

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

July 28 2018

## *Identity...*



Victorian Adventist  
COMMUNICATIONS

IntraVic Newsletter  
a publication of VAC



Victorian Adventists



SEVENTH-DAY  
**ADVENTIST**  
CHURCH  
*Victoria*

# A note from the Editor's Office



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## Issue Schedule:

<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>IN CHURCHES</u>
	Feb 24
Big Camp Edition - March 25	
April 15	May 26
June 15	July 21
August 15	September 22
October 15	November 24

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## A Simple Truth

The words were a bit indistinct, but with a bit of concentration and careful listening, I recognised the tune and the words of the song that drifted gently down the hallway. "Jesus loves me," she sang, "this I know..." as she did whatever else was really important for a two year old to do.

I'm guessing you too know the song she sang. It captures the simple truth that's at the heart of Adventism – the Gospel message.

As Adventists, we're a people of prophecy. We have the blessed hope of Jesus return. We've learned to worship on Sabbath. We know about the sanctuary and other beautiful doctrines we hold dear. And the Gospel message is central to each and every one of them. It's central to Adventist identity.

The three angels' messages start with a reminder of the simple truth captured in that song that even two year olds love to sing. "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth."

A friend reminded me just the other day that the three angels' messages are truly about righteousness by faith – and that is good news.

Some have turned away from doctrine – only wanting the message of Jesus – just the Gospel. But the gospel *is* doctrine – and any teaching is, in fact, doctrine. That's what doctrine means – teaching. It involves beliefs. Now the simple truth is that you can't have Jesus without belief, teaching or doctrine. It would be possible to have beliefs or doctrines without Jesus. What a tragedy that would be.

Rightly taught, Jesus is at the centre of every belief held dear by Seventh-day Adventists.

Thank God for our wonderful Saviour! Thank God for Christ-centred, Bible-based beliefs. Thank God for truth simple enough for a two year old to begin to understand, yet deep enough for scholars to keep studying for years.

Thank God for this simple truth. Jesus loves.



# IntraVic July 2018

## In this issue...



### 04 God's Megaphone

Julian Archer takes a look at our identity as Seventh-day Adventists and comes to the conclusion *we* are God's Megaphone

### 06 Stewardship...

...is about so much more than what we do with our money. If we are focusing on Christ, it really is part of our very identity. Keryn Jasper takes a look at the principles of stewardship, as they play out in parenthood...



### 09 Church News

Three churches have shared stories with us for this edition. Be sure to read Violet's moving story

### 09 Conference News

We have reports from a number of conference run events, a wonderful article on the success of the Depression and Anxiety recovery program, an update on the latest regarding local church websites and a trial program you can enrol in, promoting mental well-being. And as always, ADRA's pages are packed with news...

### 14 Kids Page

## IN STEP WITH JESUS



Harvest Victoria is what we should be doing every day - Sharing Christ with the people in our lives... Come and be inspired to be intentional for Jesus

### EASTERN AND WESTERN CITY REGIONALS

Speaker - John Bradshaw

**August 11** - Belgrave Heights Convention Centre, 3 Convention Ave, Belgrave Heights

**August 18** - Gilson College Taylors Hill Campus, 450 Taylors Road, Taylors Hill

**10.15AM TO 4.30PM**

Bring a packed lunch. Sabbath School for all ages will be followed by Pr Bradshaw's presentations, great music and a focus on prayer.



# God's Megaphone

**A devotional on who we are....**



Author Julian Archer  
PUBLIC SPEAKER, SEMINAR PRESENTER AND  
AUTHOR OF FAITH VS FINANCE

So you are an  
Adventist.

What does that  
mean? Who are  
you and what  
defines you?

*More than twenty million people from every walk of life call themselves Seventh-day Adventists. Standing side-by-side, with our arms outstretched and hands joined, we could form a globe-circling human chain reaching from Melbourne to Auckland to Santiago to Buenos Aires to Johannesburg to Perth and, with this year's baptisms included, right back to Melbourne!*

From the poorest of the poor to multi-billionaires, from people on life-support machines to Olympic athletes, Adventists wear every skin colour known and worship God in more than 900 languages. We are as multi-cultural and diversely assorted as any group of people on earth, yet we are also one — or at least we try to be.

Our unity is found in Jesus Christ, the One who prayed in John chapter 17 that His followers would also be 'one'. He wants us to be united in joy (v.13), in

mission (v.18) in truth (v. 14, 17, 19), in witness (v.20), in glory (v.22) and in love (v.26).

More than sixty years after that prayer Jesus spoke again, through John the Revelator, clearly revealing that the Seventh-day Adventist movement which began in the 1800s is a prophetically appointed, 'Last Days' remnant people, raised up by God for such a time as this.<sup>1</sup> No other movement or denomination on the planet today can make this same Biblically true claim.

But what exactly has God raised us up for? Do we really have a unique calling that is different to other Christian denominations who also share the gospel? The Bible's answer is 'Yes, absolutely.'

Like Noah, Elijah and John the Baptist we have been assigned one of the most exciting missions ever. We are the forerunners — those appointed

to announce the soon coming King. And what's our cry? Well, in its purest form the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14 loudly announce "The greatest rescue event in the history of our planet is soon to take place. Be ready!" The original Greek words describing the 'loud voice' with which these messages are given is basically megaphone. That's us, God's megaphone of love!

The Adventist movement has been entrusted with the task, the privilege, of being used by the Holy Spirit to tell the world. We are called to announce Christ's return not just theologically and doctrinally, though these are absolutely integral and essential to our message, but holistically through loving acts of kindness, one-to-one sharing, evangelistic campaigns, media ministries, centres of influence, humanitarian service, schools, hospitals and the list goes on.

John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord by announcing the soon coming of Jesus, calling people to repentance and helping them to prepare their hearts and characters for Jesus' arrival. So too today, those who 'keep the commandments of God', 'have the testimony of Jesus Christ' and 'the faith of Jesus'<sup>2</sup> have been elected—by grace and grace alone—to be the forerunners who loudly and clearly announce the soon arrival of Jesus the second time.

As Adventists, God has gifted us with a deep understanding of 'the prophetic word confirmed'<sup>3</sup> and the absolute certainty that we are living in the last days of earth's history. However knowing this truth and being convicted of it is just the beginning of our calling, not the end. We are called to take the everlasting Gospel, in the framework of the Three Angels' Messages, to the whole world.<sup>4</sup>

As I visit with Adventists across the globe I am encouraged and inspired by the reports and testimonies I hear.

For example, eating lunch with a

couple in New Zealand who googled their way into the Adventist faith while watching and checking the claims of television ministries like Hope Channel and Amazing Facts.

Or praying all night with hundreds of young adults in the Philippines as they humbly pled for the Holy Spirit and the courage to be missionaries.

And learning that Adventist World Radio is the largest foreign language supplier to iTunes with more than 17.5 million podcast downloads per day — and the most popular messages listened to are in Chinese and Arabic!

Or hearing of untrained lay people prayerfully running hundreds of evangelistic meetings where tens of thousands gave their hearts to God.

“The Saviour wants to work through us... yes, even us!

As crazy as it might sound, He has chosen us as His megaphone...”

And listening to the testimony of a European professional who sold everything he owned, except his bicycle, and went to serve the Lord in North Korea.

So many stories like that of my own family, who were loved into Christ by an ordinary person who chose to share the extraordinary message of our soon-coming Jesus with us.

The Bible describes God's end-time front-line troops, His remnant-gathering people,<sup>5</sup> in many ways. They 'keep the commandments of God' and 'have the testimony of Jesus.' They're also described as 'pure', 'enduring', 'patient' and 'faithful'. Is that us? Really? Yes, well... sort of.

How easy it would be to become proud and feel smug or superior as we ponder these glowing descriptions of God's prophetically appointed, end-time people. Fortunately, but sadly, the Bible also accurately describes us as 'poor, miserable, blind and naked', 'sleeping' and totally unable to purify, sanctify, unite or heal ourselves—a people in desperate need of a Saviour. Yes, that's us.

The good news, the absolutely incredible news, is that there is a Saviour and He wants to work through us — even us! — to try to save every person on the planet. As crazy as it might sound, the God of the Universe has personally chosen you and I to be His megaphone of love and grace as we announce Jesus' soon return, the greatest rescue event in the history of our planet.

I am, you are, we are, the Seventh-day Adventist church is, God's remnant-gathering people. But let us never forget that we, like the Jewish Christians in Paul's day, are only a 'remnant according to the election of grace.'<sup>6</sup> That's us, 'elected by grace', not by anything we have done. Just amazing grace!

Let's truly live and share God's love and grace—boldly, extravagantly, tirelessly, loudly—every day in every way until He comes to rescue all His faithful people. It won't be long.



<sup>1</sup> For a thorough study of God's remnant throughout history see Ángel Miguel Rodríguez's paper at [https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/sites/default/files/pdf/remnantSDAchurch\\_0.pdf](https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/sites/default/files/pdf/remnantSDAchurch_0.pdf) See also the SDA Bible Commentary on Revelation chapters 10 to 14.

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 19:10

<sup>3</sup> 2 Peter 1:19

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 14:6-12

<sup>5</sup> Revelation 13:10c; 14:6-12; 18:4

<sup>6</sup> Romans 11:5-6



# Stewardship

## A living reality in the life of your child

Written by Keryn Jasper –  
ASSISTANT STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Imagine knowing one of the greatest predictors of long term commitment to Christian values was within your reach, attainable, and lived in your family! Imagine the peace you would feel, knowing you were doing what was necessary to raise spiritually secure young adults.

There is such a predictor, and while information does not automatically guarantee activation, I would like to share some handles on how make practical use of this predictor.

It is service. It is a spirit of generosity with time and resources. It is seeing and meeting the needs of others. And as the Conference Assistant Stewardship Coordinator, I encourage you to work to make this the very identity of your children.

### Grow Faith through Service

Daron Pratt uncovers significant research in his leaflet entitled *40 Ways Your Family Can Serve Your World\**. He shows that service and faith development are inextricably linked. Practices of generosity strongly correlate with spiritual growth. They make children less self-centred, more involved and committed to their church.

Key elements to the successful transition of service into spiritual commitment included parental involvement, especially when combined with debriefing about service projects they have done together, and significant mentors, particularly as children get older. So singles, aunties, uncles, Sabbath School teachers and youth leaders, that means you too!

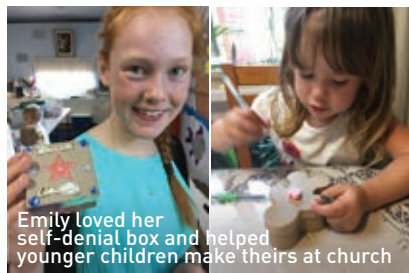
Personally, when I was involved in Adventist University students' service projects, I witnessed first-hand an extra fulfilment and camaraderie develop among us compared to that which develops with mere entertainment driven activities. Service creates significant and meaningful connections and memories.

While referencing the end time (which is us – here and now), Peter exhorts his readers to love one another and use their gifts (our gifts) as good stewards of the grace of God in its many forms (1 Peter 4:7-10).

### Nurturing our Gifts

What does grace look like in your family? How does it work? With the presence of the Holy Spirit in our homes, our natural and spiritual gifts will be empowered and evident. Do you have a highly social child that loves to have people over to your house? Or even a shy one that has been taught not to think about themselves but concentrate on making that visitor at Sabbath school comfortable? Do you scan the church hall for the new faces or those that might have needs you could meet? We should all intentionally increase our perception of those around us, but do you have a family member showing signs of a budding spiritual gift of hospitality or mercy, that you could nurture and empower? How can you band together as a team, complementing each other's strengths to serve in such a way

# “ Practices of generosity strongly correlate with spiritual growth... ”



Emily loved her self-denial box and helped younger children make theirs at church

that will give wind to your spiritual sails rather than drain you all?

Experimenting and seeking to understand each other's talents is a great place to start.

## The Value of Money

Having a self-denial box is an idea recently presented in the Kindergarten Lesson on the Widow's Mite, but the concept has a much older history – Ellen White was keen that every family have one! She suggested encouraging our kids to put money in them rather than buying candy or trinkets (Child Guidance, 132), but failing that, we could have them match what they spend on treats for missions. They may be surprised how much they have spent on themselves at the end of the year! Or to make offering time meaningful you could encourage your children to take their own offerings out of their earnings (Adventist Home, p. 387).

When I was a teen I had a "Religious Purposes Fund" for funding my passions - sponsoring cataract surgery and an orphan (along with my siblings), and for spiritual books for birthdays/Christmas or flowers for those who needed something to brighten their day! It became a joy, as a poor university student, knowing that I had a designated amount already set aside to spend on personal outreach.

Have you ever wondered how to motivate the youthful not to leave clothes lying on the floor? Here's an idea I'm going to try. Something Ellen also thought about – letting my kids keep an account of 'their' money – what they get and what they spend it on. Money from us, but then as they earn, that can be factored in, and they are responsible for budgeting for their own clothes, books and other entertainment and whatever other expenses we think should be included. Ellen believed

that such a process would teach youth the value of money and the difference between true economy and miserliness (Ed. 238) and, I am hoping, that clothes are an investment worth picking up off the floor!

## Layers of Stewardship

Last year my husband preached a sermon that included the story of the Prodigal, during which a Muslim gave his heart to Christ. Later, reflecting on what happened, my son incredulously said "Mum, there wasn't anything in that sermon to touch someone's heart?!" When I mentioned the love of the father, he said "Oh, suppose so." Yet that had been his Sabbath school story the very week before.

Sometimes kids can breeze over a story 'they know' and miss the spiritual significance, the many layers to the story.

Do we intentionally bridge that gap, helping them gain additional practical insights such as not being wasteful, encouraging them to actively search for deeper meaning to the stories?

Teaching financial principles to a preschooler does not involve getting bogged down on percentages... but we can teach that we give first – maybe with a special purse for Sabbath, we save next – perhaps with a piggy-bank, and spend last, with a spend wallet to take when shopping. This gives a foundation to build on.

When I was giving my primary school-aged boys practice counting out a tenth, we had an interesting exchange. I explained that while we return tithe, all 'our' money is God's and we are simply His stewards. I wish I'd captured on video the looks of dismay that came over their faces. "That means we have to be careful what we spend all of it on!" one exclaimed.

## Mission Motivates

A take home message I got from a presentation made by the Youth Department was that youth want to make a difference in their world. Despite often looking apathetic and disengaged, if we can only show them how they can reach out practically, service will become part of their very identity.

So start now. Connecting the dots between a child's offering and what it can achieve, service wise, can be as simple as jumping on line to pick something your daughter thinks is cool to 'buy' for ADRA. My son enjoyed picking out chickens, a water purifier and seeds for a farmer with the help of his friends at his birthday party, where, instead of receiving heaps of plastic junk for presents, we had a money tree. Half the money was for him to buy something he really wanted, and half went to ADRA. And wow, people were generous!

So being a steward of the grace of God, can be fun, bonding and meaningful. Whatever combination of Time, Talents, and Treasure your family has, reach out - be the eyes and hands of Jesus in your community. Then Total Member Involvement won't be a strategy up at the General Conference, but the way young people in your sphere of influence are being formed into the image of Jesus.

*Keryn Jasper*



\* If you would like a copy of Daron's leaflet, please contact Keryn on 0421 171 488



## Forging Ahead

*As usual, Yarra Valley church members have been very busy.*

In April, members hosted *Dealing with Family Conflict*. Several people came along to hear a panel of people who have experience dealing with family conflict in course of their work and included police, legal and chaplaincy representation. Church members provided food and child-minding services and the program was well received - many people asked when we were holding more programs as they were keen to attend.

For the second Christmas in a row, we gave back to our community with a special day of food, child-minding, haircuts, massages, pedicures and hydrotherapy, and each person went home with a gift bag. A large crowd took advantage of this special day as many of our community are in difficult circumstances and this gave them a chance to enjoy something that they could not otherwise have afforded right on Christmas. We had assistance from community members who donated their time to help provide these services. There was a wonderful



attitude of thankfulness from everyone and we acknowledged God as the giver of all wonderful things.

Happy Hearts continues to run every Tuesday morning during school term, where community children enjoy making crafts, hearing Bible stories, singing and playing. Lasting connections are being made with the families, allowing further opportunity for sharing God's love.

In June we commenced our regular Health series. The first meeting discussed high blood pressure and heart disease. The topics covered included the many reasons why people suffer from these conditions. After each presentation, we share food related to that session's topic and a cooking demonstration. This series

runs for many weeks and covers a wide range of health topics.

YVC is also involved in a monthly soup kitchen, where needy people from the local area enjoy food and a special time with our members, who come along to talk with them and open the Bible to them. Many volunteers make this outreach possible and we feel it is a God-given opportunity to open a door to many lonely and disadvantaged people.

God is working in our church, providing many services through dedicated Church folk volunteering and working together, empowering these programs to be well received by those who attend. He richly blesses our efforts and we can only pray for God to reach every heart in surrender to Him.

*Nola Robins*

## In His Footsteps

*Carrum Downs Samoan Women's Ministry group hosted a Revival Week back in April.*

The program comprised of two elements; a week of evening services and a camp at Howqua. Doctor Erika Puni, who is currently a lecturer at Avondale College for Discipline of Ministry and Theology, was the special speaker for the week.

The evening programs were well attended, with numbers increasing each night. Attendees were empowered to follow Jesus, as the transforming experiences of women who'd met Jesus were highlighted. The series concluded with special prayer for the renewal of hearts and minds for service, for all the women in attendance. Non-Adventist attendees were acknowledged and gifted a copy of 'Follow Jesus' by Peter Roennfeldt.

A continuation of the seminars was presented at the camp by Dr.



Puni, focusing on individuals being empowered by God's Spirit and equipped to serve. Although the focus was on women, topics shared were relevant to all who attended. It was a testament of the Holy Spirit reviving the hearts of church members to work together and saw the participation of the neighbouring Samoan Women's Ministry groups and Carrum Downs Youth during the week.

At least two people shared their interest in baptism and the majority of the attendees felt they were spiritually refreshed and empowered to serve God in church and the wider community.

Carrum Downs acknowledge gratitude for support from our sister Samoan churches in Melbourne, especially Lynbrook and Pakenham.

*Margaret Alefaio*



# On His Mind

*"This can't be happening!" I was out shopping and about to meet a friend and something was not right - my handbag felt too light...*

*Nunawading church member, Violet Lear, shares a touching testimony...*

The day had started like any other. I gave praise to God for keeping us safe during the night, for life, for a new day... Then my prayer requests followed and I gave total surrender to God for His will in my life for that day. I told Him my plans: I was looking forward to meeting up with a dear friend and going to the bank to get the interest due on my term deposit account. I was looking forward to having a little extra money and getting a new battery for my watch which I particularly liked. After giving my plans to God I asked Him what plans did He have for my day?

Little did I know...

Oh no, my purse! Gone. All my cards, the watch... The money!

"Please God, help me to find it," I prayed as I went over my tracks back to the Bank and the Post Office, to my car and the public conveniences. But it was nowhere to be seen.

I made my way to the cafe where my friend Jeanie was waiting. After telling her what had happened, she immediately opened her purse and gave me \$20.

"Thank you, but I'll be OK," I said.

"Let me do something for you," pleaded Jeanie, who has terminal cancer. How could I refuse?

I cancelled my cards and reported it to the police. Without evidence the purse had been stolen, there was nothing they could do. So I checked at the Post Office to see if they would look at the Security Camera footage - and there I was walking out with my purse in my hand.

So that was it. Nothing more I could do.

But I continued to pray. Maybe there was no hope of getting money back. "Could I please get my purse and watch back as I am unable to replace them."

The purse was a gift and the watch from an op shop.

Two days later my husband suggested we go back to the beach suburb and have a look in the grass to see if we could find the purse. So we were sitting in the car ready to go. The post had just arrived and I was flipping through the mail when I saw a parcel.

"Not my birthday today is it?" I joked, before exclaiming "It's my purse!" I hurriedly unwrapped it and there it was, my green 'made in Italy' purse, carefully wrapped in bubble wrap.

"Thank you God." I hesitated to open it. Yes, the money was gone. More than I should have carried with me. Cards were all there, my watch too, and even small change. I notified the police who said that the person who sent it would have found it after money was taken and purse thrown away. I wrote a note thanking the person for my parcel, and asked the Postmaster if he would put it in the window. I hope he did.

Jeanie was so excited when I told her - her faith is growing and she had prayed specifically for the purse and watch. She was thrilled God had heard her prayer.

I decided to share my story because of what happened next: when I rang to get a new seniors card I told my story with the man on the other end of the phone and was taken back by his reply. In a gentle voice he asked, "And how are you Violet?" I queried his question and then he said, "Well, you have been through a trauma. How are you?" Again, in the kindest of voices. How nice was that. People were concerned as I'd lost a lot of money, but a stranger was more concerned about me.

The lesson of kindness and empathy

will linger on. Yes, some people said I shouldn't have had that amount of money in my purse and that is true. [Another valuable lesson learnt!]

There was an unexpected ending to the story. I attend a *Know Your Bible* group and at the time the loss was made a prayer item. Four weeks later the lady I was sitting next to in class put something into my handbag and I thought I could see a \$50 note. I started to say no but she said the Lord has impressed her to do it. Then she left.

When I got home I looked in my bag and saw a number of notes... \$750 worth in all. I was overwhelmed. I couldn't contact her til next day when she then told me that a week ago God had impressed her to give me the money and I was to take it and use it for whatever I wanted.

This is a story of kindness and God's loving care. At that time I was on His mind. Amazing!

*Violet Lear*



# Conference News

## A Church History Lesson

*Earlier this year, in my capacity as Conference Secretary, I was asked to undertake research into the beginnings of the Victorian Conference, for what is the single biggest project ever attempted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church – the online Encyclopedia of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

While the enormity of the task did not enthruse me, digging through old dusty files of Executive Committee minutes and reading hundreds of historical articles for hours on end, but within a short time I found myself being drawn in to the world of the 19th Century.

In 1884, the annual session of the General Conference voted to start a mission in Australia and within six months, S. N. Haskell, J. O. Corliss & family, and M. C. Israel & family, Henry Scott, and W. Arnold set sail on a 29 day voyage, choosing to settle in Melbourne.

media was so clear that US\$25,000 was invested in building and establishing the Echo Publishing House. It its time it was one of the biggest and best known publishing firms in Melbourne with 80 employees. You can walk past the building still, at 16 Best Street North Fitzroy.

**Public Evangelism:** To complement the use of media, evangelistic tent meetings were held and at their conclusion, a church established and the tent moved elsewhere to start anew. Thus North Fitzroy church was formed on 10 January 1886 with 29 members, and within a short time this number had increased to about 100. This was soon followed by the organisation of the church in Ballarat with 21 members, in the same year.

The World Exposition was in Melbourne in 1888, and this was seen as a great opportunity to be able to set up a booth in the 'United States Court.' The booth was constantly attended throughout with the hope to awaken an interest in the minds of tens of thousands of visitors, by giving out many thousand pages of literature, including about 12,000 copies of the BIBLE ECHO.

**Organisation:** Work progressed quickly and efficiently throughout Australia and the Australian Conference was formed in 1888, and followed twelve years later by the formation of other conferences. January 1, 1900 saw our conference taking on its current name, having been part of the Central Australian Conference previously.

**Education:** With the encouragement of the General Conference, on July 21 1892, it was voted to open a school at 1 George's Terrace, St Kilda Rd, Melbourne. First day of class was Wednesday, August 24, with 25 students present. Keynote speakers at the schools official opening included G. B. Starr, A. G. Daniells, E. G. White and W. C. White.

The school offered two streams: Grades 1-4, and Biblical courses.

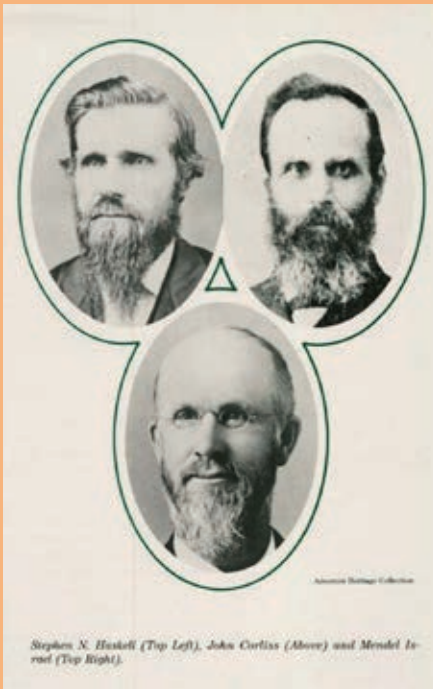
The small team found themselves facing many obstacles and strong opposition. Yet despite this, people identifying as Seventh-day Adventists in Victoria have grown from zero in 1885 to 11,114 in 2018.

The determination of these early missionaries is revealed in a statement found in one of their early publications. *"A number of inquiries have reached us of late regarding our object in coming to this country, and how long we expect to remain. We are happy to announce that we came here to see the truths of the Third Angel's Message [See Rev. 14:9-12] established in these parts, and expect to remain until that work is accomplished."*

Our early pioneers, guided by God, used a number of successful strategies to share the Gospel.

**Media:** By January 1886, just six months after arriving, their very first publication was being distributed – the Bible Echo And Signs Of The Times. This was initially a 16-page monthly journal, that focused largely on the distinctive teachings of the Sabbath and Second-Coming. During the first three months of the publication of the paper about four hundred paying subscribers were obtained, and many thousands of copies were sold.

By 1888 the potential in the use of print



Stephen N. Haskell (Top Left), John Corliss (Above) and Mendel Israel (Top Right).

### Adventist Heritage publication



### Prahran Chronicle, Jan 6, 1894





The Australian Union took over responsibility for the school on 22 January 1894, and made the decision to cease operations in September 1894, with the intent to commence a training school in central location for the benefit of all Australia. Thus the school was moved to Cooranbong and became known as Avondale. From this start, primary and secondary education has continued to flourish in Victoria, with a 2,400 students in our schools in 2018.

**Health:** Until the decision was made to establish the Sanitarium in Cooranbong, which was formally established in August 1898, a team in Victoria had leased a bakery premises in Northcote, manufacturing several lines of health foods.

#### Big Camp

In January 1894, a different type of tent meeting was held - the equivalent of 'Big Camp' today. The three week camp-meeting was held at Middle Brighton, and was the first meeting of its kind ever held by Seventh-day Adventists in Australia. It included a workers' meeting and Mrs White was the keynote speaker. The Bible Echo (Vol 9, 1894 No. 3 page 21) stated, "Sr. White's talks have been most excellent, as they always are. She urges the people to prepare for the end, and says she has not come to Australia to fold her hands, or to give a peace-and-safety cry."

**Conclusion:** As early as 1888 it was reported that the work in Australia was self-supporting. The missionaries and their converts were faithful, hard working people, who were using the cutting edge technology and methodologies of their time to share the everlasting gospel. The story of the early beginnings of our Conference inspires me to consider how to also use the cutting edge technology and methodologies of our day to complete the work that was so well started.

It is my hope and belief that as we work together with the Harvest Victoria initiative through the use of modern forms of media that we will see many more people given opportunity to respond to the everlasting gospel.

*Craig Gillis*  
Conference Secretary

## 2018 YPW Retreat

*Imagine being part of a church that values their youth so much that they are willing to pay and train young leaders to do ministry instead of having that part time job at Macca's or wherever!*

Did you know the churches in Victoria, in partnership with the Conference, employ more than 20 Youth Pastoral Workers (YPW's) in churches around Victoria.

These YPW's gathered together for a dedicated YPW retreat in the first weekend in May. The retreat was organised by the Ministerial Association and supported by VicYouth and other presenters. The YPW's learnt more about sharing your faith, their role, how to give Bible Studies, better manage their multiple tasks and set goals as well as various aspects of youth ministry.

YPW's are youth who want to make a difference in their church, and they do. They impact their peers for Christ, they gain a taste of ministry and become the leaders we need. They are supported by their local church and mentored, like apprentices, by their local pastor and other local leaders. These young people choose to engage with church life at a time when many are tempted to disengage. With local support these YPW's run small groups, seek out other young people to visit, preach, plan, pray and lead in their local church.

Churches can apply for Conference support and have 1/3 of the employment cost sponsored by the Conference if approved.

Ministerial Secretary, Pr Darren Croft, says "Never underestimate what a young person, committed to God, can do when they are encouraged and supported by their local church."

If you would like to know more about this program, contact [darrencroft@adventist.org.au](mailto:darrencroft@adventist.org.au).



## LEs at Work

*People are curious, and God is working on their hearts, even if they don't realise it – As Anna Schlegel discovers repeatedly in her Literature Evangelist work.*

'Adrian' was interested in the *Abundant Living* series, but wanted his wife to see them first before committing. The conversation moved to spiritual themes. Adrian's Christian upbringing had not led him to any particular depth of faith. So Anna described the contents of *Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*, offering one as a free gift. With eagerness he chose *The Great Controversy*.

Another encounter showing how the Holy Spirit moves unknowingly in peoples hearts was at a house with a *do not knock* sign. Obeying the sign, Anna was turning away when the door burst open. 'Mark' was expecting a delivery man – which she was not! But the health-related purpose of the visit was explained. Mark felt he had it 'all together' there. Mentioning some of the spiritual books initiated a fascinating discussion of Mark's beliefs about how humans were dropped on the planet by aliens. He had strong objections to Christians – with some doing things non-Christians wouldn't contemplate... in the name of God. Examples from the Dark Ages were discussed, affirming Mark's concerns. Then he was offered *The Great Controversy* and briefly told its contents. "Are you sure?" he questioned, not certain he could just take a book for free. "My wife will love this book!" He appeared delighted. Anna left with the impression this man, who claimed he didn't enjoy reading, would probably quiz his wife, as he had left no doubt about his interest in its contents!

And then there was 'Ray', a seven year old who filled in an enquiry card from the cover of a Bible Story display book left in a doctor's waiting room. Although his mother is not particularly religious Ray is fascinated by God and often google searches about Him, Jesus, Heaven, prayer... When Geoff Wall visited in response to Ray's card, his mother purchased the complete Bible Story set. Before leaving, Geoff, who at 77, loves that he can still work for the Lord in this way, prayed with the mother and son, and they were very happy to hear the words "Jesus is the centre of all hope."

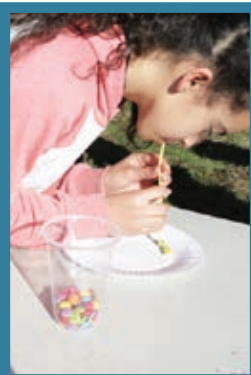
**Please pray for our LEs and the lives they touch for the Lord.**





# MISSION: POSSIBLE

## Pathfinder Expedition 2018







**With man this is impossible. But with God all things are possible.**  
**Matt 19:26**



This year the Pathfinder Expedition theme was taken from Matthew 19:26... And it was certainly a fitting one!

Lying in my tent on Saturday night after the camp had settled down, I thought to myself: "This is very cold, and there are a lot of Pathfinders and leaders out there camping in the forest, ready to continue their hike in the morning. It's going to be a tough one for them!"

It turns out I was right, that it was freezing I mean - reports are that it reached three below zero that night. No wonder we woke up and everything was covered in ice. A Mission it surely was, but not impossible. A good reminder that life in God's calling is tough sometimes - but with Him, we can do it!

Our speaker for the weekend was Pr Rick Hergenhan - Youth Director from South New South Wales Conference. Through stories and object lessons, he shared great messages about how God is with us through thick and thin, and if we put our trust in Him He can do amazing things with our lives. These times of worship were bolstered with enjoyable praise led by seniors from Nunawading Christian College. We also enjoyed some interactive activities and after Sabbath, there were a number of great games for those who hadn't hiked out.

One of the highlights of the Expedition is the pancake run. On Sunday night we headed off to the level 2 campsite with Pancake mix galore. The level 2

Pathfinders and their leaders were able to enjoy some warm pancakes on a cold Wombat State Forest night. The level 3 hikers and leaders were waiting down the road, ready for us to come by to give them some pancakes too, but due to the nature of their activity, we didn't think they would be there. So we didn't go. We were not in their good books! To the level 3 hikers, we won't forget you next time!

We are looking forward to next year's Expedition. This year we had approximately 450 people onsite in this growing ministry. If you would like to be a part of Pathfinders we encourage you to contact us @ [vicyouth.adventist.org.au](mailto:vicyouth.adventist.org.au) - look forward to seeing you next year.

*Simon Gigliotti*





# Just4KIDS

## SABBATH IDEAS

We are important to God. He loves us. He made a beautiful world for us to live in and then gave us a special day each week where we can celebrate His love for us and enjoy what He has given us and worship Him...

Using cotton, wool or a very long rope create a spider web as best you can to match a real spider's web. Consider time lapse filming it.

Research ways to make giant bubbles, then give it a go yourself. See how big you can make them and how far they will travel. Will we have bubbles up in heaven? If so, how big could we make them there?

Find an ant nest or trail and trial different foods next to it and see which ones the ants like most. Watch closely as they try and transport the food together.

### creation

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

Create a list of every functional task the human body can do. (eg. The eye can blink, tear, adjust for different light intensity, focus, move, capture light and communicate it to the brain for processing, provide 3D views...) Include internal and external functions and discover how many working tasks our well designed bodies actually do.

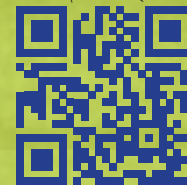
Have you got a fruit tree, vegetable garden or flowers in your yard? Select some and deliver them to your neighbours. Plan some news to share with them and some questions to ask them to spark conversation and help build the friendship.

ADAM  
BIRDS  
BREATH  
CREATION  
DARKNESS  
EAGLE  
EARTH  
ELEPHANT  
EVE  
FLOWERS  
GENESIS

HEAVENS  
LAND  
LIGHT  
MONKEY  
MORNING  
REST  
SABBATH  
STARS  
SUN  
WATER



Angelo's Choice-  
use qr code for a  
story about a tough  
decision



Julie Catton  
Director of  
Children's Ministries  
03 9264 7777



# GROW Conference 2018

*June saw the annual GROW Conference take place at Camp Howqua. Initially designed for church elders, this conference has itself grown, to incorporate all church leaders. If you have not been to one but hold a leading role in your church, put it in your calendar for 2019.*

First time attendees, Melissa and Adrian Hill from Burwood Church, had this to say about their impressions of the conference.

"We didn't know what to expect when we signed up but left feeling inspired. We met elders from various Victorian Conference churches who are at different stages of their leadership journey: some newly appointed, some had been leading their churches for a decades and another has been elder for 37 years! It was an honour to share faith stories and pray for one another, in an openly God-centred atmosphere. We were spiritually fed and mentored by a group of inspirational pastoral leaders; challenged to seek out the X-Factor of being an Elder, using Biblical principles as a guide; and considering that building God's kingdom is nurturing our church

community, where every member is loved, supported, prayed for and no-one is left behind.

In the same vein, we had the opportunity to build such a community, over the two days at the conference, which was held in the tranquil Howqua hills. We would encourage all new leaders and their partners to attend an event that will push you to GROW."



## Introducing Victoria's Two Newest Church Companies

*In June, two new Church Companies were recognised by the Executive Committee, Bendigo Karen Company and Bundoora Company.*

The Bendigo Company commenced as a small group in 2010 with just eleven members who were attending the Bendigo Church. Today under the leadership of their minister Eh Paung, they have more than 70 members.

Many migrants settle in this rural city, and with an estimated 1700 Karen people now living in the region, the new company is very well situated to be able to minister to these new Australian residents.

The Bundoora Company is a global mission sponsored project that has been led by Pr Vikram Panchal. Ground work commenced in early 2017, and the group began worshipping in October of that year. They are currently meeting with an attendance of about 35 people on the perimeter of the La Trobe University campus, allowing

direct access to the University students while also being connected to the local community - Bundoora intersects three Melbourne Councils and thus the choice of this name reflects this company's missional desire to serve not only the university communities (La Trobe and RMIT) but the surrounding suburbs too.

The Executive Committee was very pleased to be able to recognize the two companies, along with their potential growth and ministry they will provide. Indeed, one of the best and most effective ways of growing God's Church is through the planting of new churches, so if you feel God's Spirit prompting you to plant a new church we would love to support you in doing so.

*Craig Gillis*  
Conference Secretary

"Please pray that God will lead as these newly recognised church companies continue to work to reach people in their communities."

*Graeme Christian*  
Conference President

"I liked the 3D movie the most. It was fun wearing the glasses and seeing the dinosaurs look real."



## Mud Guy and the Dinosaurs

Saturday night, 16th June, was buzzing with excitement as over 320 kids and parents piled into the auditorium at Nunawading Christian College. The lights dimmed and Richard, known as the Mud Guy through his column in the Guide magazine, came on stage entertaining us with his jokes, scaring us with the loud noises, educating us with his immense knowledge and inspiring us all to embark on a dinosaur dig!

What was most amazing was to learn when dinosaurs existed and how it fits into our understanding of the Bible. For kids and adults alike, it was a cementing of our understanding of the validity of the Bible.

At the end of the night, all Adventurers and Pathfinders were treated to a shark tooth, a badge and an honour patch they could attach to their sash.

"I liked the venus fly trap and when I got a big fright from it snapping closed on the fly."



Simon, Amelia, Sebastian & Darlene Smith from Horsham with Rich Aguilera

"I liked when the pretend dinosaur came onto the stage and Richard got a fright and then gave the dinosaur a mint."

"I liked hearing the dinosaur's stomping feet. I was wondering if a real dinosaur was going to come out."

# Local Church Websites: Simple Church to Adventist Place

Adventist Media's new website creator, Adventist Place, is now available for use throughout the South Pacific Division (SPD).

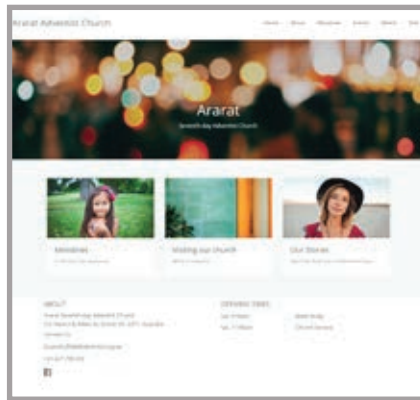
Designed especially for smaller churches, schools and missions without a tech savvy webmaster, Adventist Place is a fully subsidised, easy-to-use website creator for any officially recognised Adventist entity within the SPD.

Adventist Place is a simplified and modernised alternative to the netAdventist website platform the SPD hosted and supported between 2007-2017.

"When we needed to move forward from netAdventist we created a Simple Church webpage service as an easy fall-back option for churches who weren't able to organise a modern website presence on their own," says Daniel Lewis, lead developer at Adventist Media.

"However the feedback we received showed that for many, it was too simple to be practical. This led us to rework the service into the much more comprehensive Adventist Place website creator. It's still simple, from a design and management point of view, but now flexible enough to allow hands-on creation of a reasonably comprehensive

and creative web presence."



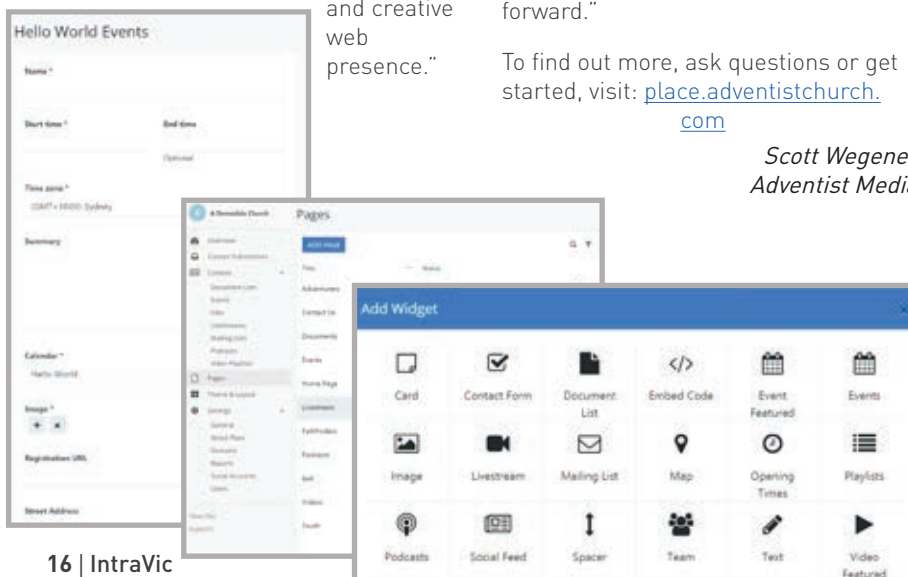
The website can be built as a basic set-and-forget information site or regularly updated with events, bulletins, podcasts and video. It allows churches to integrate content from their existing social media pages with their websites and a built-in stock photography feature helps webmasters apply professional images to their pages.

Adventist Place is developed and supported by Adventist Media.

"We're providing this service to make sure every church entity in the SPD has the opportunity to create a great looking website without needing to be a web developer," says Calvin Dever, CEO of Adventist Media. "The aim is to help churches progress from having a website that looks old or has out-of-date information - or that don't have a website at all because it's all too hard. This service makes it easy for churches to have a neat looking website to represent their church. Adventist Place is part of a larger digital platform that we are developing that also includes Adventist Cloud, AdHub and DiscoveryHub. We'll work on tweaking Adventist Place as more feedback comes in and technology moves forward."

To find out more, ask questions or get started, visit: [place.adventistchurch.com](http://place.adventistchurch.com)

*Scott Wegener  
Adventist Media*



## Building Big Dreams...

Excitement is building at Henderson College! In June, there was celebration at the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Senior Hub, jointly funded by the Victorian State Government and Adventists Schools Victoria (ASV).

Principal Mrs Sandra Ferry commented "The students are most excited and we are keen for construction to get under way. The new facilities will provide home rooms for our Year 9 and 10 students and will also incorporate a flexible learning space. "Currently we are using rooms for multiple purposes therefore the new hub will allow for more dedicated specialised rooms."

ASV director, Mr Brian Mercer, spoke to the students about the importance of the learning and this new hub will continue to support the strong foundation of learning built within Henderson.

The Ground-breaking ceremony was celebrated with the school's captains and prefect turning the sod, in the presence of all students and visitors, the Chairman of the School Board and Weir Construction.

*Kaylene Clark*



## A Few Short Years...

*Our Schools - pro active in teaching our children who they are in Christ...*

The tiny baby didn't have a great start in life. From the time he was born, there was immediate fear. How were Amram and Jochebed meant to keep a little boisterous baby so quiet the Egyptians would not find him? Those who are parents know that babies cry at the most inconvenient times and places. What a task for Jochebed!

Well, the rest is history. After the Princess finds Moses in a reed basket, woven with love and lined with pitch and tar, Moses is returned to his home under the care of his parents and with the permission of the Princess of Egypt. The family no doubt rejoiced... until the enormity of the task ahead sank in. They only had a few years to share their heritage, their belief system and values before their baby would join the royal Egyptian household.

High on Jochebed's list would have been teaching as much as possible about Moses' identity. From the web site 'Kids Matter' is this quote "Having a strong cultural identity enhances children's self-concept and promotes a sense of connectedness and belonging. Children's cultural identity is nurtured when they learn about their own cultural traditions and when those around them show respect for their cultural values. Teaching children to respect and appreciate variations and differences between cultures is therefore very important for all children's social development."

While not their parents, we, as primary teachers, have up to about the age of twelve to shape the children in our care. It is an important time. Like parents, we need to teach manners, problem solving, compassion and life skills as well as the 'Three R's'. We

also have the opportunity of teaching our cultural identity.

Now, at an Adventist school, our cultural identity is our love for God and encouraging each child to reach their full God-inspired potential. We teach values, Encounter and link emotional and spiritual IQ concepts in many areas.

We have up until the age of twelve.

From his entering the palace somewhere around the age of twelve, fast track to when Moses is about 80 and beginning to realize his emotional, spiritual and cultural heritage. He listens to the Voice in the bush as God speaks to him. He talks about his insecurities and is encouraged with the words "I am who I am." God identifies Himself as "the God of his father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob" and Moses recognizes these names and obeys. It's a long time but Amram and Jochebed's hard work is beginning to bear fruit!

As teachers, we may never know the impact our teaching has on our children. Sometimes we are blessed to be able to follow children's lives as they become adults. But there will times when we just do not know.

Like Moses' parents, all we can do is ensure that we do our best while we have that short window of influence and continue to pray for them, that they will remember their Adventist primary school cultural identity - that they are children of God.

*Tracie Hailey  
Yr 1 Teacher, NCC*



## STEM – blast off!

STEM – it's the new buzz word in education – heard of it?

STEM education and training covers the specific knowledge and skills found in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics disciplines. It also covers the interrelationship between these areas, allowing learning to be delivered in an integrated way, promoting a deeper engagement in the four disciplines.

In May, Henderson College hosted their third inter-school STEM challenge involving 70 Grade 6 students from ten schools within the district. This year the theme was Mission to Mars, with students focusing on designing, building and launching rockets, including a transport vehicle.

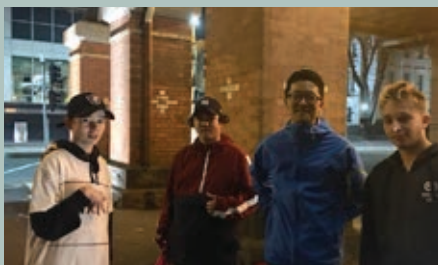
STEM Teacher, Fiona Hudson, said "We wanted to create an authentic experience for the kids based on real life scenarios. Students were required to create a rocket that could launch and return while keeping a raw egg safe, as well as a robot powered vehicle used to transport the rocket."

Teams members were required to each take on the role of either the accountant, chief engineer or technician. They were provided with a budget to buy items from the STEM shop. The winning team won four mini robots for their school, similar to the robots students used to power their transport vehicles.

"It was all about teamwork, problem solving and engineering, and we had a fantastic day," Ms Hudson said.

*Kaylene Clark*





## ADRA Café and Outreach at Queen Vic Market – City

CDC Victoria recently donated a 50 seater bus which we are redeveloping to provide mobile health checks, counselling, a mobile shower, referrals, budgeting, movie/games nights and access to computers for people in need at ADRA Vive Cafe and Queen Vic Market every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The bus was ready for launch this month.



A special mention to Adventcare for donating the computers which will be used on the bus to support referrals.



Teams from Casey, Glenhuntly, Longwarry, Melbourne Adventist, Oasis and Pakenham met last week to talk about future plans!



**ADRA**  
AUSTRALIA

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

*"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."*

Anon

I am reminded daily of the contribution our volunteers give to support people who are experiencing hardship.

From the young boy who gave the hat he was wearing to a man who was homeless, to the lady who gave up her Tuesday's to deliver 300kgs of food from Heidelberg to Warburton, to the man who was once homeless and now drives our bus in the city to help others.

THANK YOU for being so selfless.

There are many more Christ-like examples I could share, but all I know is that when you give up yourself for others – you experience joy like no other. Praise God that we can not only experience but share His love in this way.

Rebecca Auriant

## ADRA and SecondBite Hubs:

*We feel privileged to support rescued food for people in need and provide a central location/hubs where Secondbite can drop off food for our project and other agencies across Victoria. Currently Northpoint, Croydon and Rowville-Lysterfield are supporting this initiative. Rowville – Lysterfield:*

On Tuesday night, June 13th the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs – Alan Tudge visited the team at Rowville/Lysterfield to see the new freezers bought with the government's community grant. The freezers will help to store food from Secondbite for people in need.

"On behalf of Rowville/Lysterfield Church, I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their time and effort in joining hands with ADRA Australia in service to the community. It is through the social relations that Christianity comes in contact with

the world." Lourdes Meunier – ADRA Project Manager.

### Vive Café - Croydon

We are now a SecondBite hub for: Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Croydon Uniting Church Helping Hand, Wesley Mission Homelessness and Support Services and Elishacare. Over 500kg of fresh produce will be delivered every Wednesday to support people in need. Thanks to Penny Moore from Maroondah City Council and Elishacare for all your support!

## New Community Centre

A new community centre and op shop will be coming soon to Springvale. A working group with Afri-Aus Care, Chisholm TAFE, South Sudanese Equatorians, Try Australia and ADRA will be creating pathways to education and employment.



## Redwood Centre Update

Meet ADRA's new TRUCK DRIVER – Barbara White! She answered our desperate call for a volunteer to deliver 300kgs of produce from SecondBite in Heidelberg to the Redwood Community Centre in Warburton - where 70 people are supported every Tuesday.





*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. (ADRA Australia Project Manual.)*

## Traralgon Launches a Community Garden

On Sunday, 20th May, Traralgon Adventist Church launched their very first community garden!

Members from Traralgon Adventist Church and Moe joined with community and council members – Deputy Lord Mayor Dan Clancey and Member for Morwell – Russell Northe to open the new garden. Thank you to Gavin Chatelier for your inspiring music and for making everyone feel so welcome.

The Traralgon Seventh-day Adventist church building is placed in the lower-socio economic part of town. The closest school, Liddiard Road Primary School provides breakfast for its students 4 days a week because children come to school hungry, with church members volunteering for the program. They wanted, however, to do more for their community and a garden gets you outdoors and working together builds friendships.

In April, Foodbank released its first ever research report on child hunger in Australia, entitled Rumbling Tummies. The report exposed the shocking statistic that 1 in 5 children are living in food insecure households, and that a child is more likely to go hungry than an adult in Australia today.

This community garden will strive to address these issues. It will be a socially inclusive space, where all people will feel welcomed and supported. The garden will help to build community and intergenerational connection, provide a learning environment, promote creativity and art and provide much needed fresh produce to support people in need.

Our vision is to "Grow people and community through growing plants, connecting with others and working together on common ground."



## ADRA's Women's and Families Project Update

Thank you to all the churches, pathfinder and adventurer groups who have been involved in supporting this project. From making over 120 care packs to removalist support to creating idyllic garden spaces for women and children to enjoy... Thank you.



## Kwacha Designs

Coming soon to our ADRA Op shops are Kwacha designs!

Kwacha is a Melbourne designer and dressmaker who brings her Malawian heritage, love of vintage and up-cycling to her unique designs. Her passion to train and equip other young women is inspirational and a new community centre with Afri-Aus Care Inc. will be launched in July to support her social enterprise and create pathways for education and employment.

All profits will support local ADRA projects for people who are experiencing hardship.



## Redwood Medical

The Redwood Centre supports families and individuals experiencing hardship with emergency accommodation, food relief, referrals, health, youth programs, and now the Medical Clinic is open! Dr. Mahmood Bhatti is now available to treat patients Mondays through to Thursdays, 9am to 6pm.





*In May and June, our Conference saw two of our ministerial team ordained as pastors. They are each a valuable and important part of our ministry team here in Victoria and we are so pleased to see the way God is using them in ministry. We wish them all the best as they continue their work for the Lord...*

### **Vikram Panchal**

Finding God in a country like India would be a challenge, if God we not behind the search.

Vikram was born into a Hindu family in Mumbai, a city of 23 million people. A city that never sleeps, in a country with 22 official languages that takes religious and cultural diversity to a new level. Unexpectedly, his father decided to send Vikram to a non-denominational Christian boarding school and so he was just seven when he first heard about Jesus, and gave his life to Him. It was also while he was there that Vikram's parents went through an extended and bitter divorce that dragged on until Vikram moved to Australia for his tertiary studies.

He soon lost interest in religion and God, telling Him one night that he would no longer pray to Him and to leave him alone. In his effort to outrun a God he could not forget, Vikram became lonely and depressed.

God intervened on an unforgettable train ride home one night after

University classes, when He directed a young man to start up a conversation with Vikram. Through a series of coincidences, invitations, wrong phone numbers and chance encounters, the two became friends. Vikram was introduced to an older friend, who turned out to be an Adventist.

He craved the peace he saw in their lives... feeling he would give anything to have it himself. All his life he had been searching for meaning. Separated from his family and desperate to find an identity, he longed for love, acceptance and to be a part of a family again.

One day, the older friend told Vikram that he would become a Seventh-day Adventist too, and would go on to study at an Adventist institution and enter full-time ministry. This angered Vikram – someone telling him what he would do. He was planning to be a business man. He thought to himself "Glad you told me. Now I know exactly what NOT to do!"

With a busy work and study schedule, Vikram lost touch with his friend. Four years later, graduated and unable to

# *Ordination*

find work in his chosen career, Vikram reached a crisis point: unemployed, he was applying for and travelling anywhere in Australia looking for work... but nothing. His life was uncertain and chaotic, and one day, coming home after another unsuccessful interview, he broke down crying. "God, if you exist, I need you now," he cried and immediately his Adventist friend came to mind, with an impression of God telling him if he wanted answers, find that friend.

Eventually, in 2006, Vikram was baptised. By then he had an excellent job with good prospects, but that night he began to feel God's pull toward ministry. The following year he surrendered to God's call to ministry, and to what he thought would be a life of uncertainty.

Vikram worked as a Bible Worker before studying at Andrews University and returning to Victoria in full-time ministry. He married Leah, who had also been a Bible Worker at Gateway in the past, and together they form a strong team for ministry.

In retrospect, Vikram says he would not change a thing! God provided financially while studying theology overseas. He says that what he gave up, God has replaced in far greater measure. Clearly God opened doors and gave experiences he could never have had otherwise, had he stayed in his previous career.

Vikram's desire now is to fulfil God's calling to be a labourer in God's harvest in accordance with Matthew 9:37-38 "The harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore to the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labourers into His harvest." He has been working with Gateway since 2012 and Preston Church and Latrobe University church plant since 2017.

In May, joined by church family and friends, Vikram was ordained as a pastor.

### **Roy Kim**

The next month, friends and family again gathered for an ordination – this time for Roy Kim who has worked





with the Gateway, The Orchard, North Fitzroy, Northpoint and Melbourne City Churches and in University ministry.

Roy grew up in an Adventist home where family worship was a priority. The family sacrificed much to give Roy and his brother an Adventist education but ironically, it was while attending a secular University, he gave his life to Jesus. At the end of his second year at university, with the encouragement of a pastor who had been an incredible support for Roy and his family during the difficult years following his mother's death, he decided to take a break from his course and go to Mission College of Evangelism. Roy settled in to the program, which consisted of Bible worker and evangelism training. Students went door to door, conducted bible studies, organised a health fair in preparation for a later evangelistic series... and to Roy's surprise, he and his outreach partners had three of their contacts decide to be baptised. By the end of this experience his sense of identity as an Adventist was strong and he continued on the Bible Worker path. With his father's consent this led him on a four and a half year journey, traveling to different parts of the world and working on several different evangelistic efforts. In 2005, Roy began working as a Bible worker for Gateway, and in 2007 training and coordinating the Bible workers for the Mark Finley evangelistic series.

But still, Roy resisted the call to ministry, due to fear of failure, finances and family cultural pressure towards fields of work other than ministry. However at 24 years of age, while hearing a sermon at AYC 2007 from a visiting speaker, a sermon incidentally, he had heard many

times at Mission College, he knew God really was prompting him towards ministry and he responded.

And his fears were laid to rest. In answer to prayer he received sponsorship to study at Andrews University in 2008. It was post GFC, fees were high and money was scarce yet he didn't have to worry about finances. It was during his studies that he also met Jinha. They pastored a student church together, complementing each other's strengths. They married and prayed that God would give them opportunity to work in ministry together. God answered, and through a series of circumstances, both Roy and Jinha were offered full time employment in the Victorian Conference in 2012, including planting a new church together.

Roy's journey in ministry has been a faith-building experience of witnessing God's leading in various ways through various people. Roy greatly appreciates the unique opportunities he has been given, the good mentors, and his wife as a partner in ministry. When asked if he could do anything he wanted what would he be doing, his response was "There isn't anything else I'd rather be doing."



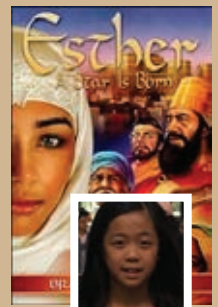
## ABC Book Reviews

### Esther: A star is born

The book tells about a beautiful, young Jewess girl named Hadassah, who at the age of 17, became queen of all Persia. Just imagine that you are one of the servants of Esther and then one day queen Esther asks you to pray and fast for three days. You can feel the fear right with Esther when she walks into the king's court, uninvited, and 97% likely to be executed. Queen Esther's faith is extraordinary and as one of the servants told in this story, Esther's faith saved her people and her faith really showed the servant of how much God loved and cared for His people. Esther's servants learnt more about the Heavenly Father and His mercies.

Bradley Booth writes the story of Esther in a way that you can really imagine the story of Esther. It is like you are right there with Esther in the palace in Persia. You can really imagine the life of Esther during the ups and downs of her life. You are there.

*Isabelle, Yr 5*

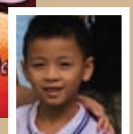


### Siggy & Flori

This book is about two signs on the road promoting things. One is Flori, and one is Siggy. Flori is always happy and cheerful but Siggy on the other hand is grumpy and nasty. Siggy never see the happy side of things. He is always mad and grumbles to Flori who always tries to cheer him up and sees the good side of things. Will Siggy ever change or will he suffer the consequences?

The book tells you to think positively and when things are not as good, still try to see the good things of what is happening. This is a good book for kids who can read fluently, 5 years and above.

*Joseph, Yr 1*



districts and those who are otherwise unable to attend the live Evangelistic Series in May of 2019 can now ask their pastors to share the series. It is Written International has granted permission for ministers to preach the series while John Bradshaw is here presenting. Details coming soon.

- Narre Warren Company has two in-home Bible studies and one person coming to church as a result of interests garnered from the "Joining Christ in the Harvest" training.
- Donna has found new inroads with her boss at work and the two regularly have lunch and share in spiritual conversations.
- Coral is finding giving Bible studies a joy. Last week a lady, who is on lesson 8 "met me at the door and said, 'So Sabbath is Saturday!' Today she met me and said, 'So the Catholic church changed the Sabbath.' As a result of the training earlier this year she said, "I have more confidence to actually invite people to study God's Word."
- Glen Huntley is preparing a "Dinner with a Doctor" night in the lead up to their first CHIP program.
- Four churches recently completed the Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program.
- Nunawading Church is nearing the completion of their first CHIP program.
- The Warragul church is regularly sharing the Discipleship Track as a way to encourage members to connect with Christ and share Him in genuine and spirit-filled ways.
- Every class in the Lilydale SS invites their members and guests over for a meal at least once a month. What a simple transformative idea to get to know one another and bond in Christian love.
- Hope Channel TV and Faith FM Radio are featuring John Bradshaw and Eric Flickinger in their programming across Australia to profile them in the lead up to their May 2019 meetings.
- Listen to a daily devotional by John Bradshaw called Every Word at the It is Written website or download their app on your smart phone. Even better – share it



# BACK FROM THE BRINK

BY ANDREW JASPER

*Victoria is a middle-aged woman who has existed with clinically diagnosed severe, treatment resistant depression for over ten years, during which time, her life dismal and horizon filled with dark, hopeless clouds, she had endeavoured to end it six times. Her physician, an Adventist, recommended she attend Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program, known as DARP in our Conference. She came, it worked and she's free! Here's her story...*

When Victoria presented to the community-based educational program, the initial Depression and Anxiety Assessment Test (DAAT) confirmed her symptoms were severe, showed her several causal factors (known as "hits") and laid out a path to address them. She later described how the program helped her with "comprehensive testing, a knowledge of the causes of depression and what to do about it." In short, DARP and the people who journeyed alongside Victoria empowered her to believe that change was possible and within her reach. She read through both books on cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) that accompany the program - a stellar accomplishment for anyone struggling as she was. She embraced the lifestyle recommendations, steadily integrating them into her routines. She was particularly attune to her body's need for good nutrition and a consistent sleep pattern.

Within eight weeks, her symptoms plummeted by 90% from "severe" to "mild/non-existent". Her emotional intelligence, which measures a person's ability to identify and manage their emotions, climbed 34%.

When I saw her at the graduation service, I could see freedom and freshness beaming from her face. Her father, her biggest cheerleader throughout the ordeal, was there and said, "This has changed her life!" She is now sharing with her friends, family and even her therapist the amazing impact this experience has had on her well-being.

Victoria plans to attend our DARP Training in July so she can help others through the dark clouds to the sunlight

above.

There were others with similarly desperate situations that experienced transformation. A young lady was diving deep in depression, crying repeatedly without cause and not tracking well in day-to-day living. Another young mum was desperately trying to find a way out, flying home overseas for treatment options which repeatedly ended in dead ends. One student wanted better ways of coping with the strain of university life and the social challenges of being in a foreign country. Another man wanted release from the saddening doubts that consumed his personal, relational and professional life. These are real people and each came through with a new lease on life.

Having worked with DARP for over ten years, I have seen many, like Victoria, come back from the brink. Last year I attended Dr Nedley's residential DARP as a professional observer. What the community-based program takes eight weeks to accomplish, they do even more thoroughly within ten days. I literally saw miracles! One teenage girl arrived and was a social recluse - wouldn't smile, was extremely fearful and anxious and suffered repeated panic attacks. She had been abused by her father, didn't trust people - especially men - and was without hope. Within a week of treatment, God broke through the layers of fear, sleeplessness, resentment and isolation. She smiled, she shared, she hugged. She healed and found in Christ one who she could wholly trust. By the end of the program she openly "adopted" one of the male staff as a spiritual dad!

Over 40 people have been trained in





DARP in the Victorian Conference in the last 36 months. Four churches ran programs this year alone. There is interest in making it available in our schools where there is a great need. The gem of the program is its comprehensive whole person focus.

"You can see the difference it is making", a participant commented. "Having attended three graduation services in the past month, I saw people's lives changed one after another." Not to mention the impact the program had on her own life.

I wonder if there are any Victoria's in your community. If the Gary's and Jenny's living next door are waiting for a similar invite. If you and your church want to invest in this powerful ministry, let me encourage you to send at least three people to be equipped to provide this in your community. One needs to enrol as an Associate Director and the other two as Facilitators. The training and materials are the same, but the Associate Director has the responsibility of running the program and owns the DVD's, while the Facilitator manages the table discussion.

Proverbs 12:25 (NKJV) says, "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad." Do you know someone anxious and depressed? There is a "good word" you can share that can encourage them to lean on the Master Healer and find release from the tyranny of despair and the confines of doubt. Jesus was sent to "heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed." Luke 4:18

Join Him in His work today!



The South Pacific Division's Health Department, in conjunction with Avondale College are undertaking research in the area of Lifestyle Medicine, using health program called the Live More Project.

You may have heard Live More, in connection with a research project undertaken last year, trialling its online format. This study, while similar, will differ in that it focuses on different ways of providing 'human support' through an online program.

Usually costing \$77, the Division

is offering this course to 500 participants, free of charge. Here is a great opportunity to enjoy a personal boost in mental well being, while supporting the development of this innovative program that will empower our Church to thrive and bring healing and hope to our community.

So would you like to take part in this, or have family and friends who might be interested? The research study is open to non-Adventist people too, so share the link with them and invite them to take part.



### The South Pacific Division Invites You

To boost your wellness and participate in the "Live More Project" online

This innovative program has been developed to empower our Church to thrive and bring healing and hope to the community.

#### LIMITED FREE OFFER

Be part of our Lifestyle Medicine research study

Commences September 2018  
Scan the code above on your phone or enrol online at: [www.livemore.me/research](http://www.livemore.me/research)



## NOTICES...

Visit [VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU](http://VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU) and click on the News and Notices tab for more details. Notices include up coming conference events, employment opportunities within our church (including recently advertised PART TIME PA POSITION AT THE CONFERENCE, the IN HIS FOOTSTEPS TOUR itinerary (see below promo) and information about an exciting ADVENTIST MISSION FILM CONTEST ( but be quick as the winner is announced in October), an AVONDALE SCHOLARSHIP opportunity plus the ADVENT BRASS BAND CONCERT In August..



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