the construction of a hall. This will dramatically improve the function and possible uses of the church property. The total budgeted project cost is \$479,300.

•Springvale Church also received approval for their building project and loan. This project will make the children's Sabbath School rooms larger, and will be able to be opened up to a larger meeting room. It also necessitates the removal of asbestos from the old building which will be replaced by meeting rooms for Youth, offices and indoor toilets facilities, including the installation of disabled toilets.

PASTORAL STAFFING

...is now in full swing in preparation for 2012 as the Pastoral Staffing Committee attempts to balance the competing needs and opportunities around the conference.

We are sorry to say that the conference will be losing two of our ministers, as Mr Cristian Copaceanu has accepted a call to NNSW and will be greatly missed by the Gateway Company, and Pr Mike Faber has accepted a call to SNSW as Conference President and will be greatly missed by Lilydale Church. We wish them and their families all the best and may God bless them as they take up new challenges.



Leadership Training Seminar

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Under the directorship of Danijela Trajkov, Women's Ministries recently held a leadership training seminar at the Conference office. This was part of a program where WM is training over 70 women each year, both young and old, to be leaders in their local churches.

This professionally developed Leadership Certification program from the General Conference, accredited by Griggs University in the US, covers 30 core subjects and 12 electives, spreading over four years with seminars held each March and October. These two day seminars cover many practical subjects, including communication skills, principals of effective leadership, counselling, conflict management and problem solving techniques, conducting Bible studies, cultural sensitivity, public prayer, and mentoring young women. Two meals are provided, and for women travelling from the country, accommodation is arranged with minimal charge.

New participants are always welcome – as the topics rotate over a four year cycle, it doesn't matter when you begin. The next seminar will be held from Sabbath afternoon, March 3 to Sunday, March 4, 2012. An alternative to attending the seminars is to complete the course

by correspondence. Participants purchase the study materials and DVD, and send in test papers for marking. While doing it this way may be more convenient for some, it is considerably more labour intensive, and coordinators recommend attending the seminars if at all possible.

The Great Commission commands all of us, male and female, young and old, to spread the Gospel. This program is a fantastic opportunity for women to be trained, equipped and prepared for

any church office and for sharing the Gospel with those around them.

If you would like to explore the possibility of improving your leadership skills, why not consider marking March 3 and 4 on your calendar! Applications will be available in December so look for the application form online at vic.adventist.org.au or in the leaflet at your local church. Or you can call the Conference Office on 03 9264 7777 for more information.



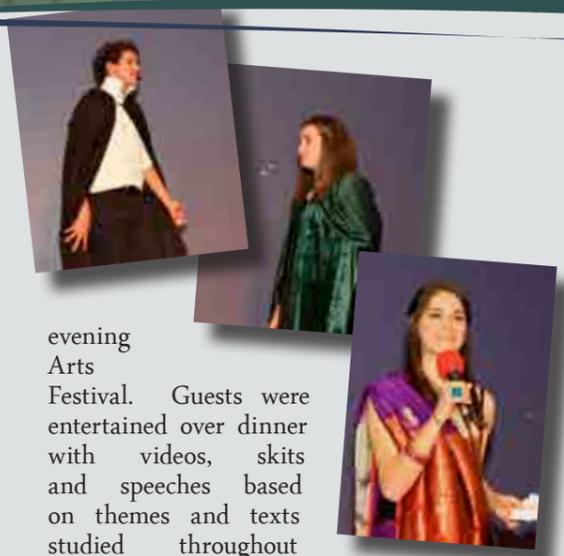
Literacy Week @NCC

The week of 29th August saw the beginning of Nunawading Christian College's annual Literacy week, where all things literary were celebrated. These included a "Quote Competition", author visit, student talent quest and Arts Festival.

Students battled it out over written work in the Quote Competition.. Pitted against each other in divisions of junior and senior students, competitors were required to delve into the depths of their memories to retrieve quote after quote from their English texts. The "quote-off" saw two students from years 7 and 8 reaching in excess of 70 quotes each

before settling for a joint first prize. Year 9 students were enthralled with a visit from the author of one of their English Texts. James Moloney, author of "A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove" gave our students some valuable tips on how to make their writing really come alive. Parents, staff and friends were entertained by students during our

evening Arts Festival. Guests were entertained over dinner with videos, skits and speeches based on themes and texts studied throughout the year's English classes. Performances included interpretations of Shakespeare texts, poetry readings, a re-enactment by some year 7 students of their English text, "Voyage of the Dawn Treader", and the much anticipated premiere of year 12's Bollywood movie, "Bibi Haldar" from their novel, "Interpreter of Maladies." The final event for the week was the student talent quest, and what an event this was. Participants delighted their audience with musical items, comedy sketches and an awesome demonstration from one student who solved a Rubik's cube in 23 seconds. Thank you to our English department and to all the students that took part in the various events to make Literacy Week a memorable experience.



AdventistBookCentre



Have you been to the ABC lately? What better time than now, with Christmas approaching, explore our range of gifts, DVD's, music, Bibles and Christian writings, as well as our range of health foods.

Open Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm and Friday 9-12. Located at the Conference Office, Central Rd Nunawading.

ABC HOURS – ABC will be closed from Friday October 28, reopening October 2, as the shop will be onsite at the Mildura Bush Camp. It will also be closed from December 19 for Stock take, reopening Jan 3, 2012 after the Christmas break.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE – The conference office will be closed from 5pm Thursday, December 22 until 9am Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

ADS AND NOTICES

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
2 unfurnished b/rooms each available for \$110/wk plus bills, in Pakenham. Sharing with 2 professional females, would prefer female housemates. Pets negotiable. 0410 684 368

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
1 bedroom in two b/room unit – semi furnished. \$120pw, located at

Lilydale, 5 minute walk to station and bus. A young working male would be preferable. Contact Karolina on 9735 3927.

TRUST SERVICES – Steve Whitson will be preaching at Portland Oct 29, Yarra Valley Oct 12 and Bairnsdale Oct 19, and available afterwards to discuss your Trust services needs. Otherwise an appointment can be made on 03 9264 7777. He is available after hours

and some weekends, so give him a call.
CALLING ALL CHILDREN SINGERS
If you have a children choir or group, or solo performers in your congregation and they would like to participate in an annual KIDS for KIDS fund raising concert, call Yola Mielczarek, organiser of "Joyful Singers", on 0413885383. This year's concert will be on Sabbath afternoon, December 3.

POSITION AVAILABLE – VICYOUTH PA

– VicYouth is seeking a full time Personal Assistant/Administrative Professional for a 12 month period, to provide a welcoming office environment, care for the incoming and outgoing communication and provide administrative support to the Youth Department personnel. This position requires excellent communication skills, experience in office and event management and competency in using computers, especially MS Word, MS Excel and MS Access. Knowledge and experience in Adobe Photoshop, web management and marketing is also highly desirable. The successful applicant must be able to work under pressure and be able to meet deadlines! A working knowledge and experience in Pathfinders and Youth Ministry would also be a decided advantage. Values and qualities we are looking for include: integrity; honesty; confidentiality; trustworthiness; self-motivation and a vibrant Christian experience.

Applications close on November 4, 2011 at close of business. Interested applicants please contact Moe Ioane Stiles for a copy of the Job Description, on 03 9264 7741 or email vicyouth@adventist.org.au. Applications must address key selection criteria.

POSITION AVAILABLE – YOUTH PASTORAL WORKER

– Expressions of interest are being sought for the position of Youth Pastoral Worker for the Rowville-Lysterfield Church. The position would commence January 2012 for 12 months, paid for 10 hours per week. Contact Pr Peter Rollo for more information. 0423 217 741.

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

Sabbath	Opening	Closing
Oct 29		7.51
Nov 4,5	7.57	7.58
Nov 11,12	8.05	8.06
Nov 18,19	8.13	8.14
Nov 25,26	8.20	8.21

Please accept our apologies for the incorrect dates listed last issue, and be assured we will not be using that website again! Thank you to those of you who let us know of the mistake - we hope you were not too inconvenienced.

OFFERING SCHEDULE - NOVEMBER

- October 29 - Local Church Budget
- November 5- Local Church Budget
- November 12 - World Mission Budget - unusual opportunities
- November 19 - Education/Camping
- November 26 - Local Church Budget



MELBOURNE CITY CHURCH
age is no barrier!
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY COMMENCING FEBRUARY 6, 2012

The Victorian Conference is committed to planting a church in the centre of Melbourne and WE NEED YOU!

Jesus said 'the harvest is ready but the workers are few, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laboureres into His harvest.' (Matt 25:37,38).

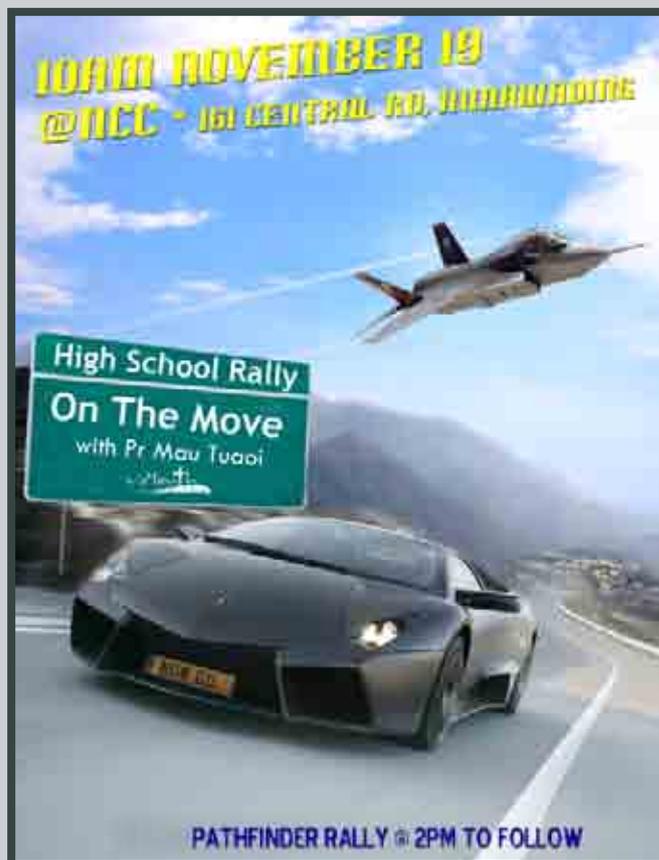
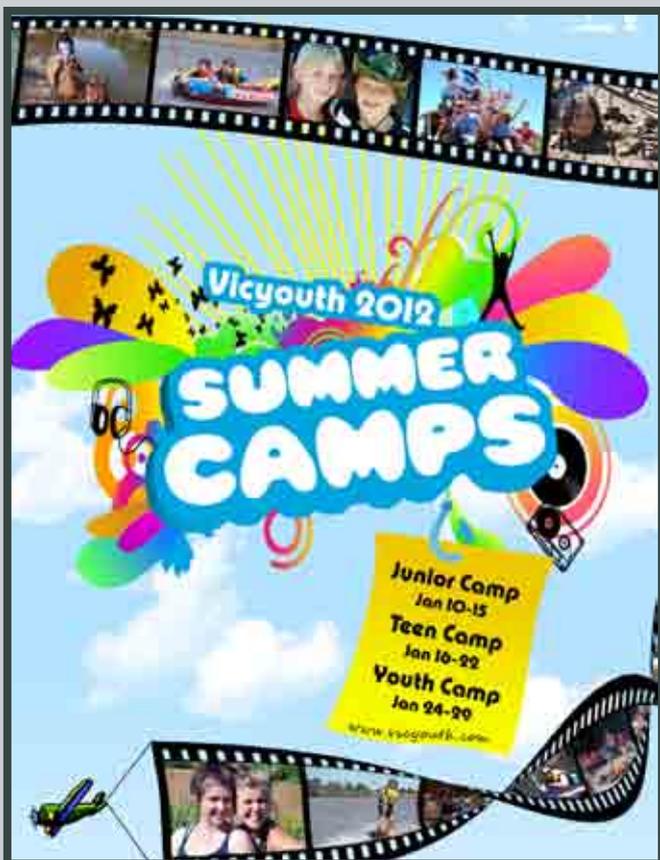
Come, get trained and equipped to be a part of this exciting new venture.

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM RECEPTION AT THE CONFERENCE OFFICE, OR ON VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU

Adventist Songwriters Convention
Under the Sun
December 28 - January 2
NAAMAROO CONFERENCE CENTRE SYDNEY

contact jbolst@adventist.org.au 02 9847 3306

International Guest Presenter
Dr Kendra Valentine



Local Churches in Australia Our Child-Safe Policy ...



The Church is opposed to child abuse and sexual misconduct. Such conduct is a breach of trust and an abuse of power.

The Church will respond to child abuse and sexual misconduct when it occurs within the congregation by seeking help from Government authorities and specialist services within the Church and community. The Church supports the investigation of allegations and complaints of child abuse and sexual misconduct about Church workers, volunteers and attendees within the Church.

The Church will create a safe haven for children to grow and flourish by:

- Screening volunteers who work with children.
- Promoting a Code of Conduct.
- Assessing the risk of Church-run events and activities that are planned for children.

The Church requires a Safety Agreement to be adhered to by applicants who have a conviction for a sexually-related offence against a child.

Phone 1800 220 468 to report child sexual abuse within the Church

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

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

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

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

NOTE: neither the editor, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service.