

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

Time to Catch up...

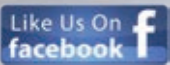
Or are you too busy?

November 2015



Victorian Adventist
COMMUNICATIONS

IntraVic Newsletter
a publication of VAC



Victorian Adventists

A note from the Editor's Office

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Non Stop Living

We all know the verses from Daniel depicting the last days when "many shall rush here and there and knowledge will increase."¹

I used to think the 'to-ing and fro-ing' was referring to how fast we could travel – air and high speed rail travel, not to mention fighter jets and space exploration. Yes, knowledge had indeed increased that we could build such machines and travel so far so quickly...

But then the internet came... and then smart phones and iPhones and everything at your fingertips...

The Telegraph² reported that a recent study showed that everyone is bombarded by the equivalent of 174 newspapers of data each day. Find that hard to believe? Just 'google it'. So much information so easily available.

Social interactions no longer require planning and waiting and anticipation – from twitter and facebook to 'Words with Friends' and other online games against opponents you may know... or not... All instant. On to solo leisure activities like Angry Birds and Celltrap (sure you can share your top scores with your 'friends' at the click of a button...)

With the addition of Netflix or Stan to our extended tv viewing, watching a movie can be instant now too. When you think that a hundred years ago, people were lucky to have read 50 books in their lifetime... how many books and movies do we accumulate now? How many stories do we experience and how easy is it to just go onto the next one...

All of this can be done on your phone where ever you are... Takes the whole running to and fro thing out of the physical world and into the virtual doesn't it. Do you feel exhausted just thinking about it?

Add to that radio, music and podcasts at your fingertips – anywhere anytime...

What happens when God chooses to use His still small voice to speak to us now?

But it is not just our brains that are working in overdrive.

Most of us have been reared on the strong principles of doing your best and not wasting time: "Whatever the activity in which you engage, do it with all your ability,"³ and "Idle hands are the devil's workshop."⁴

Good principles to live by... but in the world we live in today, has it gone too far? The devil is more than capable of taking a good principal and using it against us. Is it perhaps time to reconsider what God may have meant by this, for us here and now.

Or is there not enough time, or mental energy left to do so?

For this last edition of the year, as we head into the 'silly season', the IntraVic editorial team has chosen to take a look at busyness, and slowing down.

May you have a safe and blessed holiday season and year end, and take the time to think about Christ and experience the goodness He has given us.

Sherrie Courtney
Assistant Editor

¹Daniel 12:4, NLT ²<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/> ³Ecc 9:10 ISV ⁴Prov 16:27 LTB

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With Christmas approaching, and all the busyness that comes with it, take time to read this devotional where Justin Bone takes a look at 'making time' for God

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Finding Time...

Devotional

Written by Justin Bone
PASTOR AT ARARAT, HAMILTON & STAWELL CHURCHES

Christmas... a time we could use to bring us closer to Christ.

But does it seem to get busier and busier each year - drawing us instead, away from the Person it is supposed to be about?

Justin asks this and more...

Is it just me or are the shops stocking up with Christmas paraphernalia earlier every year? My local Woolies has rack after rack of tinsel, plum puddings, and chocolate all ready for the biggest celebration of the year.

They put it there because they know it will be in demand. Last year on average, \$2500 was spent for every single man, woman and child in Australia, in the six weeks leading up to Christmas.¹ It's the busiest time of year for many of us; the end of the year is rife with work functions, school graduations, family celebrations, social events... The list seems endless.

We could make the most of the opportunity Christmas offers to witness, to look to God and remember the birth of His son, but so often we are too busy.

Do you feel distanced from God, especially around Christmas?

I suspect a lot of us do, sensing a lack God's presence and power in our lives... and are reminded of that fact especially over Christmas. Maybe we try to compensate for it with overt holiness; maybe we share a few extra bold pictures on Facebook reminding people "Jesus is the reason for the Season." But is that enough?

“

HAVE WE STARTED 'OVERSCHEDULE' GOD? GOD DOESN'T WANT TO BE JUST ONE PART OF OUR LIFE – HE LONGS TO UNDERLAY ALL PARTS OF OUR LIFE

”

The Bible speaks repeatedly about putting God first in our lives.

Matthew 6:33 says “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Living in God’s kingdom means a reordering of priorities. Matthew calls us to seek God’s kingdom first, and God’s righteousness, rather than seeking our own self-pleasures first.

How do we change our priorities? A common solution we hear is “I need to make more time for God.” We’ve all said it, right? Meaning our best, and yet so busy, wondering where we could possibly fit Him in.

I remember a conversation with a friend who was so busy in his life that he decided to get up an hour earlier than he already did for his crazily early work time, just to read his Bible. With that done he could then get on with his day.

Now I’m not complaining about the time reading the Bible!

But I wonder whether we haven’t started to over schedule God. “I need to spend more time with God,” has become, “I’m spending time with God for this hour, then I’m going to do my

own thing.” When we say we want more time with God, it means finding it amongst our busy schedule and trying and fit the King of the Universe in somewhere.

Sadly, the Sabbath seems to be another example of this. The temptation is to partition God off to only one day of the week, to worship Him on that day, to get all the ‘church’ stuff out of the way, and then it’s done. Whenever there is ‘God stuff’ to be done during the week it becomes an inconvenience, because it’s taking from ‘my time’.

Perhaps we think this way because we live in a heavily regimented partitioned world these days. We live organised lives, our calendar on the wall counting down days, our phones chirping at us when the next appointment is coming up, and while I’m grateful for these things, can I suggest that perhaps we have done the same thing with God and reduced our spiritual lives to an appointment on our smartphone?

We’ve separated God into just one of many parts of our lives. We have our work life, our social life, our home life, and our church life. Instead of being just one of several areas, God desires to underlay them all as our foundation, our solid rock.

Paul says something life changing in Acts 17. “For in Him we live and move and have our being (vs. 28).” God is not just an idea to be appreciated or a concept to be scheduled. He is the source of our life, the very core of our being – not something we are separate from and can schedule. How do you plan calendar time with your timeless Life Source?

Further, it shouldn’t be a decision to “spend time” with God; rather, we let Him overtake us completely, move through us, let Him influence the very heart of who we are... or not.

That’s the decision we make at every moment of our lives, whether we are sleeping, reading, eating, shopping, talking, singing. Anything. A conscious decision, each moment, to make God a part of that moment. Or not.

That way, you won’t HAVE to schedule time with God because He will be with you EVERY MOMENT of everyday, guiding you, loving you, and comforting you.

There would be no rush to find more time for God, because He is within you at all times.



Pr Justin Bone

A photograph of Jesus with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a green robe, pointing his right index finger upwards while speaking. He is surrounded by several women in traditional head coverings, all looking at him with attentive expressions. The setting is a rustic room with stone walls and a small lantern hanging in the background.

I Cannot Come

I'm just too...

Written by Di Styk
ENGLISH TEACHER, NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

What happened to the guests invited to the banquet, between accepting the invitation, and their subsequent refusal?

Could that happen to you too?

“OUR CREATOR KNOWS WE HAVE A DISTINCT NEED TO UNWIND, REST AND CONTEMPLATE AND HE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO DO SO... WHAT DO WE CHOOSE?”

Just picture the scene from Luke 14: People are reclining around a banquet table sharing a hearty meal and listening as Jesus explores the true heart of the kingdom. Suddenly, someone pipes up, saying, ‘what a blessing it will be to eat bread in the kingdom!’ We expect Jesus to nod and smile in response – after all being in heaven and partaking in the great feast is the ULTIMATE blessing. However, Jesus doesn’t. Instead, He launches into a parable that likens the heavenly feast to an earthly one. He tells the story of the Great Banquet:

Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ [Luke 14:16-18]

In the ancient world, just like in our contemporary world, it was the norm to invite people weeks, even months before a banquet. Just like today we send out invitations and we include an RSVP date so that we know how many people we will need to cater for. However in Jesus’ time a servant would be sent to gather the guests when the feast was ready. It was the height of rudeness for a guest who had initially accepted an invitation to decline when the servant was on his or her doorstep with the news that the lavish food was now laid out on the table! We can see in this parable then, that the guests in Jesus’ story would have been considered to be incredibly rude by those listening to the narrative. Note their excuses:

“I have a new wife.”
“I need to check out some new property

I have just acquired.”
“I have bought some new farm animals.”

This parable is about a group of people that initially accepted an invitation to a feast but then, when the day of banquet arrived, basically failed to show up. Commentators agree that the excuses these guests gave the servant are not plausible and so the subsequent anger of the master (14:21) is clearly justified.

So what changed between the time that the invitations were sent out and accepted and the moment the servant comes knocking on the door?

It seems that priorities shifted and the feast didn’t seem as appealing anymore. When the servant came knocking the minds of the invited guests were focused on property, commerce and relationships rather than on the excitement of preparing for a rich and lavish banquet.

Of course you and I have been invited to THE great feast. We have already accepted God’s invitation and we wait on Christ’s return to take us home. But the things of the world that distracted the characters in Jesus’ parable still distract us today and threaten to keep us from being ready to attend the feast when we finally hear that knock on the door. Sadly, we could even argue that the distractions of our era are far more pronounced than those of the ancient world.

Our days are saturated with the constant buzz of technology and media. We languish under the weight of longer working hours, poor diet, lack of exercise and restless sleep. Even our relaxation, our down-time, often involves a screen of some kind which, while physically relaxing, doesn’t provide mental relaxation.

Consequently our ability to be still and quiet is dwindling away. This should be particularly concerning to us as Christians. We know that we were created with a distinct need to unwind, rest and contemplate. Rushing around as we message and instagram doesn’t leave us much room for stillness and hearing God.

We are Christians who accepted God’s invitation long ago. We may have been excited and happy and passionate about Christ’s second coming. But for many of us, something has changed. Our priorities have become all mucked up and we have become so overwhelmed with the busyness of life and so drained by the constant barrage of social media and technology that we don’t even hunger for God any more. And with no appetite, why would we even care about a feast?

Let us seek God daily. Let us ask Him to fill us with a hunger and thirst for a relationship with Him so that when our world around us threatens to overwhelm our every sense, we can still hear His voice.

Because if we can still hear His voice we will be excited to answer when He finally knocks on our door to take us home.

Di Styk





The Time Management Myth

Being Stewards of God's Time

Written by Branimir Schubert
MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION SECRETARY
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

We cannot manage time... Only God can do that. Having created time, He lives outside of it and it is totally at His disposal to do with as He wishes.

So are we then expected to manage our time? We all have exactly 24 hours in a day and cannot add more. Nor can we complain we don't have enough either. Rather, we should be looking at how we manage ourselves to be better stewards of the time God has given us.

Perhaps the best place to start thinking about time is from the perspective of Matthew 11:28. "Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" – this should be our first priority in managing ourselves in relation to time: coming to Jesus to gain His perspective.

If we are trying to manage time as a spendable commodity and a resource to be invested, then there is never going to be enough. But if we come to Jesus as our first priority and operate from within the rest we have in Him, then we know we are enough because He is enough. We trust that whatever needs to be done will be accomplished, as He never asks us to do something He has not already provided resources to be accomplished... including sufficient time.

We live in a society where being busy is regarded as a virtue. Coming to work early, staying late... taking work home, being activity-driven, ticking the boxes on our "to do list" – furiously running from one task to another.

And we 'rest in Jesus' and reflect on all our activities – which we do 'for Him'... but is it possible that all this busyness is not actually about doing things for others and for God? Could we be trying to feel better about ourselves? Or trying to gain others' approval, praise and admiration?

Consider the perspective 'resting in Jesus' would provide for us, if we allowed Him to speak to us about our time.

It is so easy to glorify the "Martha syndrome" in the 21st century in spite of the fact that Jesus said Mary made a better choice. We can be blinded by the here and now to the point that big questions are not asked... because we don't have the time to ask them.

Here are two questions that put a different perspective on the way we view time, in the context of Matthew 6:33 and seeking God's Kingdom first:

1. What will be the result of this activity in five years?
2. What will be the result of this activity in eternity?

Don't forget the big picture for the sake of accomplishing a multitude of useful tasks that make us feel better as we go to sleep at night because we have been busy!

I am wondering is there a strong stewardship principle in play here: if you want more time, give it away.

Perhaps we need to remind ourselves throughout the day that, just as the dollars and coins we spend belong to God, so do our minutes and hours. We teach with some degree of passion and effectiveness about the tithing principle and point out that God has promised to bless us with sufficient financial resources as we faithfully return the tithe and support His mission through offerings.

Could the same principle apply with time, I wonder? Quite possibly, we do not have 'enough time' because we are not faithful stewards of it.

Take Sabbath for example. It is God's day. It belongs to Him as tithe belongs

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to Him. Or spending time every day with God, connecting with Him and sensing His priorities. Martin Luther said, "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." If we faithfully tithe our time, will God bless us with ways of utilising it much more effectively?

The wise man who wrote Ecclesiastes knew what he was talking about when he said that there is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1ff). It is wisdom to realise that everything does not have to be done now and immediately. There is a time for everything and we are not alone in accomplishing it. I admire the ministry of Jesus who was deeply aware of His Father's time and timing. Jesus did everything on time, even when people thought He was late – remember the Lazarus story? I admire Him: He knew when to say "It is finished"

and delegate what He had started to the Holy Spirit and the disciples to continue.

Literature abounds, online and in print, on the concept of time management, so there is no point summarising it here. My encouragement is very simple:

1. See your time as a gift from God and be an accountable steward of this most valuable resource He has so generously given you.
2. See things from God's perspective and adjust your priorities accordingly. It is His will you are pursuing, not yours.
3. Operate from within the rest you have in Jesus: what He is asking you to do He also provides resources for it to be accomplished.
4. Plan inclusively: God should feature in your plans, but so should the people that matter to you (your family) and so should YOU! Plan your time to nurture your own soul as well as your body, to be as healthy as you can be.
5. Ask yourself how your day would look if you knew this was your last. Would you rearrange your priorities in the context of eternity and relationships?

Time management is a myth: we can only manage ourselves. As Christians, we do this in the context of our relationship with God and His priorities. How great it is to know that God has plans for us. After all, He says: "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." (Jeremiah 29:11 Message)

Branimir Shubert



Climbing to the Top



Burwood Church

The youth of Burwood and their friends, led by Youth Pastoral Worker Alric Marsh, excelled themselves as they took church kids, their friends and visitors to the top of Everest!

Spread over three Sabbaths, the team led the children on an exploration of facts about the mountain and life there. They met wacky professors with life lessons and encountered some of the 'wildlife' that make the mountain home, while learning more about their wonderful Creator God who is more than able to care for them. Lessons in craft and food as well as fantastic songs and music were just a part of the program.

The series concluded on the third Sabbath with the team, the explorers and their families sharing a fellowship lunch together, followed by a trek to Donna Buang to explore real snow.

This was a life-changing event, and not just for the many kids who had come (there were 100 online registrations, including about five families from the community). It also impacted the team of 70 volunteers – mostly youth from Burwood and their friends, but also some of the young at heart from the church as well.

This was a unique way of sharing God and of learning about Him. It built bridges across generations and created many fond memories for everyone involved – Worshipping God together is fun, church is fun, and you can make great friends there that will last a lifetime and beyond...

IntraVic



The seminar room was transformed into a mountain top of snow and fog

The Women are Heard Werribee Church

Each Wednesday morning, while the peak period traffic grinds its way towards the West Gate Bridge and city commuters cram onto trains for another mind-numbing day of toil in front of computer screens, a group of women gather at the Werribee Church to lift their gaze heaven-ward and praise God.

As part of her women's ministry initiatives, Pastor Danijela responded to a pressing need at Werribee Church: a time for women of all ages to meet for mutual support and worship. A women's fellowship group was established and meets weekly, bringing together women from many diverse backgrounds to study the Bible, to pray,

to share testimonies and to listen to presentations.

After worship, the women share a meal together; it is a time to deepen friendships, to learn more about each other and explore their common bond as followers of Christ. Importantly, the women's group has a strong sense of purpose because it is more than a chance for a chat. It is a community of believers, striving to enrich their experience of God and bring their Christian walk into sharper focus.

This group has continued to grow, increasing in volume every Wednesday, rising above the din of the trucks rumbling along the road outside, the voices of the Werribee women can be clearly heard, in tune, in harmony, unified and belonging, worshipping God, celebrating life.

Robert Bryson



The Women of Werribee church meet every Wednesday, strengthening their relationships with each other and with God.

Overview at the Valley Yarra Valley Church

Church Members have had a busy year with outreach meetings held throughout the early part of 2015.

A diabetes seminar was conducted during February and March, followed by health programs run by professional speakers with a cooking demonstration at the end of each program, followed by a vegetarian meal. A number from the community attended, enjoying the friendship and welcoming atmosphere. Numbers grew weekly and we were blessed to be able to lead many people toward a healthier lifestyle. In June and July Pr David Maxwell presented a "Secrets of Prophecy" seminar with nineteen from the community attending. And ongoing Bible studies



are at present being held in homes.

God has been with us throughout this year, in bringing people to the meetings and in getting the church together to help out with the many aspects of running these programs. May He be praised for His wonderful guidance throughout a very interesting and soul winning venture.

Nola Robins



The Traralgon Church and front row from right are Danny, Nick, Chris, Lisa and John.

A Fantastic Day

Adventist Motorcycle Ministry

Five AMM members braved the cold and wet for an enjoyable ride on a top Sabbath in August. Our plan? To spend the day with the friendly Traralgon Church who made us feel welcome and supplied a delicious lunch and great fellowship!

Thank you to our wives and families who supported us. Thank you Traralgon Church you are awesome! Thank you Chris, Danny, Lisa and Nick who rode along with me.

BTW: the ride back to Melbourne was dry!

God is always good...

John Brereton

Camp Kilimanjaro Lilydale Church

Between 70 and 95 children each day attended the Camp Kilimanjaro holiday program at Lilydale church in the second week of the September school holidays.

The program used an African theme to take the kids on a journey through the important life lessons found in the book of Proverbs. The church complex was transformed into safari camps, jungle playgrounds and African craft zones. This year a new popular option was woodworking crafts with kids in Grades 4-6.



The preschool to prep program was buzzing every day, with 45 kids on their busiest day.

A team of volunteers that included 17 adults and 15 teen leaders ran the program from 9:30 to 12:30, with daily prayer support provided through one volunteer praying and fasting every morning. Enthusiastically, the kids learnt new songs each day, and excitedly followed a daily drama series set in the shadow of Mt Kilimanjaro.

Lilydale church members have run a school holiday program for several years, with Camp Kilimanjaro being the most successful so far.

Michelle Abel



Baptisms in the Orchard

The Orchard

It was a high Sabbath for Melbourne's city church 'The Orchard' on October 24, as two young people committing their lives to the Lord. Taratoa Koronui and Lyn Manzunzu have been having Bible studies with Pastor Rod Anderson and publically demonstrated their love for Jesus Christ by being baptised.

In an appeal at the conclusion of the service, five more people raised their hands intending to be baptised sometime in the near future, praise God.

It was a wonderful Sabbath day and demonstrated the power of the gospel to change people's lives.

The Orchard has a growing youth group, committed to worshipping together, which meets every Friday night as well as with the rest of the church group each Sabbath.

The church, which meets in the heart of Melbourne's CBD at 474 Flinders Street, is looking for a piano player to assist with the worship services. If you have a missionary heart and are interested in being part of this vibrant city congregation and helping in this way, contact me on 0422 603 941.

Pr Rod Anderson



Congratulations TJ and

Lyn on your decision



Ordaining Boriss Soldat

Ministerial Department

Born in Bosnia, Boriss was the fifth of seven children. His mother was one of the first Adventist converts in their town and she experienced intense persecution. Thus from an early age, Boriss was faced with two choices: his father's way of life, with its fun, adventure and parties; or his mother's, of self-denial and sacrifice.

When the civil war broke out, it changed everyone. Boriss had to re-evaluate who he was and what life was about. But nothing prepared him for the day he learnt his oldest brother had been killed, and this was a turning point as he grieved, and vowed to make his life count for God.

Boriss' baptism in 1994 was followed by a period of testing as, due to the war, he never knew if he would survive the day. In a series of miraculous events he was like a 'brand plucked from the fire'. And not only did God bring him through that nightmare, He went further, bringing Boriss and his family safely to Australia in 1995.

Enrolled in English school, Boriss also held several jobs supporting his younger siblings. Life took him from Perth to Sydney to Germany and where ever he went, he shared his faith. Over time, he became aware of the persistent voice of God steering his life toward ministry. It was not an easy decision – he had saved enough money to purchase a house in Perth, and a comfortable life beckoned – but after months of wrestling, Boriss enrolled in Belgrade Theological Seminary. His family thought he had lost his mind – Belgrade was being bombed at the time. But whenever doubts surfaced, God's answer was, and still is, "I have a plan for your life."

Upon graduating, Boriss received three calls to various European churches. He visited his family in Australia on a short holiday, intending to return to Europe... however God had a different plan. Boriss met Heidi. They married, and to save money for further studies, they worked in a family business, where Boriss developed many valuable life skills. They remained active in their local church, and God continued to remind Boriss of His call. Eventually, after much prayer, they left their jobs and Boriss enrolled at Andrews University in the Masters of Divinity program. They later returned to Australia, where Boriss completed his Masters at Avondale, and Heidi completed her teaching degree.

Coming to the Victorian Conference in 2011 Boriss has been serving the Seddon Church. It was with great joy that Boriss had the privilege of baptising his father in 2012, who, after 40 years running from God, had finally come home. And while here in Victoria, Boriss and Heidi have been blessed with two beautiful children, Rafael and Emanuela.

Boriss says our "loving Father choreographs the chapters, moments and seasons of our lives. I know him. I know his voice. I heard his call. And thanks to that call, my life will never be the same!"

September 12, 2015 saw Boriss Soldat ordained at Seddon Church



Nunawading Estate Update

Infrastructure

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that the Planning Permit for the Nunawading Estate Retirement Village has finally been granted.

This is an excellent result for the Conference and Church in Victoria, and essentially answers the question on the future of the Camp Ground, that have been in contention for the last 15-20 years. The result is also in accordance with the 2009 Special Session Action that approved this retirement village development.

A tremendous amount of work and effort has gone into delivering this result, and I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions from Committees, both past and present, and the many consultants and individuals that have worked on this project. I would also like to give thanks to the Lord for blessing us with this precious site and for His providence throughout this process that has delivered this planning result.

Approved Development

The development that has been approved is a 150 dwelling, independent living retirement village that is spread over seven separate buildings. Also approved is a large multi-purpose community building that contains a 350-seat auditorium with associated car parking, which can be used as a church worship facility.

The development plan includes significant new parkland areas but, more importantly, also enables the protection and regeneration of sensitive vegetation that is already found on our site.

Planning Process

Following from the enabling 2009 Special Session Action, work commenced to formulate a permit application for Council submission. A great deal of work went into understanding and wrestling with the very many competing objectives and

constraints associated with the Camp Ground site. Demographic and market studies were undertaken to verify and confirm a robust underlying business case for the project.

In early July 2013 a detailed Planning Permit application was lodged with Whitehorse Council outlining the plan of development for the site. Following the submission, a large number of objections were received from local neighbours and community groups. While we did our best to resolve all reasonable objections and issues, over a year passing without any meaningful progress dealing with Council. The Church felt that it had no choice but to take the project to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to get a resolution.

The VCAT hearing took place in March 2015 and over ten days heard detailed submission from Council, objector groups and our own expert witnesses. In June, an Interim Decision was

issued by VCAT requesting a few additional changes to the building design. These changes were made and submitted before the due date. VCAT subsequently handed down its determination in October, approving our application and supporting our development proposal.

Next Steps

The Conference is now working through the details to bring this development from plan into physical reality. We are truly blessed by this excellent result for this project, which, while having the potential to fund the Church Mission into the next generation, also honours and respects the history of the Nunawading Estate and its special connection to Victoria’s Church community.

As work continues, we kindly ask for all Church members to also continue to keep this project in their prayers.

Galen Gan
INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATOR



“We wish to acknowledge the work and expertise of Mr Galen Gan in achieving the approval of the planning permit for the Nunawading Estate. Galen has worked closely with the council, selected consultants, legal counsel and conference administration and the infrastructure committee. This is a significant achievement and we thank God for using Galen to help achieve this outcome.”

*Graeme Christian
Conference President*





photo credit: iStock.com

From the President...

The year is rushing relentlessly to an end. There'll be year-end programs, the festive season, food, friends, family, travel, holidays and more. 2015 will soon be memories – of all kinds.

In the busyness – will there be time to look back and reflect and learn from events of the year?

The conference committee took time for a SWOT analysis (looking at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), to evaluate where we've been and where we're going as a conference.

Strengths – Focus on God and the mission He has given us. Conference finances are back on a solid footing. The school system is doing well.

Weaknesses and Opportunities – There is more to be done to involve all age groups in mission. AdventCare leaders are doing excellent work in so many ways. We remember the instruction from the Constituency meeting: AdventCare must be both Mission focused and Financial viable – there's more to be done.

Threats – Complacency – need I say more on that? The back door – we lose too many, – young and more mature. In addition, the government is working towards an election promise which will likely determine who we can employ in our schools, with obvious implications.

A lot has been achieved and the committee is grateful for the faithfulness of church members as they pray for the Conference and its mission for God, and as they contribute in other ways to support this.

The Future – Now let's look ahead. Here's the latest on our departmental team. There's good news and bad news. First the bad news – two of our team are moving on.



Mrs Sibilla Johnson is well known for excellence. Her work in the Health department has made an impact not just in Victoria, but right around the South Pacific and beyond. Sibilla plans to retire at the end of 2015. Sibilla, we'll miss you!

Mrs Katherine Darroch has provided excellent leadership as Children's Ministries Director for the conference. However she is also moving on and we are sorry to see her go.

Now for the good news!

Mrs Julie Catton has just commenced as Children's Ministries Director. Julie, a trained teacher, wants to see effective ministry to children in our conference – and so do we! We want to keep our children. We want to keep our youth!

Pr Andrew Jasper will join the conference team as Health Director for the conference. Health Ministry has been one of Andrew's passions for many years. We look forward to his contribution as he moves into this new focus area.

Pr David Butcher has accepted the position of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director for Victoria. David comes with excellent ability in soul winning and training others in making disciples. As we look for even more effective ways to reach people for Christ, David's contribution will be very important for our effectiveness in mission in Victoria.

The Victorian Conference has a smaller departmental team than other conferences of a similar size – excellence in pastoral/evangelistic ministry is still a priority.

So let me take a moment to thank you for your faithfulness throughout 2015!

Wishing you God's richest blessing for 2016.

Graeme Hunter

Safe Food Handling Health Department

Every program that is conducted by, or on behalf of the church, requires effective planning, which includes the safety of the food we serve.

It is the responsibility of every church to communicate food safety and food handling principles to those who are involved with food preparation for a variety of church sponsored events including church luncheons.

As a church we recommend that everyone involved in the preparation, or serving of food, have the skills and knowledge to handle food safely in their work roles.

There is an online training program that is free and can help build food safety knowledge for your catering groups who work as volunteers for the Church or there is the Food Safety Training program conducted by this department.

Use the QR code to find out more about these programs, or go to Vic.Adventist.org.au - News and Announcements tab.



CHEP Training

The intake for the Cert IV CHEP training for 2016 is now open. Commencing Feb 28, 2016, places are limited. So to find out more follow the link, and don't delay in registering if you are planning to undertake training next year.



Sibilla Johnson
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
MINISTRIES
VICTORIAN CONFERENCE

photo credit: iStock/peopleimages



Adventurer Rally Day VicYouth



A few weeks ago, a team of leaders from Adventurer clubs, VicYouth and ADRA united to organise the Adventurer Family Rally Day. Around 300 parents and children, from families located around Melbourne, and from as far as Geelong and Bendigo, came together in Heathmont for this event. They had one focus: to celebrate Jesus' call to serve others.

In doing so, they were introduced to the unique culture and needs of four countries where ADRA is serving people today - Vanuatu, Laos, Cambodia and Nepal.



The rally involved interactive worship, fun crafts, and tasty, wholesome food. Both the parents and children loved spending quality time together, while being reminded to reach out to their local community and to communities abroad.

We would like to thank all those who made this fantastic day possible for our families, and look forward to our next Adventurer Family Rally Day, on May 14, 2016. So mark it on your calendar now.

Trent Martin



it
started with Him

Big Camp 2016

Building the Kingdom starts with God and as His labourers, we continue it: building our own relationship with Him and building bridges with our communities so He can reach them through us.

Big Camp is on in 2016 and more details will be made available over the next few weeks. Application forms will be active online from January 16.

For a number of reasons, the camp committee has made a few changes, which, with your cooperation, should help make the Big Camp experience better and safer for all.

- Registration for activities under the VicYouth and Children's divisions – it is essential that these are pre-registered and pre-paid before arriving at Elmore. This should be done through the application process.
- Registration of Day Visitors – compliance with this is important to

help ensure everyone's safety. The online day-registration will remain open, so it can even be done in the car on your way. To help cover essential maintenance costs, we are asking for a minimal payment of \$5 per day visitor per day. (children under 5 free).

So mark Easter 2016 on your calendar and plan to join us for this fun family time, where you can make new friends, catch up with old, and share a unique time of fellowship as we worship of our great God.

**ROAD to
BETHLEHEM**

RTB Needs You Road To Bethlehem

Each year Road to Bethlehem touches the hearts and lives of many thousands of people in search of the real meaning of Christmas; it is a special ministry that allows our church to connect with the wider community and share the gospel message. Although this is a free gift, there are significant costs associated in running this amazing production and we are reliant on the generosity of church donations.

We welcome all church and individual donations at this time and thank you for your financial assistance in helping to continue the great work of this unique ministry.

Bank transfer details: Account Name:
Road to Bethlehem; BSB: 013017
Account: 197 439 585

And it is not too late to volunteer some physical assistance!

SET UP days are:

Sunday November 29
8.00am-1.00pm

Sunday December 6
8.00am – 5.00pm

GIFT BAG PACKING

Saturday December 5
2pm onwards at the NCC

PACK UP days

Thursday Night December 10
from 11.00pm – 2.00am

Friday December 11
9.00am – 5.00pm

Sunday December 13
8.00am – 2.00pm

A roster will be available for those who want to help but have limited time to invest. All help is greatly appreciated. To volunteer contact Simone Mifsud on 0413171916 or Moe Stiles on 0423793466; alternatively you may contact us via email at rtbvic@gmail.com

Simone Mifsud

Project World Teachers' Day 2015

Celebrating our Teachers

Thank You Teachers!

It can't be said enough. To all our dedicated teachers across the ASV school network, thank you for all your passion and hard work each and every week. We hope your school community spoiled you rotten for World Teachers Day on 30 October!

Congratulations Tim Pope

We're delighted for Tim, who recently received his PhD from Curtin University. Tim's thesis is entitled "The role of Christian religious beliefs on students' attitudes and reasoning towards Biotechnology issues in Victorian Christian Schools". Next on Tim's agenda is article for Teach magazine and a presentation at the 8th International Conference on Science, Mathematics and Technology Education in Jakarta in early November.



Gilson College Teachers Present Conferences

Sandra England and Raelene Delvin were invited to do a presentation at this year's South Australian Adventist schools' professional development conference. Sandra and Raelene shared Gilson College's 'Journey of a Professional Culture – past, present and future' outlining Gilson's research and practice in the area of professional learning culture and the impact on both teacher and student.

Ashley Pratt has also been busy doing presentations for both the History Teachers Association of Victoria and History Teachers Association of Australia. This year Ashley will have deliver five presentations in total covering topics such as 'Historical Thinking in VCE 20th Century History'; 'From Global empires to Revolutions'; and 'Historical Thinking: Empathy and Perspective'.

Congratulations for stepping up and showcasing your professional achievements.



Sandra England



Raelene Delvin



Ashley Pratt



Harvard Programs (USA)

Henderson College Principal, Sandra Ferry, was chosen by Independent Schools Victoria to receive a scholarship to attend and participate in the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Future of Learning Summer Institute Program managed by Project Zero from 27 July to 1 August this year.

Founded in 1967, Project Zero has a strong research agenda in the arts and expanded to include investigations into the nature of intelligence, understanding, thinking, creativity, cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural thinking, and ethics.

Gilson College and Edinburgh College have also been fortunate this year to be engaged with Project Zero Connect through Independent Schools Victoria.



Sandra Ferry

Welcome to the Team

We're excited to announce the arrival of two new staff members to the ASV team.

Welcome Ashley Bailey to the position of IT Manager and Cameron Arnold, our newly appointed marketing coordinator.



Ashley Bailey



Cameron Arnold

Maths Olympiad

A new combined event for ASV Primary Schools was held at Heritage College on Friday, 9 October. The initiative of Gilson College teacher Justin Martin the event is designed to bring together Year 5 & 6 students who excel at Mathematics. The day was a great success with ten teams competing to solve word problems, picture problems and diagrams.

Mackenzie's comment was typical of those students who attended. "The Math Olympiad was so much FUN. I got to meet lots of new people. Also the teams were great. My team was really good. We worked together really well and in the end we came third. I think that all the kids involved were great and really kind. I hope they do it again".



Encounter for Early Years

The Encounter Program continues to go from strength to strength with the Foundation to Year 10 units now been completed and ready for final implementation across schools. Development of an early years (3 to 5 years old) program has commenced lead by Jodie Humphries (ASA Early Learning Bible Curriculum Development Officer) and will be called Early Encounters with Jesus. These units are being specially developed for the students of Early Learning Centres.

Global Community Service

Over the course of this year our schools have been active in right across Victoria, spreading messages of hope throughout their local communities and globally, through various programs and initiatives. Students from Nunawading Christian College Secondary, Gilson College, Heritage College and Edinburgh College Secondary were all fortunate to have students travel abroad on mission trips where they were able to share God in practical ways in these countries.

Have you met Lynda.com?

Lynda.com is an online resource for professional development. Users can learn just about anything related to software, creative or business. As part of the ongoing eLearning endeavours at ASV, we're pleased to announce that from November 1 2015, staff and students right across the Adventist school network in Victoria will have access to this amazing online learning resource.



lynda.com

You can learn it.

Our Schools

Gilson College

Taylors Hill Campus
Phone: 03 9365 9365

Mernda Campus

Phone: 03 9717 7300
www.gilsoncollege.com

Henderson College

Phone: 03 5024 5192
henderson.adventist.edu.au

Heritage College

Narre Warren South Campus
Phone: 03 9796 0100

Officer Campus

Phone: 03 5943 2900
www.heritagecollege.com.au

Lilydale Adventist Schools

Edinburgh Early Learning Centre
Phone: 03 9761 9991

Edinburgh Adventist College

Primary Campus
Phone: 03 9728 8833

Secondary Campus

Phone: 03 9728 2211
edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au

Nunawading Christian College

Primary Campus

Phone: 03 9878 9927

Secondary Campus

Phone: 03 9877 3555
ncc2.vic.edu.au

2015 In Review

As we approach the year end, the editorial team asked departments to look back over the year, and share with us some of their highlights and their vision for 2016...

Health...

The Lord has blessed our Health Ministry abundantly throughout this year and I thank Him every day for His blessings.

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to teach Health Training to indigenous students at Mamarapha College in Western Australia, where I lived in for two weeks. I also conducted a CHIP training class in Longwarry, for a group of indigenous people from nearby Drouin. This was a very special time for this group as well as for ourselves and we now have ongoing programs for them, at their request.

The Certificate IV CHEP training classes were conducted in Geelong and Melbourne, as well as the Greater Sydney Conference and we had 31 graduates for 2015.

A Creation Health program was conducted with Werribee Church over

a six month period and there was a positive response from the attendees. The Church is now conducting follow up programs.

We have also conducted many Food Safety Training programs across our city and country churches, educating those involved with food in safe food handling practice.

Additionally, the trained Community Health Education Presenters and I have provided education programs in many of our churches, community centres and schools across the state. I would say the number of programs conducted would add up to over 100, reaching 2000 attendees, with most of them being from the wider community and we praise God for this opportunity.

Diabetes Australia and the Baptist Church have also requested help with their health related programs and I feel very blessed to have been able to work with these people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alain Binette, who has joined the Health Department as a volunteer and has been helping me with work commitments. He has been a wonderful assistant, trained in Health Ministry and with many talents that enhance his work. Thank you Alain, for helping me.

And I would also like to announce that after fifteen years as Health Director, I will be standing down from December 11. I am also the National Trainer for the Certificate IV and Diploma level of our Community Health Education training courses and will retain that position which is Division Wide, including the Pacific Islands.

It has been an honour and a pleasure working with pastors and local church groups across our Conference in the years I have been the Director. A big Thank You to each and every one of you, wishing you good health and happiness and God's richest blessings.

Sibilla Johnson

It is with a great sense of sadness and appreciation that we say "thank you" and "good bye" to Mrs Sibilla Johnson as she concludes her paid employment with the Victorian Conference and commences a new phase of her life in retirement. Sibilla has filled the role of Conference Health Director for many years, and it is largely due to her passion and leadership in this role that the health ministry's profile has been lifted to its rightful position of being the "right arm of the gospel".

Sibilla is a highly respected by her peers and the wider community as she has championed CHIP, CHEP, Vegetarian Cooking demonstrations, and various other health related training. While she will be retiring from the role of Health Director, Sibilla has expressed her willingness to continue to offer support of various kinds to churches, along with continuing here in leadership of the CHEP training.

We wish Sibilla God's richest blessings in this transition.

Craig Gillis
General Secretary



Sibilla Johnson, with Shirley, a student at Mamarapha

Elder's Conference

Vic and TAS
Pastors' Retreat

Ministerial...

2015 was an action packed year for the Ministerial Association. The primary focus of the Association is Pastors, Ministry staff and Church Elders.

Ministers – The October Ministers Meetings have just finished as I write. These meetings equipped ministers in a number of important areas. Local ministers and several guest presenters addressed the opportunities in ministering across different cultures, the societal challenge of pornography, ways of using technology to improve ministry effectiveness, and more!

Training events for the year included the annual retreat in July, held at Phillip Island this year. The Ministers from the Tasmanian Conference joined us for fellowship, good food, and the opportunity to dig into Scripture. The retreat followed immediately after the Elders Conference, providing a busy but rewarding time for the Association. Dr Alden Thompson challenged the ministers to a deeper understanding of the Bible.

There were the regular Boundaries Seminars and weekly district meetings. The Conference is divided into six districts that meet on a six weekly cycle to pray & study together, share resources, discuss issues within their district, church ministry and evangelism, and engage in professional learning. Optional training events included the Church Planting Conference, Bible Conference, and CHIP training at Avondale early in the year, Safe Church Awareness Worship in February, Basic Pastoral Counselling in March, The Australian Union Conference (AUC) run Institute of Youth Ministry in May and training for Natural Church Development in May. Elders Conference – 120 elders and local church leaders from around the conference met at Howqua in

July to delve into Scripture, working with the theme 'Together'. In an era when many would seek to divide the church, Dr Alden Thompson showed how the study of Scripture could bring the Church together. Those attending selected from five workshops covering Preaching, Sabbath School, Personal Bible Study, and the Future of Youth Ministry. The next Elders Conference will be held 17-19 June 2015 - don't miss out!

Youth Pastoral Workers – YPW's continue to make a positive impact in many churches across the Conference. This year training was provided for YPW supervisors, and a YPW retreat was run in May, providing young local church leaders the opportunity to network, share and learn from each other and the local presenters.

Ministers Families – The Ministers Family camp, held at Howqua during the September holidays, is primarily an opportunity for ministers and their families to get together. There were programs for the kids, a special time for the minister's wives on Sabbath morning, and a Saturday night bonfire. Sunday was perfect weather for outdoor activities. The number one comment from those attending was that they wish wished that the camp was longer!

Ordinations – We had two ordinations this year - Justin Bone (Ararat, Stawell, Hamilton) was ordained at Ararat Church in March and Boriss Soldat (Seddon) at Seddon Church in October. These ordination services affirmed the call and working of God in their ministry and both were strongly supported by their church families.

Minister Development – We currently have three ministers in their first year

of internship; David Maxwell, Ryan Vidot and Josh Wood. In late April they attended the bi-annual interns Camp at Jindabyne along with the Ministerial Secretary. They are all expected to successfully progress to their second year of internship in 2016. Recommendations are currently in process regarding recognising several further ministers via ordination or commissioning.

Church Visits – I continue to enjoy the opportunity to preach or run training workshops in local churches around Victoria in addition to the ongoing contact with ministers.

Evangelism – It is satisfying to see the continued work and learning in evangelism. This year has seen a special focus in the North of Melbourne, with continuing work in the South West and South East of Melbourne. Promising plans continue to develop in the area of Church planting, including plans for new church plants and the growth of existing church plants.

Special Acknowledgements – We acknowledge the significant contribution of ministers that are officially retiring from full time paid ministry. Pr Stenio Gungadoo retired late in 2014, Pr Harold Waldrup and Pr Errol DeSilva will retire at the end of 2015. These ministers have completed many years in ministry and we acknowledge their contribution to the work of the Church in Victoria and beyond.

In conclusion I pay special tribute to Mrs Corinne DeSilva who passed to rest earlier this year. Mrs DeSilva's support for her husband, her shining example of faith, and her faithful contribution to the Church through the years made a difference in the lives many. May we do no less.

Darren Croft
Ministerial Secretary

YPW Retreat 2015

Family Camp

Ministerial Camp



Youth...

A recent study showed when it comes to the faith development of young adult millennials, they considered the influence of the youth pastor in their spiritual life at only a mere six percent. The study published earlier this year by Andrew University looked at who were the primary influencers in the faith development of millennials.

In contrast to the youth pastor, the study showed parents are still by far the most significant influencers in the faith development of young adult millennials; Mums were shown to have by far the most influence at 47% and Dads sat a little less, on 36%. These findings confirm what many other studies show including Valuegenesis.

At our leadership weekend back in February we shared four key values we wanted to focus on throughout the year in bringing more meaning, improvements and involvement to our various ministries. The four key values are: Innovation, diversity, intergenerational ministry and collaboration. Well, how have we gone?

Our Summer Camp program saw, not necessarily innovation, but more tweaks and improvements than we've seen for a number of years such as an additional 'swag camp' which was very positively received by our campers.

We continue to trial a new program in Victoria for Pathfinders called Black Beret. This is a leadership development program particularly suited to those Pathfinders who are more practical by nature.

As we normally only run a state-wide event for our Adventurer biannually, we decided to provide a small budget to our Adventurer leaders and for them to then organise and run a regional event with the support of VicYouth. The western Victorian region (including Mildura) ran an excellent regional Adventurer camp at Halls Gap in The Grampians over the March long weekend and the Melbourne clubs put together an Adventurer Family Rally Day held on Sabbath, October 3.

We have continued to work closely with some of the other departments this year, namely, Children's Ministry, ADRA, Safe Place Services, Communications

and Ministerial association, sharing resources, personnel and skills for the mutual benefit of our respective ministries. More than that, I believe the benefits of collaboration has resulted in a far more holistic and effective ministry to our youth.

Jean Vanier states that, "We all benefit from being with one another in all our diversity and difference." In our youth rallies, Pathfinders, Storm Co and other ministries we continue to look for ways to be inclusive and celebrate our diversity. How are we doing as a faith community in reaching across cultures and generations to celebrate the increasing diversity of this large city that is Melbourne?

So does Youth Ministry have a future? It most certainly does – if we are prepared and willing to make some changes! In next year's February IntraVic edition, we will share more. Let's just say the key value of Intergenerational ministry is really going to feature in our plans moving forward.

Philip Hyland
VicYouth Director

Adventist Schools...

As we near the end of 2015, it seems fitting in the last IntraVic for 2015, to report the many blessings God has provided and say thank you for His guidance throughout a very busy year for ASV.

This year we can celebrate strong operating results through additional government funding; the achievement of VRQA Review Body Status; the amalgamation of Edinburgh College

Primary & Secondary into one school simply known as Edinburgh College; improving NAPLAN results; finalizing of the Enterprise Agreement for teachers; preferred employer status for graduate teachers; high retention of early career teachers; successful implementation of SEQTA and QASF; improved outcomes in eLearning including robust ICT backbone; excellent HR focus; improved WH&S outcomes; consistent

Principal appraisal processes; strong engagement with ASA Aspiring Leaders Program; and positive teaching and learning focus as evidenced through action research projects.

It is evident how God has been leading schools right across the Victorian conference and we are excited to see what more He has planned for ASV in the rest of this year, in 2016 and beyond.

Brian Mercer
Director of Education



Bec with Helen
Kapalos at social
cohesion report
launch

Adra...

This year, ADRA in Victoria has focused all activities around "Shining your Light" in 4 key areas:

- Partnerships and collaboration
- Community projects
- Mentoring and training
- Fundraising events and grants

"We exist to restore relationships so that people can thrive in a world created to reflect God's image. We work to inspire and collaborate with others to responsibly facilitate transformational development and relief projects."

Furthermore, as we are all made in the image of God, we all have special God-given gifts and talents to share, and when we shine our light for others we too are blessed.

"Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you." – Isaiah 60:1 (NLT)

Key highlights in 2015 which reflect the core focus include:

Partnerships and Collaboration

- Ambassador program a three of our colleges
- Chapel programs
- Collaboration with VicYouth, Children's and Health departments, with a focus on intergenerational connections, service and mission
- Emergency Management programs at Edinburgh and Gilson College
- Evocca College partnership to provide tertiary placements
- Emergency Management partnership and training with Whittlesea Council
- Matchworks partnership: Jobactive service provider to support community projects

Mentoring and Training

- Youth Ambassador program
- School Ambassador program
- Local project mentoring and training

Community Projects (new):

- Community meal program organised by Casey church
- Gilson College's Seniors Connect
- Homeless van to service the Yarra Valley region with Redwood Community Centre
- A focus on serving others, AND empowering them through our community projects. "Service is giving someone who is thirsty a glass of cold water. It's a noble act. And let's be honest, sometimes that's all we have the ability to do. But justice goes deeper. Justice asks why the person couldn't get their own glass of water, helps them figure out how to get their own glass of water, and works with them so they can help others get their own water too."¹

Fundraising Events and Grants:

- Basketball, Futsal and the International Food Night to raise funds for a local community project and our annual ADRA + VicYouth Connection trip
- ADRA #knocktober Appeal: 80 intersections approved this year (>50% increase on 2014)
- Green Hair Day at our Schools
- Department of Social Services Federal Grant
- Maroondah Council – Community Grants

Local Community Project Highlight:

Across Victoria, ADRA provides 19 projects that support individuals and families in crisis, women and at-risk youth and refugees.

The Settle Assist project this year has been working in partnership with the

Migrant Information Centre, and so far we have assisted in empowering five clients in gaining their driver's licences. A group of volunteers have also been visiting clients monthly at the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation in Broadmeadows, building friendships and extending love. This year we also ran an excursion to Phillip Island with 53 newly settled refugees and volunteers.

We have recently formed a new partnership with Nunawading Christian College to offer Conversational English classes for members of the school community for whom English is their second language. High School students will be working alongside ADRA volunteers and teachers to facilitate these classes, and homework support will be offered to the client's children.

Overseas Project Highlight:

Mrs Pam's family is one of the poorest in a rural village in northern Vietnam. There are only 38 families in the area and, until recently, they were all without a toilet. Mrs Pam's two children were vulnerable to diarrhoea, skin diseases, parasitic infections and other illnesses – often with life-threatening consequences. Through ADRA's support, every home in the village now has a toilet and there has been a sharp reduction in illness. "We now have a healthier living environment and our community is much cleaner. It's also more private and convenient to use the toilet, especially for the elderly, women and children."

Thank you to the ADRA Advisory and all our dedicated volunteers who invest their time and energy to make a difference. Without amazing volunteers, we would not be able to run this essential ministry for people in need locally and overseas. Thank you for Shining your Light.

Rebecca Auriant
ADRA Director, Victoria

¹Sticky Faith (Dr. Kara E. Powell & Dr Chap Clark p.126)

The Hands & Feet of Jesus

Look up John 12:26 (NIV) and fill the blanks:

Whoever _____ me
must _____ me; and
where _____ am, my
_____ also will be. My
_____ will _____ the
one who serves me.

What does it mean to be
the hands and feet of Jesus?
When Jesus lived on earth
he travelled to many different
places and was always helping
people. After Jesus ascended
to heaven He sent the Holy
Spirit so that we could keep
doing the work that he started –
what a special _____ job we
have!

Find a piece of
paper and trace
both of your hands.

On each finger
write the name of
someone that you
know who you can
serve and plan to
do something for
them this week.

Victorian Children's Ministries
po. Box 215 Nunawading 3131
PHONE 03 9264 7777

Your feet take you lots of places. Make a
list of all the places you went this week.
Were you the hands and feet of Jesus in
these places?

Read Hymn no. 575 "Let Your Heart Be Broken" and draw ways that you
can help a world in need



Children's Ministries...

Time flies when you're having fun, and what a joy it has been to serve the Lord in Children's Ministries this year!

2015 has seen Faith Shaper gain more momentum across the state as we promote and encourage people to ensure that the *7 Essential Faith Experiences* (Service, Homes Empowered, Authentic Relationships, Participation, Intergenerational Connections, Noteworthy Memory Events and God Encounters) are an integral part of our homes, churches and schools. It has been very encouraging to share this powerful church model with people and see them reflecting on how their church is reaching each child in these seven areas.

Big Camp of course was a huge Noteworthy Memory Event for many of our children and families as we spent four days exploring God in the Home, Under the Sea, on a Pirate Ship and in Creation. Well done to our super leaders and their amazing teams who put in months of preparation and four very full-on days of enthusiasm and teachable moments, helping our children to experience God in a whole new way.

This year's Inspire Children's Ministries Conference moved to a new location, Gilson College in Taylors Hill. Despite there being a number of other events on the same day we still had 80 people in attendance who were

blessed by outgoing SPD Children's Ministry Director, Julie Weslake's presentation on 'Faith First, Faith Last' and informative and fun workshops on Bringing Bible Stories to Life, Kid's Health, Intergenerational Worship and Gracelink Sabbath Schools.

If you missed it this year be sure to put it on your calendar for 2016 – September 10 – It is shaping up to be an even bigger and better event.

As we come to the close of another year it is exciting to look back and remember all of the churches visited, the programs attended, the people met and the resources produced, but we still have a long way to go. Did you know that recent research indicates that 83% of Christians accept the gospel by the age of 13? Let's make sure that as a Conference, as churches and as families we do all we can to make every child a disciple of Jesus.

May God continue to bless you all.

Katherine Darroch
Children's Ministries Victoria



Katherine has worked tirelessly with us for a number of years now however the pressures of caring for her children at home as well as trying to juggle the commitments of a departmental position have led her to a difficult decision.

We are sad to say that Katherine has chosen to step aside from her formal responsibility to the conference, although, being as passionate as she is about children and ministry, she will no doubt continue to impact children for God.

May God be with you Katherine, as you find new ways to serve Him.

Graeme Christian
Conference President



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OF THE TIMES

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0800 770 565 (NZ)



NOTICES

Adventist Book Centre hours during RTB

The ABC will be open in the evenings during Road to Bethlehem. Please note the following times:

Monday 7th 11am – 5pm 6pm – 10pm

Tuesday 8th 11am – 5pm 6pm – 10pm

Wednesday 9th 11am – 5pm 6pm – 10pm

Thursday 10th 11am – 5pm 6pm – 10pm

Christmas and New Year closure as below:

Conference Office Closure: The office will be closed over the Christmas break, from Wednesday, December 23 at 12.30 and reopening Monday January 4. We wish you all a safe and blessed holiday season and New Year.

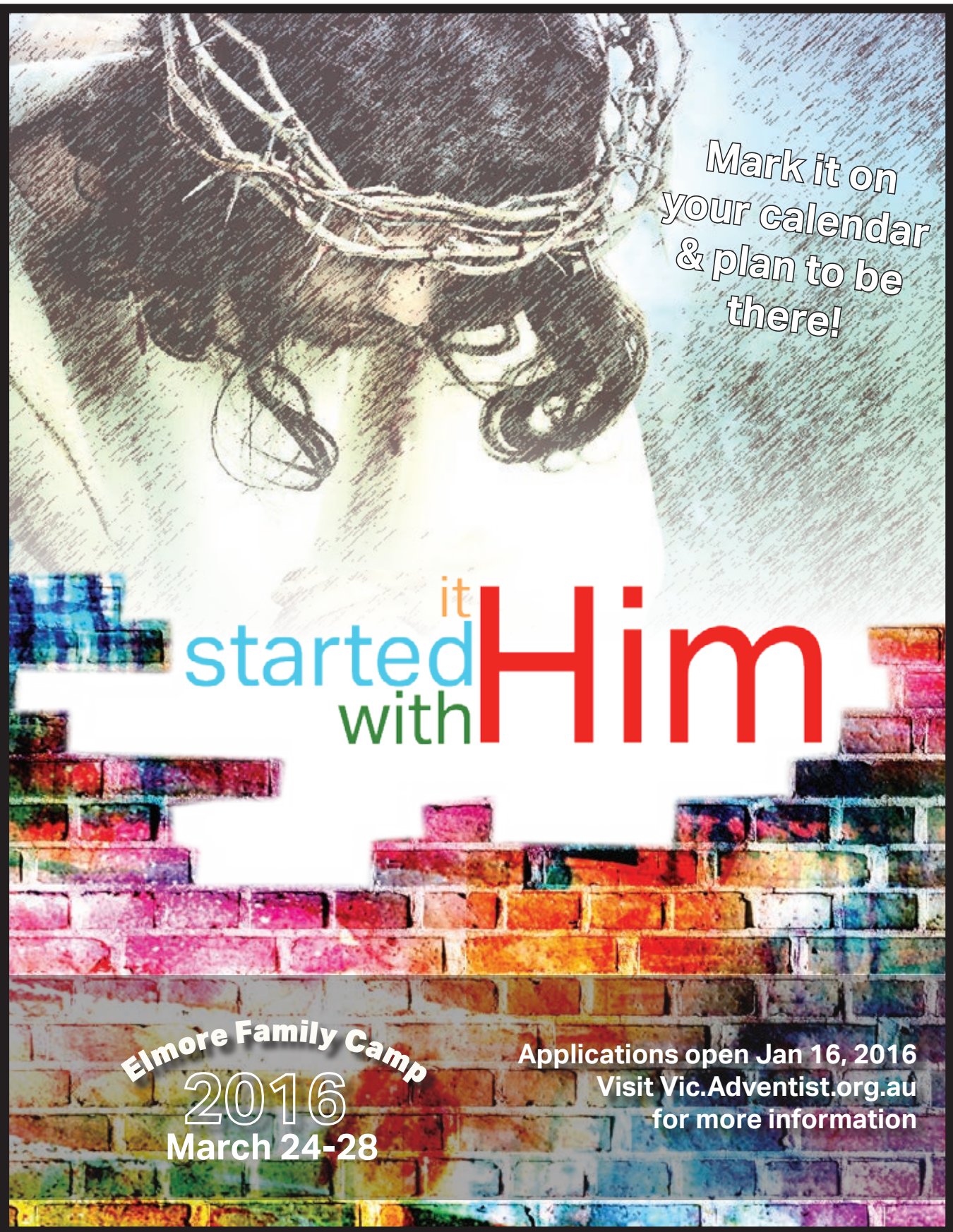
VAC needs your help: The Victorian Adventist Communications department is looking for people who are interested in volunteering at Big Camp 2016. We are in need of **photographers** so please go to Vic.Adventist.org.au where you can register – click the IntraVic Newsletter button under the Services tab. We are also looking for **someone willing to spend a few hours each afternoon at camp**, burning DVD's of the previous day's sessions, to be made available at the ABC later that day. If you think you would be able to help with this, please email SherrieCourtney@adventist.org.au or call 0422 455 980.

Get Involved: Spread the Word: December 20. Melbourne Marching for Jesus (use QR code for more info).

ADRA Settle Assist – want to help? Contact SarahCourtney@ADRA.org.au. See ADRA article on pg 21.

Follow the QR code to our notices or go to Vic.Adventist.org.au and click on the News and Announcements tab. Consider adding the Notices to your church website as an RSS feed.





Mark it on
your calendar
& plan to be
there!

it
started
with **Him**

Elmore Family Camp
2016
March 24-28

Applications open Jan 16, 2016
Visit Vic.Adventist.org.au
for more information

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