

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

IntraVic

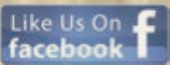
May 26, 2018

Who...
Me?



Victorian Adventist
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Victorian Adventists



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST[®]
CHURCH

Victoria

A note from the Editor's Office



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Notices available at <http://Vic.adventist.org.au> under the News & Notices tab

Cover Photo

Dick Stenbakken sharing OT insights at Big Camp
If you would like to see more of Dick's work, his DVD's are available at the ABC. Call 9264 7777 and ask for Tina or Kim.

Big Things

You've probably heard the story about the big rocks – but just in case, let me tell you the brief version.

A teacher placed an extremely large jar on the table, placed a dozen large rocks into it – until no more could fit. He asked, "Is it full?" Everyone agreed it was. "Really?" he asked. Then he poured in some pebbles and asked if it was full. The class was more cautious this time. "Probably not," came the answer. He could see they were getting the point – and he poured in sand and shook it all down.

Now, if he'd put the sand in first, then the pebbles, he couldn't have fitted in the big rocks.

The point is obvious – we've got to address the big things first – which leads me to the obvious question.

What BIG THINGS are we to be focused on – as a church in Victoria?

We're told the population of Melbourne is growing by 2800 per week. Do they know Jesus is coming soon? How will we ever reach them? And the people of our country areas? Now they're just as important!

In this IntraVic, read about Harvest Victoria – an initiative to join Christ in the harvest, and as you do, let me invite you to pray that God will lead us to effectively reach Victoria for Christ! How will you be involved?

What BIG THINGS should be the focus of the church in Victoria?

I'm interested in your answer – simply email me at gchristian@adventist.org.au

Let's focus on what really matters most.

Graeme Christian



IntraVic May 2018

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intraVic



Devotional
Written by Ellen G White

Evangelism and a personal relationship with Christ... Both are essential to each other. And so is an authentic relationship with those we are trying to reach...

The Victorian Conference has a focus on Discipleship and Evangelism. Both go hand in hand. Without an active personal relationship with Christ, as His disciple, our evangelistic attempts will be less effective. People are looking for authenticity. And without a personal relationship with others, how can we effectively share something that is so personal – what Christ has done for each and every one of us. As our local churches endeavour to reach their communities through various ministries such as health, men’s and women’s ministries, Bible study groups or children’s programs and our major campaign in 2019, it will be through the authentic relationships and connections we have made that the Holy Spirit can flow, flooding from our hearts to the hearts of our family and friends, our neighbours, to draw them to Himself.

With Harvest Victoria in mind, when we came across this article in an old edition of Adventist Review, it was something we felt was well worth sharing and reading again. As you read, picture yourself in the narrative... where do you see yourself acting, what things could you do... What is holding you back...

IntraVic

“ In a special sense, Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given

a work of the most solemn import – the proclamation of the first, second and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.ⁱ

Give Yourself

God expects personal service from everyone to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time. **Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be home missionaries in their families and neighbourhoods.** There are many ways in which church members may give the message to those around them.

One of the most successful is by living helpful, unselfish Christian lives. Those who are fighting the battle of life at great odds may be refreshed and strengthened by little attentions which cost nothing. Kindly words simply spoken, little attentions simply bestowed, will sweep away the clouds of temptation and doubt that gather over the soul. The true heart expression of Christ-like sympathy, given in simplicity, has power to open the door of hearts that need the simple delicate touch of the spirit of Christ.ⁱⁱ

My brethren and sisters, give yourselves to the Lord for service. Allow no opportunity to pass unimproved. Visit the sick and suffering and show a kindly interest in them. If possible, do something to make them more comfortable. Through this means you can reach their hearts and speak a word for Christ.

“ Give yourself... give your time. Visit those in need, do something to ease their suffering. Open a window to their hearts, then you can put in a word for Christ...”

Investing in Eternity

Eternity alone will reveal how far reaching such a line of labour can be. Other lines of usefulness will open before those who are willing to do the duty nearest them. It is not learned eloquent speakers that are needed now, but humble Christlike men and women, who have learned from Jesus of Nazareth to be meek and lowly, and who, trusting in His strength, will go forth into the highways and hedges to give the invitation “Come; for all things are now ready.”ⁱⁱⁱ

There is earnest work for every pair of hands to do... There are so many that need to be helped. The heart of him who lives, not to please himself but to be a blessing to those who have so few blessings, will thrill with satisfaction. Let every idler awake and face the realities of life. Take the Word of God and search its pages. If you are doers of the Word... you will find that the reward is abundant.

The Lord has a place for everyone in His great plan. Talents that are not needed are not bestowed. Supposing that the talent is small, God has a place for it and that one talent, if faithfully used, will do the very work God designs that it should do.^{iv}

Church members, let the light shine forth. Let your voices be heard in humble prayer, in witness against intemperance, the folly and the amusements of this world and in the proclamation of truth for this time. Your voice, your influence, your time – all are to be used in winning souls to Christ.

Visit your neighbours and show an interest in the salvation of their souls. Arouse every spiritual energy to action. Tell those whom you visit that the end of all things is at hand. The Lord Jesus Christ will open the door of their hearts and will make upon their minds lasting impressions...

Tell them how you found Jesus and how blessed you have been since you gained an experience in His service. Tell them what blessing comes to you as you sit at the feet of Jesus and learn precious lessons from His Word. Tell them of the gladness and joy that there is in the Christian life. Your warm fervent words will convince them that you have found the pearl of great price. Let your cheerful encouraging words show that you have certainly found the higher way.^v

There are many who can and should do the work of which I have spoken. **My brother, my sister, what are you doing for Christ? Are you seeking to be a blessing to others? Are your lips uttering words of kindness, sympathy and love? Are you putting forth earnest efforts to win others to the Saviour?**^{vi}

Total Consecration

Consecrate yourselves wholly to the work of God. He is your strength and He will be at your right hand, helping you to carry on His merciful designs. By personal labour, reach those around you. Become acquainted with them. Preaching will not do the work that needs to be done. Angels of God attend you to the dwellings of those you visit. This work cannot be done

by proxy. Money lent or given will not accomplish it. Sermons will not do it. By visiting the people, talking, praying, sympathising with them, you will win hearts. This is the highest missionary work that you can do. To do it, you will need resolute, persevering faith, unwearying patience and a deep love for souls.

Find access to the people in whose neighbourhood you live. As you tell them of the truth, use words of Christlike sympathy. **Remember that the Lord Jesus is the Master Worker. He waters the seed sown. He puts into your minds words that will reach hearts.** Expect that God will sustain the consecrated unselfish worker. Obedience, childlike faith, trust in God – these will bring peace and joy. Work disinterestedly, lovingly, patiently for all with whom you are brought into contact. Show no impatience. Utter not one unkind word. Let the love of Christ be in your hearts, the law of kindness on your lips.^{vii}

Heavenly angels have long been waiting for human agents – the members of the church – to cooperate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you.^{viii}

Ellen G White

Reprinted from Adventist World, March edition, 2016

i Testimonies for the Church (Mountain View, Calif. Pacific Pres Pub, Assn, 1948) Vol 9, p. 19
ii Ibid., p. 30.
iii Ibid., p. 36.
iv Ibid., p. 37.
v Ibid., p. 38.
vi Ibid., p. 39.
vii Ibid., p. 41.
viii Ibid., pp. 46, 47.

Unpacking *Discipleship*

Written by Michael Mohanu
LOCAL PASTOR WITH A PASSION FOR MEN'S MINISTRY

Quite often we hear people talking about Discipleship. What is Discipleship?

How can we incorporate it in our belief system and Christian life?

When coming across complex concepts, our human brains often attempt to break them down into their simplest parts, so that they may be easily understood.

Like Discipleship.

I've seen many books and articles and sermons written on the topic and maybe you have too. If you feel that the concept of Discipleship may be too abstract and hard to understand, then continue reading my attempt to unpack its true meaning.

As I see it, Discipleship is recognising your own need and making room for other people in your life; it's changing the focus of attention from yourself to others; it's sharing with others the things that God has graciously given to you, like knowledge, wisdom, and experience gained on the path of faith.

Isn't this what we do in all our ministries that we run within our churches? Deacons and deaconesses, Sabbath School, Children and Youth Ministries, Personal Ministries and all our other departments are there to bring us together to share with others the blessings that the Lord has given us.

Let's take a look at Men's Ministry (as you read on, apply the basic concepts to the area of ministry you have a passion for). At its core, Men's Ministry is man-to-man work, sharing our victories and failures that we have encountered on the path of life. Some of us have been hurt in our lives as children, teenagers and adults. As Ecclesiastes puts it, 'a time to tear down and a time to build' (Ecc. 3:3). I would say 'there is a time to hurt and a time to heal'... and the time for healing has arrived.

Men's Ministry is an invitation to all men to get together to ask the Lord for healing; healing of our hearts, of our emotions, healing of our souls. As followers of the Great Master, we aim to become better husbands, better fathers, better neighbours and spiritual leaders of God's Church - to become better disciples.

Let me guess what you are thinking right now: 'I don't have any problem ... I'm doing fine, just fine.' This is the attitude that prevents many of us, men and women, from healing. We have all heard it before... Healing starts with acknowledging that there is a problem.

What has healing to do with

Discipleship? Even without all the 'stuff' life throws at us, we have the elemental problem of sin and separation from Christ. We all need healing. And if we fail to recognise our desperate need for Christ at this fundamental level, we will simply continue to talk about Discipleship without understanding or experiencing its power. You are a disciple of Christ when you can truly acknowledge that you are totally dependent on Him, that of your own effort, you can do nothing. And that is power. Because that heals you and frees you to rely on Christ, and through Him all things are possible.

As soon as you become a disciple of Christ, then comes the next step which can be called 'Andrew's method'.

"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" and he brought him to Jesus." (John 1:40)

Andrew could not keep the news to himself. It was too big, too great, too exciting. He wanted to share this news with the one that was the closest to him, his brother. Andrew wanted Simon to have the same joy and excitement he had.

Bringing people to Christ, as Andrew did Simon, is called Discipleship and we do this by bringing Christ to people. This is where we make room for other people in our lives. We spend time with them, we sit down and listen to their stories, we listen to their hurts ... and what a healing comes from this! From this beginning, we can share the great news of forgiveness, salvation and hope.

Back to my passion as an example, Men's Ministry is a framework that can facilitate Discipleship. In an increasingly isolating society where a friend is something on facebook, men-focused activities, calibrated to suit men's abilities and expectations, foster camaraderie, support and healing and become opportunities to invite others to enjoy the same face-to-face interaction and friendship. Bringing Christ to people.

I've just recently read the story of

Gideon and his famous battle against the Midianites in Judges 8. What a story... I went back to read it again. When I reached the end of the eighth chapter in the book of Judges, I felt that I missed something in the reading.

How could a man start his very successful leadership career with a divine revelation and a resounding victory and finish up in such a sad conclusion? The Bible says that "Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshipping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family." (v. 27)

For me there is only one explanation ... Gideon failed to acknowledge that all his riches and fame that he received from defeating the coalition of Midianites, came from the Lord. The story goes to a great extent recording the quantity of gold and other things that were taken by him and his family as a plunder from the Ishmaelites. Gideon took the blessings for himself and his family but sadly forgot that the battle was won with only 300 men, men that did not have any military skills... and by the way, they didn't have even swords either!

My question is what do we do with all the blessings that we receive from the Lord? Do we feel entitled to them and keep them just for ourselves? The story of Gideon tells us that this is a dangerous path to take. We are to follow Andrew's method... reaching out to others and inviting them to follow the Master as well; and in the process we make disciples.

Do you feel sent by the Lord to make disciples? Do you feel a burden for the many thousands of men out there "who cannot tell their right hand from their left?" (Jonah 4:11) The Lord is summoning you, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior... Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" (Judges. 6: 12,14)

"And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

*Michael Mohanu
Casey Church*

Harvest Victoria

Taking Root and Growing Up

Written by Andrew Jasper
PERSONAL MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

I have found in the last two months since *Joining Christ in the Harvest*, this initiative is like a plant, taking root in people's lives and growing and spreading like a botanic beauty in our gardens...



PREPARE

This year we are each connecting with Christ and moving with Him into His vineyard – reaching out to people that we genuinely befriend and extend our love and interest in their lives.

As a result of *Joining Christ in the Harvest* training, there are more than 80 people now seeking to make a difference in their community.

Maybe that's helping a neighbour with a practical need, inviting them over for a meal or going out to an event that holds common interest. Casey Church recently conducted a Health Expo program at the newly constructed Bunjil Place in Narre Warren, with over 200 participants. Werribee Church meets needs through their "Yes We Care" Ministry that offers a variety of free services to its surrounding community. Northpoint Church meets the practical needs of their community by distributing food parcels. This June we are again encouraged members to be part of *Open Homes* by inviting a friend over for a meal and offer a free spiritual gift (www.disciple.org.au for more information). Whatever social, personal or practical method you engage in, meet people where they are and authentically care for them just

because they are people.

SOW

As your friendships grow, look for opportunities to share the story of Jesus. Be social, but be social to save. Sow 'good new's seeds into your friends hearts so the Holy Spirit can bring them to life. Share the loveliness of Jesus with them by reading a story from one of the Gospels. Perhaps you can share your own journey in coming to Christ, a gospel appeal, or a prayer of surrender. Tell how you have found the Bible is trustworthy in your life.

God has opened up opportunities for *Joining Christ in the Harvest* trainee, Donna Pasco, who attends the Plenty Valley Church, to pray and share spiritually with people she's known for some time. Recently she found a co-worker friendly toward Adventists because of another friend who is an Adventist and because of her visit to Road to Bethlehem last year. While Donna was enjoying lunch with this workmate and others, they quizzed her on being a vegetarian and her Sabbath practice. She had found a chance to sow a seed or two.

"The training changed my perspective," says Donna. "The Lord touched my

“ *Joining Christ in the Harvest* was a personally challenging week - it focused me very intentionally on what my relationship with God was and should be. I learnt new tools for my personal ministry and it is awesome to view myself as an evangelist joining Christ in the Harvest.

Deb O'Mahony - Glenhuntly Church

heart in big, big ways and now I'm deliberately trying to get God into every conversation.”

CULTIVATE

As the Holy Spirit stimulates a growing interest in Jesus, He leads people to the truth of His Word. This is where the plant is patiently nurtured so it can produce a harvest of fruit. So our role here is to faithfully share the milk and later some of the meat of the Bible. This includes practical aspects of our relationship with Christ, like prayer, worship and study of the Word as well as doctrinal topics like Sabbath, the Second Coming and Heaven. Importantly, we can also fill out the steps of conversion like confession, repentance and consecration of ourselves to Jesus. All of this will lead people to new life of vibrancy and victory and as a result want to share with others what wondrous things God has done.

While we are in early days since the February training, participants have returned to their churches and have started Bible studies with people in their home. Cultivation takes time. We learn that one of the laws of the harvest is you can't plant potatoes one day and expect a crop tomorrow.

So is there someone Jesus wants you to minister to? Perhaps it starts off by meeting a practical need, inviting them over for a meal or care group and in time inviting them to receive Christ. Perhaps through a Health program, ADRA OpShop interaction or Children's Vacation Bible School you've met someone God is nudging you to befriend more intentionally. Or is there someone you know who is already Christian and interested in knowing more about God's will for their lives? Could you meet for a Bible study in their home. Our ABC stocks a number of resources, including a great series of studies from *It Is Written* and *Bible Study Q-Cards* which are creative ways of sharing the Bible with others.

The Holy Spirit is stirring us to become a thriving disciple-making movement by equipping 1500 local missionaries, planting more than 20 new churches and empowering existing ones to become fully engaged. That's Harvest Victoria. It's grown from a 2-year initiative into a 5-year strategy poised to inspire an active generation.

Get on board!

Andrew Jasper
Personal Ministries, Health, Sabbath
Schools and Evangelism

As Harvest Victoria continues to grow a new culture of service and mission work in our Conference, here are some opportunities you can plug into for inspiration, training and involvement:

- Open your home by inviting a friend over for a meal and become part of the *Open Homes* movement June 17-23.

- Come to the GROW Conference June 22-24 at Camp Howqua and prepare to share your faith as well as for His second Coming. More info at vic.adventist.org.au

- Mark your calendar for August 11 and 18 when John Bradshaw comes to the Melbourne Regional Weekends in the East and West respectively. In the afternoons we'll soar to the peaks with a Spirit-filled prayer summit.

- A recently established social media working committee will be discovering ways to engage in this medium to connect with people and share the gospel in Victoria. If you would like to join the movement of digital disciples, more information will be available on the conference website as this project gets underway.

- Lastly, reserve January 24-28, 2019 on your calendars for the Victorian-wide Revival and Training on the Australia Day Weekend.

See our website for these and other ventures at www.vic.adventist.org.au.



Pr Nick, Andre, Alakier, Deng, Akuol, Sarah & Pr Danijela

Sally McMahon spoke about her recent service trip during MASDAC Sabbath School



A Church Plant in Bloom

Any day is a beautiful day for baptisms, but the late Sabbath afternoon at Williamstown beach in March, with the soft autumnal sun treating us kindly, was a truly blessed occasion; significantly, it was a balmy day with a light breeze moving peacefully over the water, reminding us of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.



Before the baptisms (there were five eager candidates), we held a service in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens (with the warmth ensuring that its flowers were still in full bloom), presided over by Pr Nick and Pr Danijela, accompanied by singing and prayer, specifically for our candidates but also as a reminder to all of us of rebirth in Christ, symbolised by our own baptisms. Undoubtedly, many who were not baptised must have been moved to consider their own preparedness for such a life-transforming decision.

To witness this joyful event, an incredible number of brothers and sisters from various churches attended the ceremony, making for a vibrant throng of believers of all ages who attracted the attention of the beach-goers enjoying the idyllic conditions.

When the candidates, Akuol, Alakier, Deng, Sarah and Andre were baptised in the shallows Impossible to distinguish between the Adventists and the general public who paused to witness this significant event, it was as though the whole of the beach, along with the angels in Heaven, gazed in wonder at these rebirths taking place at a slight distance from the shore. Perhaps, at least for a few moments, these beach-goers reflected on their own lives, and stood, along with us, in awe of the Creator of the universe that gave us the breath of life.

After the baptisms, the congregation, along with the Point Cook Community Church candidates, had a picnic dinner in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens, a beautifully fitting setting for the beginning of each candidate's spiritual journey.

Robert Bryson

MASDAC hosts Melbourne Advent Brass

On Sabbath 24th February, 2018, Melbourne Advent Brass accepted the invitation from leadership at Melbourne Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church (MASDAC) to lead their congregation in worship. The end result was a morning of music, worship and fellowship that was appreciated by all.

Melbourne Advent Brass was formed in Melbourne by Pr W J Gilson some 94 years ago with the primary aims of involving young people and providing good quality brass band music.

Today that tradition is continued, with the band being conducted by WJ's grand-son, Reynold, being the music director; a strong emphasis on youth involvement; and music of a high

Church News

Try Faith FM

Once more the Bairnsdale SDA Church enjoyed the music of a talented performer when Gavin Chatalier was with us on Sabbath 24th February.

He took a musically based service in the morning, followed by more music after one of our famous shared lunches (come and visit any Sabbath and you'll understand that comment).

For this visit Gavin was wearing two "hats". As well enjoying the talent God has gifted him with, we heard about Gavin's role as a Faith FM radio promoter - a roving ambassador. He shared how this position was an answer the prayer "What more than my music can I do for You?"

Faith FM radio began in Victoria in 2008 and has now spread to every state in Australia. It reaches 5 million Australians in a non-threatening, behind-closed-doors and private way that is unique and effective.

In our own Bairnsdale church a few weeks ago we welcomed Paul Breheny



MASDAC Cont.

quality being produced.

At MASDAC, Sabbath School was a combined time of worship with the 'senior' classes. The band presented a number of items and provided the music for congregational singing. Sally McMahon was interviewed relative to her recent mission trip to Sri Lanka and she gave an articulate description of the work that she was involved in at that time. Tim Wilson led a discussion on the current topic of stewardship.

The church service was a full musical presentation, combined with the 'regular' elements of worship. Pr Graeme Christian, Victorian Conference President, combined his message with a number of musical presentations by the band.

A special feature of the band is the

into our fellowship. Paul first heard about the Sabbath on the local Faith FM radio, studied the subject, then walked into our Gems 'n Jams Op Shop saying he wanted to come to our church.

We want more like Paul to come, so we are right behind Faith FM both prayerfully and in monetary ways. The stations require that strong commitment in order to continue.

Gavin showed us how, on our smart phones, we can be involved in reading and recording a Faith FM prayer for the day that would eventually be aired on the radio. That afternoon there were as many non-Adventists participating in making these recordings as our own members, and it was a wonderful blessing for us all.

What a God-sent combination. If any other churches decide to invite Gavin to visit, to share his music and the promotion of the great mission outreach of Faith FM, I know you will be blessed.

Judy Walker

involvement of the younger members. Over recent years Lisa Ring has conducted training in a variety of brass instruments at both Edinburgh College and Nunawading Christian College, with the concept that these students join the Junior Advent Brass Band and as they develop move on to joining with Melbourne Advent Brass. A growing number of the current members of the band are these young people.

Melbourne Advent Brass is available to visit churches within our Conference. Their music is of a high quality and there is a real commitment to leading our congregations in meaningful worship.

If you would like to have the band visit your church, you are invited to contact the band President, Ray Boehm, on 0404 024 045.

*Ian Royce
Band Patron*



Gavin records church member, Rick Owen reading a message for radio

Advent Brass is a great opportunity for young musicians to develop their talents



Great Things are Happening

God is blessing the work at the Orchard Melbourne Central Church in the heart of Melbourne's CBD on Flinders Street and at Greenvale Church on the northern fringes of Melbourne.

Both churches are enjoying baptisms as the Holy Spirit moves upon the hearts of men and women within the church and from the local community. They are looking forward to more with exciting outreach programs planned for 2018. The Orchard is running a monthly Sabbath afternoon health program, blood pressure testing and counselling from its wonderful location above Flinders Street, in addition to its involvement in the Harvest evangelistic outreach.



Greenvale church is currently running nutrition programs, door-knocking the local community with surveys once a month and will be presenting an evangelistic series in Craigieburn later this year as it continues its work of seeking the lost.

Please prayer for the mission of these churches, which minister in very different areas of Melbourne but both equally challenging.



Volunteers Help Kids TRY

Members of Melbourne Asian and Melton churches volunteered at the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon in St. Kilda on 11 March where more than 2,500 kids swam, biked and ran across the finish line, cheered on by family and friends. Volunteering helped groups fund-raise while bonding together through a service activity.

The Melbourne Asian church group were fundraising for their Easter youth camp. "This also helps to form a stronger bond within our group and serves the community," said Jia Sin Chong. "The highlight of our day is getting kids prepared for the TRYathlon by numbering their arms and legs! Also, we enjoy encouraging and cheering the kids for their run."

The Melton youth group have been learning what it takes to be disciples. "Recently learning and demonstrating 'being the change', the TRYathlon was a step in the right direction," said Anna Tomasi Ola who led the group. "By the end of the day being able to help and see the spirit of TRYing was the ultimate blessing for us all!"



The event aims to encourage children to give things a try and live active healthy lives-part of Sanitarium's larger focus on addressing lifestyle diseases.



The event can also have an impact on family members.



Juliana Harmeling is a mother of two who wanted her kids to be active and to help break the obesity cycle in her family, but they found netball and cricket to be too competitive. "I thought I'd sign them up for the 2016 TRYathlon after a friend recommended it," says Juliana. "They had such fun that they want to do it every year for as long as they can." The event has inspired a more active lifestyle for the whole family with Juliana setting her own sights High. "I'm about to turn 50 and now have a goal to participate in an adult's triathlon," she says. "That's something I never thought I would do!"

Each volunteer group at this year's event received \$27 per volunteer while playing a valuable role in the event's success. The Melbourne event was the second in Victoria with nearly 800 kids participating in the Bendigo event a week earlier.

For information on the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon, visit www.tryathlon.com.au or www.facebook.com/AussieKidsTRY.

*Darren Hagen
Sanitarium*

Road to Bethlehem...

It is not far away! Did you know that looking at the visitors book from last year, attendees came from all over Melbourne, across Victoria and even as far away as India and the Middle East!

"We are a Muslim couple," wrote Mr & Mrs Mohammadi. "IT WAS GREAT - WELL DONE."

What a great evangelistic opportunity RtB is as we tell the world the true story of Christ.

Please pray about how you can be involved this year and who you will bring.

And if you plan to offer financial assistance, please don't leave it 'til the end of the year. Go to egiving.org.au.

From the Conference President...

Just before I share some highlights from recent administrative meetings, can I ask a couple of simple questions? I've now written literally dozens of newsletters like this one. Do you appreciate this type of newsletter or is there another way? A better way? How can we do better in communicating what is going on in our Conference? I will value your feedback so please email me. GChristian@Adventist.org.au*

Harvest Victoria

This initiative, developed with prayer and many committee hours, was presented to leadership as a five year strategy for becoming a thriving disciple making movement across Victoria and was well received.

As a church in Victoria, we have a significant task – the number of people moving to Victoria each week is about 10 times the number who join our church in a year. If we're going to take the job Jesus gave us seriously, we've got to be more effective in reaching our State for Christ. There are millions who don't know Jesus is coming again.

Some of the highlights of the Harvest Victoria strategy involve:

- Continuing discipleship training
- Effectively connecting with community people
- A reaping program with John Bradshaw and Eric Flickinger
- Continued discipleship training, and
- Planting new churches in strategic locations.

The training event in February this year (*Joining Christ in the Harvest*) was very successful, with more than 80 attending. We have John Bradshaw coming for our regional days in August this year. Please pray that God will lead to be effective in connecting with those who are responsive to His Spirit.

Structure Review – Australian Union Conference (AUC)

Representatives from the AUC and its review team presented a report on the Church Structure Review process. "As a church, can we do better?" is the significant question that has led to a review of church structure. Extensive consultation with interested parties from a wide range of experience across Australia and evaluation of responses has resulted in recommendations as to how we can be more effective at creating a thriving disciple making movement in Australia.

Key recommendations accepted were:

- To work with the AUC in exploring
 - the development of a single Adventist Aged Care system, and
 - the development of a single Adventist School system
- To be part of the development and implementation of an action plan for the 'operational issues' identified by the review
- To explore with the AUC options to create greater efficiencies/reduce the management and governance of administrative structures.

This is just phase one of the Structure Review. There remains much more work to be done.

It is envisioned that the Harvest Victoria strategy would be offered to the AUC to conduct a trial of the district/network model.

Infrastructure Projects

We're all aware of the Pavilions project, redeveloping the old 'camp ground'. However, I'm not sure if you're aware that, after prayerful research properties have been purchased for the Casey and North Melbourne Samoan churches. Additionally work continues to help Werribee church with its new building.

Edinburgh Early Learning Centre

The Conference Committee has approved funds to construct an extension to the Edinburgh Early Learning Centre. The ELC is full to overflowing – and that's great for the future of Edinburgh College.

AdventCare Victoria

While there have been challenges, I was delighted to see the bottom line for AdventCare is now, after the closure of the Bendigo facility, well and truly in the black.

So as always, let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, stay focused and pray God will lead us to be a thriving disciple making movement across Victoria!

*Graeme Christian
Conference President*

Health Week

Adventist Health Week was May 12-20. Our health message was and still is relevant - to our selves and to our community.

The theme or 2018, chosen by the SPD under the banner "Our Hands His Touch", was Diabetes. Sermons, and a video promo were made available through <https://www.facebook.com/SPDhealth/>.

Did your church get involved? if not, keep an eye on the facebook page for upcoming dates and events, and plan something big for Health Week 2019!



You may recall the 10,000 toes Mission Offering at Big Camp. The Division has decided this will just be the beginning - the project will carry on over a number of years. Diabetes needs stamping out in the South Pacific, and they plan on leading that initiative. They need everyone to get behind the campaign. So take a look at the newly launched facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/10000toes>. If you have not already supported this project, please consider doing so at 10000toes.com.

Did You Know? As well as Greenvale's program already mentioned, in the last month or so, five churches have been running Depression Recovery programs or CHIP. Well done, Casey, Cranbourne, Lighthouse Plant (Gateway) and Nunawading. You are offering over 45 people much needed help.

Casey also hosted a Health Expo at the newly finished Bunjil Place in Narre Warren, assisting over 220 people.

What can your church do to help share our much needed health message with a society where inactivity, indoors living and over indulgence is the norm? *IntraVic*

BEING HEALTHY

It's never too early to start being healthy. We can be healthy by eating good food, exercising and spending time with God.

Use some salad ingredients to make a Vege-man... then eat him up for a snack or lunch

It is important to do some exercise every day to keep our body's fit and healthy and it is important to spend time with Jesus, reading the Bible and praying, to keep our 'hearts' healthy...

Set yourself a goal to complete this chart every day for one week - on the weekend take your family for a nice Sabbath afternoon walk and on Sunday, play a family game outside for 60 minutes ... And don't forget your special time with Jesus

Chef Solus Grain Group Word search Puzzle!

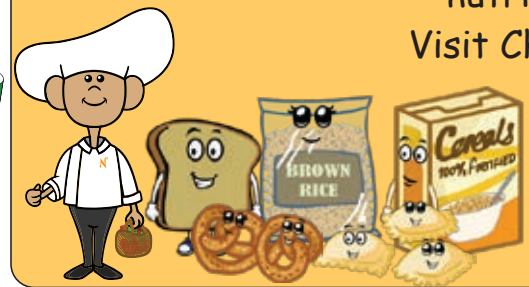
Y	E	E	Z	Y	G	R	E	N	E
L	G	S	S	N	I	A	R	G	B
D	A	I	I	P	H	N	U	R	A
U	T	E	Z	C	T	Q	M	I	L
D	N	O	M	L	R	K	U	C	A
A	E	A	R	T	A	E	Q	E	N
E	L	T	X	T	A	E	X	A	C
R	O	S	I	H	I	O	R	E	E
B	H	A	W	Y	H	L	F	E	I
E	W	P	Z	V	M	H	L	A	C
K	Q	B	G	X	H	Q	Z	A	D



- OATMEAL
- BREAD
- ENERGY
- CEREAL
- TORTILLA
- BALANCE
- RICE
- WHOLE
- EXERCISE
- PASTA
- GRAINS

Grains Group

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Fitness Fun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Read Bible & Pray	—	—	—	—	—
15 Jumping Jacks	—	—	—	—	—
15 Sit Ups	—	—	—	—	—
15 Squats	—	—	—	—	—
15 Lunges	—	—	—	—	—
15 Push Ups	—	—	—	—	—
15 Toe Touches	—	—	—	—	—
15 Leg Raises	—	—	—	—	—
15 Arm Circles	—	—	—	—	—
15 Knee Raises	—	—	—	—	—
30 min Out-side Play	—	—	—	—	—



Beginners God's Promise

Kindy Over the Moat

Lower Primary Made for a Reason

Upper Primary Australia is God's

This year in the children's divisions we had a fantastic time at Big Camp!!

The Beginners learnt that God made the rainbow as a sign of a promise to Noah and to us. They had a fun and colourful tent, sang lots of songs and heard lots of interesting stories.

The Kindy division went 'Over the Moat'. They learnt that just like David they can stand strong with God on your side. They had a room decorated like a castle and got to walk over the moat to get to story time. They even had horse races and catapult a water balloon into the air!

In the Lower Primary area they learnt that God made you for a reason and He loves you. They did this with amazing science experiments, creative crafts and powerful singing. One of their first science activities was to create a universe in a jar. It was a big hit with the kids!

In Upper Primary they learnt that Jesus is in Australia. There were guest speakers each day. The kids got to play a didgeridoo and pat a snake and eat some bush tucker (no witchetty grubs though!) They learnt how to care for our country and the creatures in it.

Julie Catton
Director of Children's Ministries
03 9264 7777

**BIG
CAMP 2018**

BIG
CAMP
2018 - ONE OF
OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL
YET WITH 25% MORE
REGISTERED ATTENDEES, A NEW VENUE
AND ALL VENUES FILLED TO CAPACITY.
TO GOD'S GLORY.
HEARTFELT THANKS GO TO THE
MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO
HELPED MAKE THIS
HAPPEN... PRAISE
GOD

WE TAKE
TO HEART
CHRIST'S COMMISSION
- TO SHARE THE HOPE
THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN HIM
WITH THIS AILING WORLD. BIG CAMP IS
ONE SUCH OPPORTUNITY. - AN IMPORTANT ONE.
HOWEVER IN 2019 WE'VE DECIDED TO FOCUS
OUR RESOURCES ON ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY
- SO PLEASE JOIN US AS WE LOVE OUR
NEIGHBOURS TO CHRIST IN HARVEST
VICTORIA...
AND SEE YOU AT BIG
CAMP AGAIN IN
2020!

**BIG
CAMP 2018**

Light a Fire in Your Community

Just imagine what would happen if each of us carried books, tracts and/or DVDs with us, giving them to our friends, neighbours, work and school mates and relatives?

Ka-boom! Hundreds of souls would be converted. Don't believe it? Then rewind a few hundred years and watch as the Waldensian Christians of northern Italy did just that as they travelled throughout Europe lighting fires for Christ.

You don't have to be a regular Literature Evangelist to do this, but we can help you and your church to do it more effectively. LE's have been invited to many churches across the state to serve in their community. Your church too can partner with us to reach out into your neighbourhood, distribute gospel literature and find people in need.

God has ordained Literature Ministry to be an important link between the church and the unchurched. As church members distribute

literature, they are not only preparing many for the return of Jesus, but they become an important bridge that connects people to their local Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The training we offer your church will encourage greater literature distribution by church members, develop skills in connecting with people and build relationships with your community. As the world gets spiritually darker by the day, many in our communities are longing for light and just waiting for us to give it to them.

If your church would like to partner with us or to know more of what is involved please ring/email me, on 0421028171 or email me at lejoel@tpg.com.au

*Joe Paola,
Conference LE Team Leader*

Pop-up bookstores

These are vibrant and soft approaches to audiences who we may never otherwise meet. Sandy has had recent opportunity to start approaching Victorian Christian schools for Parent-Teacher Interview evenings. Schools are very receptive, and readily agree that the service is complementing their event, and providing a value-added service to support good family values and health in their school community.

As advertised, all pop-up bookstores pay 10% commission for the school.

Contacts in Sunbury

After a time of worship and prayer with Graham McNichol, minister of Macedon Ranges & Castlemaine churches, we headed out knowing that we would be a blessing to many in the Sunbury community. Here are just some of the stories...

- A young lady, bitter about religion, after sharing her story to a sympathetic ear, accepted prayer
- A young man, suffering

multiple bereavements now sees how God is carrying him through it all.

• Another young man, working from home, showed interest in our health books, mentioning he had been to a clairvoyant. He accepted a copy of the Great Controversy and wants to study the Bible.

What a privilege to serve in the Sunbury community. Please pray for the nine contacts that will now be followed up by Graham and the Macedon Ranges church.

Ministry Tour

The Victorian Conference Directors Ministry Tour to Gippsland was a time of sharing worship, fellowship, resources and training.

Directors from ADRA, Children's Ministries, Health, Personal Ministries, Sabbath School, Stewardship, Women's and Youth all led out in the Sabbath School Workshops, Church and afternoon training sessions.



"All the departments came together as a team to showcase the ministries offered by the Victorian conference in the effort to inspire, resource and share the good news." Darren Croft



Upcoming Ministry Tour Dates:

June 30th – Mildura and surrounding churches
September 8th – Ballarat and surrounding churches
Tentative: October 27th – Location to be confirmed in IntraVic





A COMMUNITY GARDEN...

On Sunday, April 22nd, 50 members from Wantirna Church and Pathfinder Club helped to install a community garden and kids section for one of the women's housing properties in the east of Melbourne.

"It was so inspiring to see all ages in the garden working together as a team to help create an inclusive space for people who are currently facing hardship. Thank you also to the Traralgon Children's Sabbath School who helped pack the care packs and supplies which were donated from members at Nunawading church." Rebecca Auriant

"Community Gardens have been found to have many benefits including social, environmental, health and educational benefits. Community Gardens help to enhance social inclusion by involving community members and are a beneficial community building tool. Community Gardens help to reduce crime; provide opportunities for inter-generational and cross-cultural connections; and are therapeutic for people with learning disabilities, the elderly and people with behavioural problems. Community Gardens help to improve sustainability of the environment and increase environmental awareness. Finally, community gardens produce fresh and nutritious fruit, vegetables and herbs." Project Manual.



ADRA & ORANGE SKY IN GEELONG

A new Orange Sky Laundry van will be operating from the ADRA community meal (Share Kitchen) program to provide extra support to people in need.

Orange Sky co-founder- Lukas Patchett met with the ADRA team at the Geelong Adventist Church on the eve of their launch.

The ADRA meal program has been operating in Geelong for 29 years and offers a sit-down meal, food pantry and free clothes. Orange Sky's free laundering service will provide invaluable support to people who are homeless - giving back the dignity they deserve.

"Homelessness in Geelong is growing at more than double the rate of the



city's population, according to latest Census data." Luke Voogt - Geelong Indy - March 23, 2018

Issues around unemployment, increasing rental costs, utilities and mental health are all driving the increase in homelessness.

How can you help? Register to volunteer:

Orange Sky: <http://www.orangeskylaundry.com.au>

ADRA: <https://www.adra.org.au/volunteer>



BIG CAMP

Thank you to all the teams at Big Camp involved in raising over \$11,000 for ADRA programs across Victoria, Asia and the South Pacific: Diabetes prevention and treatment in the South Pacific (10,000 toes - Health and ADRA), child health in Cambodia and for women escaping family violence in Victoria.



A SPECIAL MENTION

Thank you to members of Echuca Adventist Church for organising their first pop-up ADRA op shop at Moama market to support women, families and indigenous programs in the Yorta Yorta region of Echuca.

ADRA & AFRI-AUS CARE

In March, officials from state government, the magistrates court, Victorian Police and the media all supported the launch of the new African women's basketball team, the 'Peregrine Falcons'.

"It has joined the Black Rhinos club which is proving to be a great community success story. Since launching last year, the club has grown from 15 to 80 players, aged five to 35 from across the southeast, including the twelve female players. Black Rhinos co-founder and Afri-Aus Care founder Selba Gondoza Luka said basketball was a great outlet for at-risk youths. She said the young women



were very shy at first but watching their relationships and team work grow had been fantastic." Herald Sun, Jack Paynter, Greater Dandenong Leader, March 22, 2018.

ADRA is proud to partner with Afri-Aus Care Inc. and their new women's basketball team - Peregrine Falcons!

Both the Black Rhinos and Peregrine Falcons participated at the ADRA Basketball Tournament on May 19th.



Vic Police (Alcohol Diversion Program), ADRA Vic/Tas Director, Afri - Aus Care CEO and ADRA Project Managers

ADRA'S SETTLE ASSIST

This project, in partnership with Afri-Aus Care Inc., provides integrated social and mental health support services to migrant youth at risk and their families within the African and other CALD background communities in the City of Greater Dandenong and the South East Melbourne region. Through our services and programs we promote social inclusion, crime prevention, community development and youth resilience.

Together our partnership provides the following programs:

- Mentoring through basketball (Black Rhinos), healthy cooking on a budget, conversational English, alternative education pathways, community gardening and culturally specific family support.
- Advocacy through the court network and prison visits



Mayor of Dandenong, with Mikaela Jones

- Pathways to training and employment through ADRA Cafés.

We are always looking for more willing volunteers to get involved, forming friendships and making a difference.

Please contact Michaela Jones for more information: michaelajones@adventist.org.au



FUNDS FOR FOOD

The Cardinia Adventist Food Parcels annual fundraiser, held at the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival, raised an incredible \$932.

God has been amazing in His provision. We had a 90 year old, Tony, with a heart of gold supporting us in manning the stall. Despite his age and achy knees, he wouldn't have it any other way.

Crystal and Jessie (pictured) have been on the team for several years. Their confidence in dealing with customers has gradually developed. Their mum and I watched on proudly as they took on the role of dealing with customers and selling donated toys.

We now attract a few regulars who remember us from previous years and seek out our stall, well prepared. Others donate extra contributions as we explain the charitable focus of our work.

The blessings are shared all round.
Anna Schlegel



“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.”

1 Peter 3:8 | NIV

ADVENTCARE OPERATING RESULTS YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017	
Residential Care Revenue	15,539,625
Independent living unit revenue	1,215,230
Total Care Revenue	16,754,855
Cost of Services :	
Residential Care	(17,673,168)
Independent living units	(673,677)
Total Care Expenditure	(18,346,845)
Income from donations, legacies, bank interest, rental income, grants	1,779,144
Net Surplus for year	\$ 187,154

ADVENTIST SCHOOLS VICTORIA – OPERATING RESULTS 2017	
Student Income	13,740,137
State & Federal Government	
Income (Incl BGA)	29,384,467
Other Income	3,284,999
Total Income	46,409,603
Tuition Expenses	(29,760,885)
Other Expenses (Admin, trading, occupancy, depreciation)	(15,997,083)
Total Expense	(\$ 45,757,968)
Net Surplus for year	\$ 651,635

SDA Church (Vic Conference) Operating 2017	
Tithe Income	14,486,089
Tithe passed on to AUC/SPD/GC	(2,897,218)
Camp Howqua Income	1,245,501
Offerings and donations	302,431
Other income	1,703,771
Total Income	14,840,574
Field and evangelism expenditure	(8,356,344)
Camp Howqua Expenditure	(1,105,714)
Other Exp (Admin, Dept, Big Camp, Educ, Occupancy & property costs)	(5,327,138)
Total Expenditure	(\$ 14,789,196)
Net Surplus for year	\$ 51,378

The Year That Was

Financial highlights - 2017 from the CFO

There are many things we can be thankful for as we review the financial operations of the Victorian Conference for the last year.

Surplus results - Each of our three companies (Church, Education, and Aged Care), along with the Conference’s unincorporated entity which records the property transactions of the Conference, all ended their financial year with surplus operating results.

Growth – We are thankful that we have experienced growth in our church membership, church congregations, tithe income, school enrolments and aged care operational stability.

Strategic direction – the Conference had opportunity to focus more on the strategic direction and values of our organisations, leading to formulation and/or review of the strategic plans within our organisations. The executive committee has adopted a new vision statement for the Conference which has become the basis from which each of our companies operate and provides the intent of where financial resources are to be applied. That vision statement is... to be A Thriving Disciple Making Movement Across Victoria.

Aged Care

AdventCare Victoria’s financial year is from 1 July to 30th June. As at 30 June 2017 AdventCare had an operating surplus of \$187,154. The operating result was impacted by significant competition from another large aged care provider in the Bendigo region, effecting occupancy of our Bendigo facility. This inability to increase occupancy led to the closure of the residential care section of AdventCare Bendigo in January 2018.

The operating result was also impacted by the renovations and construction upgrades being undertaken at the Yarra Ranges facility. Once all the renovations are completed we will be able to increase occupancy which will enable the company to operate that facility in a financially viable manner.

AdventCare operates both independent living units (ILU’s) and residential care at each of our facilities. We note that it is our ILU’s and other income that predominately generate the surplus in operations where residential care financial results indicate that we

struggle to generate a surplus.

In order to address this, we have subscribed to Stewart Brown benchmarking data, which allows us to track the performance of our residential care facilities against other like facilities across Victoria & Australia. This data is valuable, highlighting areas that need to be addressed in order to reach an acceptable level of financial security with our residential care operations.

Our board has already put steps in place to improve and gain efficiencies in operations which we anticipate will start to improve financial outcomes over the coming months.

We know that due to each of the factors outlined above the operating results for 30 June 2018 are not going to be good but we are working hard to improve the current financial position.

Local church involvement for Sabbath programs and other events with our Yarra Ranges and Whitehorse facilities, along with chaplaincy services available to residents and staff, help build the Adventist ethos we see within our facilities.

Adventist Schools Victoria

Our Education company has seen growth in student enrolments over the last annual reporting period. We have seen enrolment grow from 2347 students in 2016 to 2355 students in 2017 and 2417 students in 2018 – Based on Feb census figures. This enrolment growth has given rise to additional government funding and student income but has also added the need for additional staffing resources.

An Early Learning Centre (ELC) at Heritage – Officer campus was also commenced in 2017. We now have ELCs at three of our campuses: Nunawading, Edinburgh, and Heritage. We have also approved for an expansion of the ELC at Edinburgh College to cater for growing demand in this service, with the construction of an additional ELC classroom.

Our Education company relies heavily on government funding from both State and Federal levels. In 2017 63.3% of total

income came from these sources and so the Victorian Conference continues to provide a contribution to the school company from tithe income received. As other sources of funding have increased with the school company, the Conference has been able to reduce the level of tithe the school company has previously required to maintain a healthy operating surplus.

While not all schools in our company are operating in surplus and as a system the schools generating good surpluses are still supporting those that are struggling financially, we have seen improvement in those schools that have struggled financially in the past.

The Board is conscious of the need for each of our schools to become financially viable and is working to ensure plans are in place to see that occur.

Our school teachers and leaders make sure that the special character and identity of our Seventh-day Adventist school system are part of the everyday experience for students at our schools. Additionally the Conference funds chaplains who enhance the spiritual growth and experiences for our students and teachers, contributing to making a thriving disciple making movement across Victoria.

Victorian Conference

Tithe - As membership has increased in our Conference so has tithe. Our membership has increased from 10,873 at the end of 2016 to 11,082 at the end of 2017. That represents a 1.9% increase. Tithe has increased from \$14.299 million to \$14.486 Million which represents a 1.3% increase. We continue to see an increase in giving through the eGiving app with \$3.74 Million in tithe having been paid through eGiving.

20% of tithe received by the Conference is passed on the Australian Union Conference, South Pacific Division, and General Conference to support mission within Australia, the South Pacific, and the World Church.

Ministry and Evangelism - The majority of our tithe income is expended in field ministry and evangelism. Field ministry are our pastoral staff, chaplains, youth pastoral workers and Bible workers. Financial support for evangelism provides funding to local church initiatives, Hope Channel, Global Mission projects and Mission to the Cities

projects.

The financial commitment to field and evangelism amounted to \$8.35 million, which represents 72.1% of the tithe retained by Victorian Conference.

There are many other training opportunities, events, and camps run by many of the Conference departments, providing opportunities to build relationships and make disciples.

Camp Howqua - Howqua continues to be the largest non-tithe income source for the Conference, with income of \$1.24 Million for 2017 and has maintained surplus financial results for a number of years. The Conference recognizes Camp Howqua operations as a significant contributor to its overall operations and has invested in Howqua for the upkeep of the facilities and equipment.

The ABC - Our book centre continues to serve our church family and community with Adventist and Christian literature, music, and DVD’s. Food sold in the bookshop accounts for approximately 25% of total sales. In 2017 we joined with North NSW and Greater Sydney’s centres in a project to create an online webstore which is now generating sales for the ABC, demonstrating the project was worth the investment.

The Victorian Conference ended the year with a surplus of \$51,378. That result has only been achieved by the faithfulness of our members. With the unpredictability of tithe income, given it is donation based, the Conference has been conscious to monitor its spending within the available resources. The table (bottom far left) gives a quick snapshot of the financial operating position of the conference for 2017.

Victorian Conference Unincorporated

There were many property matters that the Conference managed or provided financial support for during the course of the last year. These property matters related to school building projects, aged care building projects, conference and local church projects.

With our Aged Care and Education companies, a property usage is charged to these entities that provides income back to the Conference which is then reserved for funding capital development projects for the respective companies.

The significant property projects that either commenced, concluded, or were

VICTORIAN CONFERENCE OF SDA CHURCH – OPERATING FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017	
Property usage fee income	3,910,913
Capital income	2,030,168
Other income	877,931
Total income	6,819,012
Depreciation Expense	(3,071,618)
Interest Expense on loan	(890,039)
Other Expenditure	(208,725)
Total Expenditure	4,170,382)
Net Surplus for year	\$ 2,648,630

ongoing during 2017 were as follows:

- Capital upgrades and renovations at Bendigo and Yarra Ranges AdventCare
- 28 Lot subdivision of land at Gilson College Taylors Hill
- Secondary classroom construction – Gilson College Mernda
- Library and Science Labs refurbishments – Nunawading College
- Pavilions retirement apartments – Nunawading estate
- Lease of Nunawading estate land to Metro rail – provide access for upgrade level crossing Blackburn station

The operating report regarding the property matters for 2017 is above.

Our Conference manages budgets that total in excess of \$84 Million and I would just like to express my appreciation to the finance teams we have with each of our companies, along with the many volunteer church treasurers who provide assistance in reporting and managing the finances of our Conference.

We are now well into 2018 and still focused on our vision. Every one of us is engaged in some form of discipleship; every one of us follows someone and every one of us carries significant influence over someone else. As Mark Dever writes in his book on disciple making, “To be human is to be a disciple. God didn’t present Adam and Eve a choice between discipleship and independence, but between following Him and following Satan. We are all disciples; the only question is, of whom?” The words of Matthew 28:19 echo in the back of my mind, “Go therefore and make disciples...” Our aim is to apply financial resources that will help achieve that great Gospel Commission.

*Graeme Moffitt,
Chief Financial Officer*

IntraVic | 21

Thriving

Big Camp is always a great opportunity to invite people into relationship with Jesus. This year was no different, with an invitation to respond being made in Juniors by Raul Moran and in High Schoolers by Phil Yates.

HighSchoolers Juniors

Cards Returned	70	67
Commit to Jesus	49	56
Have Bible Studies	37	30
Be Baptised	20	19

In the Youth Tent the invitation took a slightly different route. It is VicYouth's goal and purpose to significantly grow Life Groups (small groups) across the state over the next four years. To this end, our invitation to take a stand was an online one. (at <https://bit.do/BigCamp18> if you want to participate). Of the 61 respondents so far, 47 want to join a Life Group, 22 are willing to host a group and 43 would like to attend a Life Group Training event.



"THIS GIRL (in the middle) is resilient. Watching her press into God, spread kindness and get excited about Jesus, made my heart melt this summer. 🙌 Such an honour to witness her baptism! 💛! My eyes couldn't handle the goodness! #heavensareroaring
Vaish Nadarajah, Tayla Roulstone and Chimangu Kamanga

VicYouth News Avondale Campus Tour

Why is VicYouth involved in leading an Avondale College Campus tour? Campus tours are normally run by our schools aren't they? Which school are these students from? These questions were a constant recurring theme throughout our 2018 campus tour.

We ran our first campus tour eighteen months ago. This year the tour ran over four days from Thursday April 12-15th. In all we had a total of twelve in our group coming from many parts of Victoria.

Our Adventist schools regularly do a campus tour but students who attend non-Adventist schools, particularly kids from country and regional Victoria, never get the opportunity to visit Avondale.

This year we flew into Sydney before heading up to Avondale College. We decided to include a visit to Adventist Media and ADRA Australia offices in Wahroonga to explore what career and ministry opportunities they may have to offer. It also gave our young people a window into other parts of our church organisation they may have never heard of or get to see. There were many questions asked as their curiosity and interest was sparked in the presentations and tours

"Friends - the siblings God Never Gave Us" - Mencius

Friends can have a major influence on the choices and direction we take in life.

A little under twelve months ago Emily Vanderhorst chose to be baptised at Easter Camp with the support of family and friends. Through Emily's influence and less than one year later, one of her best friends Tayla Roulstone decided she wanted to choose Jesus as her forever Friend and be baptised too. In the Gospel of John, John references in chapter 1 on a couple of occasions how individuals were key in influencing family and friends for Jesus. In verse 45, Philip found Nathaniel his friend and burst in with excitement, "We have found the One." And Andrew rushed to find his brother Simon and tell him they had found the One, verse 41.

Summer Camp 2018 was also key in helping to cement Tayla's decision for Christ as she worshipped each night and listened to the messages from

Avondale's annual Festival of Faith was on while we were there so our group made the most of and immersed themselves into this spiritual high point of the college year. On-site accommodation is provided as part of the campus tour which gave our group a realistic feel for what life on campus would be like.

A major part of Friday was taken up with the campus tour beginning with worship in girl's chapel. The remainder of the morning was spent with the marketing team followed by meeting with various departments exploring subject, career and study options.

Friday night and Sabbath was spent soaking up the spiritual atmosphere of the campus and College church and the culmination of Festival of Faith.

On Sunday we caught our return flight home to be greeted by the cool blustery weather that had invaded Melbourne.

Phil Hyland

Travis Townend. Her cabin leaders, Chimangu Kamanga and Vaish Nadarajah were a wonderful support and great spiritual mentors and prayer warriors for Tayla throughout Teen Camp. With music supplied by the High School band, it was a delight to baptise Tayla at Big Camp surrounded by many supportive friends and family, some who even came up from Melbourne for the special occasion.



Taylor was baptised at big Camp with her friend who led her to Christ by her side



Notices

• **GIANT BOOKSALE** at Nunawading Church (June 11)

- Men's Ministry weekend (Aug 3-5)
- Concert of Beautiful Music (June 2)
- Women's Ministry Conference (July 27-9)
- Independent Living Units at at Adventcare Bendigo



• Have you visited to our online ABC store yet? We have over 1400 stock items listed, and continually adding more. AdventistBookCentre.com.au. Subscribe to keep up with what's new, sale events and giveaways.



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News Release

Today, ACA Health Benefit Fund, a Private Health Insurance company which solely exists to benefit the health and well-being of Seventh-day Adventist Church employees and their families, announced that the fund is now available to Local Church Officers.

ACA Health has been supporting the work(ers) of God for 84 years. Now, Local Church Officers and their family members can join ACA Health.

"We are thrilled to offer Local Church Officers and their families our products," said Jody Burgoyne, ACA Health's Fund Manager. "We work hard to continually provide our members with value-for-money health cover at a great price."

ACA Health offer a range of Hospital and Extras products within the market and is committed to its members and its values:

- Unbeatable Extras – We listen when members tell us what is most important to them
- Members 1st – Our interactions and service will exceed expectations
- Ethics before Profits – We will be fair and do the right thing every time
- Supporting Each Other – We will support each other to get the job done and meet our goals

The company also offer the community and its member's access to comparisons within the market to find the best fit policy.

This year ACA Health's premium increase came in at 1.23% lower than the industry average of 3.95%. In the 2017 financial year ACA Health Benefits Fund paid \$22.2 million in benefits to members. ACA Health pay higher benefits per service than the industry in most ancillary areas.

For more information visit the website or email info@acahealth.com.au.

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Bible verses are from various versions which may include NIV, NKJV and Clear Word.