


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

Clothe
Yourselves
Colossians 3:12


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SEVENTH-DAY
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CHURCH
Victoria

A note from the Editor's Office

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The Shut-in and the Phone Book

She would have loved to be able to walk to her neighbours' home and share the story of Jesus – but she couldn't – physically. She would have enjoyed feeling the breeze in her hair as she letterboxed advertising for the up-coming Prophecy Today meetings, but her health wouldn't allow it.

Not to be discouraged, she picked up the phone book and selected 5 or 6 names – at random, people she didn't know and hadn't even met. Then she prayed – for them – regularly – by name -- every day, through the day. That's the way I heard the story as Pr Yves Monnier led us in planning who we can pray for. And then, when the Prophecy Today meetings were held in her area, five of those she'd been praying for came to know Jesus, and were baptised. Could God do that that in Victoria? If His people pray?

So who are you praying for? There are plenty of possibilities – neighbours, friends, family.

You've probably heard the same news I have about population growth. Melbourne's population has now gone north of the 5 million mark – urban sprawl is a current reality. It must be Queenslanders – wouldn't you think? Queenslanders who are tired of all those sunny days. Or are they from NSW? Maybe some New Zealanders snuck in, and I'm sure there are some from various parts of Asia, and other parts of the world. And of course, some were born in Victoria! They live in your street – don't they? But how can we ever reach them? How will they ever know Jesus?

Now I reckon that's the challenging part! Wherever they're from, the question is, "Do they know that Jesus is coming again?" I think we know the answer. So, who are you praying for?

Jesus said to make disciples of all nations. Wherever we live in Victoria, we barely have to leave home to have that opportunity. Business as usual won't achieve what Jesus was talking about. He was the one who said the harvest is plentiful – but the labourers are few. Then He said to pray that God would send out reapers. Jesus said to start praying – and there is no shortage of people in Victoria!

Who are you praying for?

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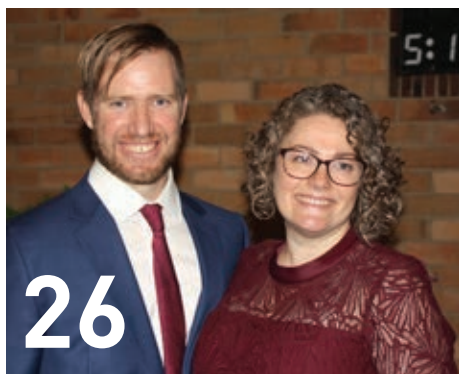
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Do We Even Come Close?

A devotional looking how we apply Christ's

Author Tarnya Garner
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Compassion recognises
the suffering of others.

But it does not stop
there...

It takes action!

As followers of Jesus, we are to be dependable, we are to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are to stand for justice and fairness and to help meet the needs of others.

A young girl, fourteen years of age, moved to Australia seeking to have a better life with her father, her step mother and her step sister. Whilst living in South Africa, she had a good life. She lived with her mother whom she loves dearly and her other step family. However, they had to make a hard decision. Would South Africa remain a good, safe country for her to grow up in?

When the opportunity arose for her



“ ” Speak up for those
who cannot speak for
themselves, for the rights of
all who are destitute. Speak
up and judge fairly; defend
the rights of the poor and
needy.”

Proverbs 31:8-9



question what she did to get kicked out of home in the first place. But the bottom line was that she now had no money, no food and, at just 16 years of age, must fend for herself in a foreign country with no other family support.

People did 'put up their hands' to support her - the irony being that they are afflicted themselves. A school friend and her loving family came to the rescue and took her in. Not a church family but a family who is compassionate and willing to nurture this young girl.

This family's oldest daughter has had two brain tumours and the mother is currently facing her second bout of cancer. Yet they have managed to find it in their hearts to be compassionate; managed to find it in their hearts to nurture this young girl and set aside their own challenges and problems in life in order to help someone else in need.

I praise God for these people!

Colossians 3:12 says, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

As God's chosen people, as the "holy" ones, we are called to be devoted to God in knowledge, in thought and in life. As His "dearly loved," we are accepted and loved unconditionally by Him and are therefore equipped and empowered to treat others accordingly.

Romans 15:1-2, confirms that "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up."

God calls us to empower and uplift others by nurturing them.

If we are wanting to be used by God, it is important for us to be open to opportunities and sensitive to His leading.

As part of the family of God, would we be willing to do this great deed... to consider another person even when battling affliction ourselves?

To me, stories like these are stories that stop us in our tracks. They question who we are and they question whether we are playing our part in this world.

Jesus asks us to have compassion for others, to seek the lost, to care for the orphans and to look after the widowed. These are all words dear to our hearts and they are all very deeply embedded in our minds, yet do we live them?

Knowledge is meaningless without application and belief is empty without faith. When it comes to believing in Jesus we can be active or passive believers. Let us nurture those around us by showing them compassion and reaching the world as Jesus commissioned us to do.



to move to Australia with her dad and step mother. Her mother had to make the hardest decision of her life. With all things considered, she chose to allow her young daughter to leave South Africa, for a better future with her father.

For two challenging years, feeling the rejection of her father's new family, the young girl tried hard to fit in. She was even prepared to walk for two hours each day to and from school, just so that she was not a burden.

Sadly, her efforts did not prevent the unthinkable: she was kicked out of home and left abandoned.

Now, some may say, she can always go back home to her Mum. Others may

Nurture & Compassion

It's what we all crave...

Written by Trafford Fischer
FAMILY MINISTRIES, SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Nurture – it's what we all long for! We love to feel loved.

We thrive when we feel surrounded by those who show genuine love and care, who have the desire and ability to reach out to us and let us know how much we mean to them and how much they treasure our presence.

We don't just exist in this kind of environment – we live abundantly...

Nurture ['nʌ:tʃə] – Defn. "to care for and protect someone or something while they are growing; provide for, take care of, attend to, or look after someone; to support and encourage; foster; to bring up, train, educate."

This sounds very much like family!

It's in families that we experience care, protection, support and encouragement. It's in families that we find good will and respect. It's in families that we discover love and kindness, and learn how to live in community. We return to our families from our rough and tumble days at school, the office, university, or our places of work to find healing, renewal, and strength. We find a safe haven where we can repair and rebuild our 'life-boats' that have been battered by the daily storms!

We know how devastating being unloved can be – how life-threatening it is to our mental and physical health! We know what it is to be lonely – to sense that no one cares, no one counts us special and no one is there for us!

We are familiar with the fact that loneliness impacts our health to the same degree as smoking 15 cigarettes a day does. That's the reason God "places the lonely in families" (Ps 68:6). He knows we need each other. It's not good that we be alone! (Gen 2).

Healthy families know how to nurture well. They have discovered the importance of expressing their love and support for each other – daily! Nurture isn't something simply hoped-for but never realised. Nurture isn't something just dreamed about – it's an integral component of every-day life. It's core to the family 'mission-statement.' It's written in the vision-statement: "We will take care of each other. We will show love, kindness, and compassion . . . especially compassion."

“ Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile... ”

Albert Einstein

Compassion is key to family health. It will always be a building block to family strength and well-being. We can be described as ‘compassionate’ when we show sympathy to another person who is in distress, together with a desire to alleviate it. We don’t just feel sorry for the other person and then walk away. Compassion includes the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. It’s the ability to look at life through their eyes, and then respond in the most caring ways we can.

John, the much loved disciple of Jesus, spoke to the importance of compassion when he wrote, “If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God’s love? It disappears. And you made it disappear. My dear children, let’s not just talk about love; let’s practice real love” (1 John 3:17, 18 TM).

Paul certainly encouraged his readers to express compassion. He urged the Ephesians to “be kind and compassionate to one another” (Ephesians 4:32). To the Colossian believers he said, “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion...”[Colossians 3:12]. Eugene Peterson renders James’ instructions with these words: if “you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, ‘Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!’ and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup - where does that get you? Isn’t it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?” James 2:15 TM.

Compelled as we are to be like Jesus, we find in His ministry numerous references to His compassion for His creation. Matthew describes how, when Jesus landed and saw a large

crowd, “He had compassion on them and healed their sick” (Matthew 14:14). And again, “Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ‘I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way’ (Matthew 15:32).

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honourable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” When we show compassion to others, we don’t merely let them know that we are their friends and we are sorry for them. We not only do what we can to alleviate their pain and their distress, we also seek to have them grow strong.

A word we don’t often use is the word ‘succourer,’ but maybe we should: it means ‘someone who gives help in times of need or distress or difficulty.’ Families that are made up of ‘succourers’ would be families of strength. They would be givers and receivers of nurture and compassion. They would know how it is to give and receive care and encouragement, respect and grace, kindness and forgiveness.

Rachel Remen, a doctor who wrote of her work among cancer patients, suggested that “compassion begins with the acceptance of what is most human in ourselves. In attending to our own capacity to suffer, we can uncover a simple and profound connection between our own vulnerability and the vulnerability that is found in all others. Experiencing this allows us to find an instinctive kindness toward life which is the foundation for all compassion and genuine service” (Rachel Remen, *My Grandfather’s Blessings*).

Families shaped and moulded by both

nurture and compassion will find themselves easily drawn to the needs of those in their communities. They will be quick to see the harassed and stressed commuters on the streets and in the malls and gyms and find a way to share their strengths and their gifts – of time, energy, wisdom, and love. They will develop eyes and ears that see and hear the needy, the sad and the distraught. They will respond with warmth to those whose hearts are cold; with strength to those who are weak, and with friendship with those who have no friends.

While there might be much of one-on-one evangelism, or one to hundreds or even thousands, would there not be wisdom in ministering family to family?

What might it look like if one family could love another family into God’s kingdom? What if your family, irrespective of its shape and form, could find another family who would welcome your nurturing and compassionate hearts?

What if your family – Dad, Mum, the kids – what if you were able to find another family and share a journey into eternity together?

Families of strength turn outwards, not inwards. They look out to the community and, as the hands and feet of Jesus, seek to show compassion and care. That’s real living!

That’s a family ‘alive and well.’



Sharing Christ... Warragul Church

Tara shares this testimony of how many ministries within their church have helped s new friend learn more about Christ.

One of Warragul's deacons happened to be out at the church gate one Sabbath morning. He greeted a passer-by called Amanda. She made enquiries, asking about our church, so he invited her to come and worship with us. The following Sabbath Amanda did just that.

Amanda still attends her Anglican church, but for over a year now she has intermittently (and more frequently) attended our church too, enjoying the sermons, joining our adult Sabbath class and making new friends with us and we all love her.

Earlier this year Amanda approached me asking questions about studying the Bible, clearly wanting to know more about it. I prayerfully considered her request, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, decided to take the Bible study, using the study packs made available to church members by the Personal Ministries department at the Conference Office.

Amanda is really enjoying the study and the packs are so informative and easy for her to follow. I pray that God will continue to touch Amanda's heart as we both learn more about Him.

Please join our church family as we keep Amanda before the throne of God through prayer.

Tara Timiiti



Amanda (front L) with some of her Sabbath School friends



A Crafty Idea Plenty Valley

For the second year in a row, church members held an art and craft show one Sabbath in July. Would your church like to try it?

- Take some inspiration. (Ours was an article by Glenn Townend article on art in church, and a local art show held at a Baptist church).
- Add plenty of encouragement to everyone; you'll be surprised at what is created!
- Organise a themed worship service (such as 'In His Hands'), with a creative speaker.
- Collect plenty of picture hooks and display tables.
- Add weekly encouragement.
- And create a community event.
- If your church/hall is hired out, leave the exhibits for a few weeks as a silent witness.

Gwen Pascoe



Celebrations and Witness Greenvale Church

June 30 was a very important day for both the Church and the Williams family, with the baptism of their friend and son Joshua.



Josh, who is a medical science student in his second year at Melbourne University, invited a number of his non-Adventist university friends to church to witness his stand for Christ.

The feedback from his friends, many who stayed for lunch, was positive with one asking serious questions about faith and the Sabbath.

More seeds planted for His Kingdom.

Rod Anderson



Foodies Excel for Fundraising Werribee Adventist Church

As a fundraising event, church members held an International Food night.

Food from countries such as the Philippines, Burma, Japan, Mauritius and many African countries was sold to consume on the spot or to take home.

Other churches were invited along with our neighbours and we encouraged them to forgo Uber Eats for one night at least!

The youth organised a photo booth, where people were able to dress-up in fancy costumes (of course, for a price) to have their photos taken. To add more colour to the event, many people took the opportunity to dress in their national costumes, and a highlight for the event was a parade of nations. If anyone wanted a photo taken with a

colourful participant however, they again had to pay for the privilege; after all, it was a fundraising night for an excellent cause.

Apart from the obvious benefits of socialising and partaking in a communal meal, the money raised will support the building of our new church on our existing site in Derrimut Street Werribee.

Undoubtedly, the new church will be a great blessing to an area of Melbourne experiencing a population explosion - a church that will be like manna from Heaven to those in our neighbourhood who hunger for the Word of God.

Robert Bryson



A Sabbath Visit to South Africa Ferntree Gully Church

One Sabbath afternoon in July, after a scrumptious church lunch, members and guests gathered in our church to take a trip to South Africa.

We did this through the eyes of Andrew and Lorraine Wegener as they shared videos and photographs of their recent trip to South Africa.

We thoroughly enjoyed the "Wonders of Southern Africa," depicted in amazing scenes and fascinating wildlife. Highlights included views from The Panorama Route, Victoria Falls, Hwange National Park and the Zambezi River area.

After the presentation, Wildlife Expert Andrew Wegener, showed some of his 'creatures' to an attentive audience.

Our thanks are extended to Lorraine and Andrew for sharing their talents with us.

Elayne Stanford



Melton

The Melton congregation began in 2005 as a group of ten people, living in close proximity to Melton who had been travelling to other churches on the western side of Melbourne. They were meeting in the home of Barry and Vittoria Eales, but as word spread, others came to worship with them and within a few months they had doubled in number.

More space was needed that included a separate room for the children's needs, and after consultation with the local council, they were offered The Barn. But within two years, they had again outgrown their premises. Some growth came from people who had not been to an Adventist church in 20 years, now there was one closer to home.

The council again helped, offering the use of a community centre in Melton West.

The Melton congregation has had fourteen baptisms and now has 30-40 attending each week. It is a multicultural church consisting of Samoan, Fijian, Sudanese, Zimbabwean and Aussie members. They are an active group within their community, running prophecy seminars, liaising with local doctors to run drug rehabilitation programs, working with council community assistance programs to provide food parcels and community clean up projects helping those unable to do it themselves. Their next project will be involving Meals on Wheels.

We look forward to being able to share the news of this Company being recognised as a Church in the future. And thank you to Barry Eales (Elder) for providing this information.

Church Growth

In recent months, our Conference has had a number of congregations move from Group status to a Company. Last edition we told you about the Bundoora Company and the Bendigo Karen Company and this edition we have three more so we thought we would share with you some of these groups' stories. Please pray for these young congregations as they grow to the point of full recognition and admittance into the sisterhood of churches. May God bless these faithful members as they spread God's word.



Bendigo Karen Company

This group has been meeting with their mother church, Bendigo Church, for many years, sharing Sabbath Schools but separating for the Divine Service so the Karen people could worship in their own language.

Sabbath 21st July was a joyful day for the group, as this was the official celebration of their commencement as a Company.

The special service was held in the Bendigo Church building. The Bendigo Church Pastor, Chrissie Cooper, and a

number of Bendigo Church members participated in the service in support of the Company, which will continue to meet on the Bendigo premises for the time being.

The Karen Pastor, Eh Paung led out in the Sabbath school discussion and worked tirelessly in preparation with the community, to plan for this day. The day was full of music, food, talking and much joy. Pr Darren Croft, Conference Ministerial Secretary, had the privilege of preaching a message entitled "The Church that God Built".





Gateway Lighthouse

This congregation was formed by members of Gateway City and Gateway East congregations. After more than a year of prayerful planning, the group launched earlier this year. Still looking for a permanent location, they meet in a community centre in Forest Hill with an average attendance of 50-60 people.

The members' vision is to build and grow a vibrant centre of influence for young families in the eastern suburbs, bringing their community to Christ.

They have a detailed cycle of evangelism plan mapped out, involving activities such as Happy Hearts Art and Craft Program and Sunday morning walks to become friends with and serve their community. Active Care Groups nurture new and existing members with spiritual food, discipleship mentoring and training.

Adventist lifestyle and health philosophy features strongly in their ethos and they are sharing with their community through various health programs including the Depression, Anxiety and

Recovery Program (DARP). There are a number of other proposed community service projects in the pipeline too, as this active church plans on being part of our Conference-wide Harvest Victoria initiative.

Ting Ting, who started coming to church after a Health retreat earlier this year said, "I have been blessed since attending the Lighthouse church." She feels healthier and more energetic, better able to handle her various responsibilities. "Through Care Group fellowship, I came to know a very nice group of people who demonstrated the fruit of the Spirit in real life, I feel inspired and loved. Through sermons and Bible studies, God's words comfort me and He humbles my heart. God blessed me with patience and love which are essential for building up a good family and workplace relationship! God blessed me with work promotion recently, it was just at the right time and what I needed to regain confidence!"

May God bless your efforts to share His way of living with your community and grow to join the Sisterhood of Churches.

South-East Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Many of this group of believers have migrated to Australia from Ethiopia. For many years they attended Springvale and Cranbourne churches in the morning and in the afternoon met together to worship in their local language, Afaan Oromo, at Springvale.

Others attended our Parkdale church, which has services in Afaan Oromo, however for those living in the south east, it was a long way to go and they slowly gave up attending.

Some Adventist immigrants ended up attending other denominations where services were in Afaan Oromo, or even neglected church all together.

There was some discussion over having a church more central to all involved, but eventually the decision was made to start a new group which began meeting in Dandenong. Many of the congregation live around Pakenham and Berwick and when the new group was announced, decided to return to church.

This Oromo congregation considers itself blessed to be able to share the word of God with their Ethiopian community and looks forward to continuing to grow from its current attendance of around 40 members.



Bundoora Company

Jesus said, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught." Luke 5:4. A few years ago I began to pray a radical prayer. I wanted to see God perform miracles just like He did in the book of Acts. I wanted to go beyond my comfort zone and learn complete dependence on Him. No plans, no strategy, just the leading of the Holy Spirit.

God answered. One morning I heard a cry coming from the North. A cry for help. It was so urgent my wife, Leah, and I travelled up to La Trobe University in Bundoora to walk the walls of the campus. I didn't say it then but I heard God's still small voice telling me He was going to do something here and I began praying about it.

We didn't have a team. We didn't have a student club. We didn't know any Adventists in that area. I had never planted a church before from scratch. But we did have the Holy Spirit.

And one year later He began answering in a definite way. An Adventist student I knew of was about to start studies at La Trobe Uni. She had been praying God would send her to the place she could be used as a missionary. We teamed up together and by faith decided to launch our first health program called, "Optimise Your Brain," focusing on emotional wellness.

There were, however, challenges. We printed 500 flyers with the

La Trobe Uni logo then were told they could not be distributed. After much prayer God changed the hearts of University officials and we were given permission two nights before the program was scheduled to begin! But with two hours to sunset we could only hand out 300 flyers!

Then we found out the location we booked was no longer available. God came through again and with one day to go, the University granted permission to use an alternate location!

The morning of our health program I received a call from a professor mentioning how a lawsuit would be filed against us for using the University logo. Furthermore security would be placed outside the initial room we had booked to prevent us from entering! This was all for seeking to evangelise the campus.

I kindly explained to the professor that the University had given us permission to use their logo, we had secured an alternate location on the campus, and though we were a Christian organization we were genuinely interested in the wellbeing of students. All I heard was a click as he hung up.

In spite of all these challenges, God proved Himself faithful!

Ten new friends joined us over the three weeks of the

talks! Whatever door seems to be closed God can and will open if we refuse to limit Him in what He can do!

For the first time in La Trobe University's 50 year history we now have a Seventh-day Adventist Student Club and have called it Advent Health.

Furthermore, by God's grace in October 2017 our first monthly worship was launched. Gathering in a library hall we had eight people attend this worship. Since then God began sending more committed labourers with varied gifts to help grow the church. In May 2018 we started weekly worship and by God's grace we have a vibrant fellowship of believers with an attendance of 35-40 people each Sabbath.

Bundoora SDA Church is a community church with a campus arm reaching to people of all ages, cultures, and demographics! Join us for worship someday if in the area and more importantly, please keep Bundoora in your prayers that God will continue to open more closed doors for us!

Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught!

Vikram Panchal

Praise God for these new Companies. Please pray for each of them on their journey toward becoming fully recognised Churches serving their Lord.



Conference News

RENEW 2018

This conference, held at a resort on Philip Island, is an annual event when ladies get in touch with their very being; a time when they take time to pause from the busyness of life, enjoying one another's company... and a time for inspiration and spiritual renewal. The 2018 conference was no exception. It was themed Being the Change You Want to See, and asked the question 'What is it that motivates us to change?'

When the challenges we face and the pain we endure becomes too intense, somehow we get the courage to step out in faith and to seek alternative solutions. As Christians we learn that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). As Christians, we lift up our chins and take a stride along a different leg of our journey with a strength and courage that we have never had before. We know that no pain, no struggle, no challenge is ever wasted!

This year the RENEW Women's Conference celebrated its 20th anniversary and was the second year that the young girl's conference was held concurrently, with much success. Mothers and daughters got to spend time away from home yet together, a time to be in the same space, but a time to grow individually.

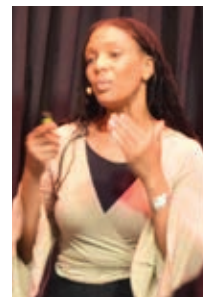
Our guest speaker, Esmie Branner, better known as Dr Ez, was born in Jamaica and grew up in England. She earned a Ph.D in Research Psychology; specializing in Cognitive Neuroscience and Emotional Intelligence (EQ). She has worked as a college professor, counsellor and therapist and is currently an adjunct professor for the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism (AFCOE) and a consultant in the area of Mental & Emotional Health.

Dr. Esmie is the wife of Pastor Arthur Branner II, a minister and family life counsellor in the Northern California Conference. Their ministry, Science of Salvation (S.O.S) takes them nationally and internationally, empowering individuals and families through a range of educational, spiritual & mental health seminars. We were blessed to have both Esmie and Arthur at our retreat this year. Dr Ez shared her remarkable testimony noted in her book *Beyond the Veil of Darkness* (which we sold out of) and Arthur spoke to us about Forgiveness Therapy. Dr Ez has a way of interweaving biblical truths with science to achieve healing and spiritual growth. She will be releasing her new book shortly called, *Healing for the Sealing*, which reveals the biology and science of emotional and spiritual Healing.

Other highlights included Trafford Fischer, the SPD Director of Family Ministries, speaking to us about relationships, as well as numerous special items including Shanando who blessed us with her tribute, the Samoan ladies who harmonized as a group and Velda Mason who shared "Be born in me". Marletta Fong, Braedan Entermann and Sanja Kitesvski blessed us through music ministry in a powerful way. Their voices created an environment that allowed the Holy Spirit to move freely, opening minds and touching hearts.

As the new Women's Ministries Director, stepping into Danijela Trachov's shoes has been a challenging feat, reminding myself constantly that with God all things are possible. I also recognise, however, that I am not alone as I am blessed to have inherited a very supportive, dedicated and hard working Women's Ministries Advisory Committee. Inspiration Day, RENEW and Elevate would not be possible without these women and my PA at the Conference Office, Shonnet Heath.

My vision for Women's Ministries is for all ladies and young girls in Victoria to be a mentor and mentored, for them to be part of a mission focused small group where ladies and young girls in communities are encouraged to get to know Jesus.



I pray to see local churches be a safe haven for women of all ages where they can be authentic, vulnerable and yet encouraged to be courageous, loved, beautiful and the very best they can be in Christ! As Adventist Women, we want to be the hands, feet and heart of Jesus, revealing biblical truth and His character in all that we do. We want to stand firm in our faith and not waiver, yet love those around us, without any judgement, just as Jesus did!

Ladies be proud to be a "Sevi" Woman and step out in faith to be all that God designed you to be!



Young Girls' Conference

For the second year, the Young Girls' Conference has run concurrently with the Women's Conference, with the age range expanding from the original 13-17yo's to include the younger girls with their own program.

It's wonderful for mothers and daughters to spend time away together however a whole weekend of meetings and workshops aimed at older women can be just a little tedious and dull if you're a ten year old girl. This year the RENEW Women's Ministry Conference included a series of activities for primary age girls. While mothers and aunties attended meetings and workshops, twenty five girls ranging in ages from 6-12 were happily making new friends and enjoying age specific activities.

On Sabbath morning the girls got to know one another and their leaders, Janelle Chilton and Sally McMahon, with a series of Bible story charades. Next they spent time outdoors in the beautiful surrounds of Phillip Island Adventure Resort gathering flowers, leaves and bark to discover the way God expresses His love for us through the colours, textures and scents of nature - His other 'book'. On Sabbath afternoon the large group of girls was divided into two groups and given a series of outdoor challenges that needed to be completed as a team. Successful completion of the challenges required

patience, persistence, lateral thinking, sharing of ideas and learning from mistakes. They finished the afternoon with a craft, making wonderful hats from card, ribbon and tissue paper.

Sunday morning saw the girls taking part in a scripture-inspired treasure hunt. They enthusiastically hunted for clues until they found the treasure in the hollow of a large Eucalypt. The girls were surprised to discover the treasure was a Bible and not a bag of lollies and treats. The leaders then produced treats and prizes and reminded the girls of Jesus words in Matthew 6:33 when He said 'But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.'

The annual RENEW Conference is well on the way to becoming an important 'Faith Shaping' event for our young girls with its mix of authentic intergenerational God centred activities. See you next year at RENEW!

Phyona McMahon





Several years ago, our Women's Advisory was asked by the director of Restore One, a charity operating in Cambodia, if we would like to support the young girls from their school who were working there for the holidays, rather than working in Phnom Penh, potentially in child prostitution. As a committee we decided we would on-sell the beautiful Christmas decorations the young girls made, helping save them from prostitution.

The Advisory invited Restore One to last year's Renew Conference to share with us more about the charity and how it helps women and children. Carol Bacon, a member on the Board, came from Brisbane and told us of her own mission trip experiences, working with the women and children in the Restore One Village. She showed other items that ladies from Phnom Penh made - tea towels, aprons & tote bags. Restore One enables these ladies to make an honest living

at home, setting them up with their own sewing machines. They no longer have to support their families by scrounging on the rubbish tips.

Restore One asked the local village elders what they needed most and the Chief said it was an education. So with the donations they received, Restore One built a primary school. Carol's mission story was powerful and when we collected the offering to help their project, over \$2000 was raised.

This year we again invited Carol, as she had just completed another trip earlier in the year. She shared with RENEW attendees how our donation from last year was used. Once again her inspiring stories bought tears to my eyes. Our small contribution helped Restore One build a playground and a beautiful Creation mural for the pre-school, a toilet block and a water well. Praise God!

Carol also told how the Restore One School is growing every year; it began in late 2014 with 50 primary students

and now has 470 and includes highschool too. This year we raised just over \$3,000 through the Restore One offering. Seeing mission in action is so inspiring and I love the way the ladies at our RENEW Conference support the women and children of the Restore One Village.

Tanya Lawrence, Founder of Restore One, amazed by the generosity from the women in Victoria, thanks us immensely as our support.

If you would like to be involved in a mission trip for 2019, visit www.restoreone.org.au.

Restore One's Mission is to break poverty; one child, one family, one community at a time.

Please pray for this work, building a better future for women and children in Cambodia.

Kim Moffitt



Church members across Victoria are increasingly becoming aware of Harvest Victoria and the pulse to be engaged is on the rise. When I'm asked, "What is Harvest Victoria?" I often discover people are out chatting with their neighbours, inviting them over for a meal, gently inviting them to consider a spiritual journey with Christ and many are even studying the Bible in their homes. I respond, "That is Harvest Victoria. You're already doing it, keep on ahead."

From your treasured time with Christ in the morning, ask Him to lead you to people that He is working for. Join Him in His harvest field. As we near May 2019, you'll hear more about the great evangelistic program that's being prepared, but now is a time of preparing the soil of people's hearts to be receptive to the gospel seed.

Go to Vic.Adventist.org.au where the Harvest cycle is filled out with more texture and be the answer to Christ's question for our time, "Whom shall I send?"

Andrew Jasper

In Step With Jesus

As part of the Harvest Victoria initiative, John Bradshaw the speaker director of It Is Written and Yves Monnier, the director of evangelism at It Is Written, were invited to Melbourne for our two regional meetings.

As we did last year, we had one regional for our Eastern churches at the Belgrave Convention Centre, followed by the Western regional at Gilson College.

On both Sabbaths, Pr Bradshaw delivered powerful messages encouraging us to take God's word forward. On the first Sabbath, addressing the members gathered at Belgrave, he encouraged them to focus

on proclaiming the gospel in the light of the second coming. He said 'Every time there's a new US president, a new pope, or some new major world event, we Adventists panic! But is this really what we as a church, should to be focusing on?' Instead, he encouraged those present to occupy our city with the Good news of Jesus.

The following Sabbath, Pr. Bradshaw reminded those gathered at Gilson College that we need to be committed like great men of the Bible. He said, "there are people waiting to be reached with the good news," and declared, "when we are committed to God's church, committed to God's calling in our lives, this work is going to get done."

John Bradshaw's message did not leave those present indifferent. Lucy, a church member of 26 years, said: "I have always been very shy and thought evangelism is not for me, but after listening to John Bradshaw, now I am praying that God may use me." Tim texted to the Harvest Victoria team saying, "Not sure if I'm the right man at the right time (with a baby on the way in December) but let me know how I can assist in the Harvest Victoria



campaign.'

If you would like to be similarly inspired, the presentations from both regionals (four sessions) are available for viewing at VictorianAdventist.TV.

Hensley Gungadoo



January 24-28, 2019 is the Joining Christ in the Harvest Training V2 and we'll need help providing accommodation for participants. This is a mission critical training event for Harvest Victoria and we are planning for 400-500 participants. If you are willing to assist and live within 30 minutes of the Conference Office let Cveta know how many you can accommodate at cvetabakof@adventist.org.au

Water: Abundant and Free

In John 4:14 Jesus said the living water He provides would become "a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." Then in John 7:38,39 He promised the Holy Spirit would flow like "rivers of living water" out of our heart. Paul concurred in Romans 5:5 that God pours His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. All of these verses reveal a poignant truth – there is an abundant supply of the person, presence and power of the Holy Spirit! Ellen White says the Holy Spirit is offered in "infinite plenitude." RH May 19, 1904

Harvest Victoria encourages members throughout our churches to experience the Holy Spirit the way Jesus envisioned we should: as the One who:

- Brings new birth (John 3:5,6)
- Will be in us (John 14:17)
- Will teach us (John 14:26)
- Will testify of Jesus (John 15:26)
- Will guide us into all truth (John 16:13)
- Will glorify Jesus (John 16:14)

That's all part of *Coming to Christ* – to be filled with His Spirit – His love – His power.

We will "grow" with the fruit of the Spirit, "worship" in spirit and truth and find we "serve" church according to our spiritual gifts. This is the Holy Spirit in action in our lives, in our families and in our churches.

Then He leads us out into the great harvest field – we *go with Him*, using Christ's method of reaching out by:

- Mingling with people and genuinely desiring their good
- Showing your heart sympathy for them
- Meeting their practical needs
- Winning their trust and confidence
- Inviting them to follow Christ

We're assured success – it's doubtless!

(Read Psalm 126:6 and listen to John Bradshaw's talk from the August Regional entitled "A Sure Thing" at VictorianAdventist.TV.)

Jesus said one more thing about the Holy Spirit – pray for Him. Ask, seek and knock. (Luke 11:9-13) Since the Regional weekends in August, we've initiated "40 Weeks of Prayer and Sowing." Go to Facebook [@harvestvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/harvestvictoria) or Vic.Adventist.org.au/Harvest-Victoria to engage with our current emphasis for the week.

Resource Alert! A new resource has come to Victoria. It's called Kingdom Come and its simple to use. Invite some friends over for a meal. Screen the 30 minute video on Daniel 2 and invite them to start a Bible study. This could peak a person's interest to study the Bible. Check out the trailer at the Harvest Victoria webpage.

Harvest Victoria is much bigger than an event next May. Many are in the throes of it right now.

Join the movement – its where Christ is leading!

Andrew Jasper



Interested in bringing an unchurched friend to Dinner with a Doctor?
Dr Nedley from the Nedley Depression & Anxiety Recovery Program will be in Melbourne's East and Southeast on November 21 and 22.
If you would like to know more, email AndrewJasper@adventist.org.au
Register online at Vic.Adventist.org.au/Harvest-Victoria

Harvest Calendar

- September onwards

40 Weeks of Prayer

- November 21,22

Dinner with Dr Nedley

- November 24, 2018

Revive Us Again launch

- January 24 - 28, 2019

Joining Christ in the Harvest training V2

- March 8,9 2019

Prayer Summit

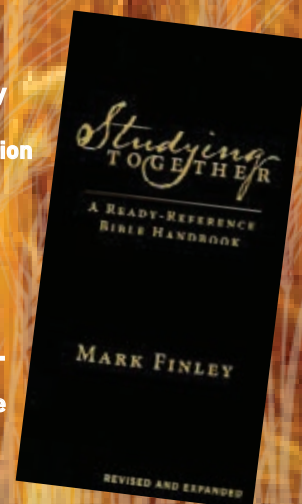
May 3 - June 1, 2019

Evangelistic Meetings

This Bible handbook is a must as a study resource... Includes a section on practical Christianity and on understanding other religions and denominations.

Available at the ABC

\$19.95





AdventCare
Care without
Compromise

Respite Services

Respite care for our aged care facilities at Nunawading and Warburton is designed to give the carers a break from caring for their loved one who has a range of health and care needs, at home.

This is an opportunity to have your family member spend time with us whilst you take a break and recharge... You can be confident they will be well cared for, that we will keep in touch with you during while they are with us and visitors are welcome during their stay!

Each person is entitled to have up to nine weeks respite a year and this can be a short period or several weeks, depending on your circumstances and the bed availability.

To take advantage of this service, you will need to make a referral to the Aged Care Assessment Service in your area, who will provide an assessment of your loved one's care needs that will entitle them to access our respite services.

You can do this through the Government Portal MyAgedCare at <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/register-to-be-assessed>.

We encourage you to seek respite with us so that we can care for your family members and you can have a break or go on holiday. Each time we would welcome them to our home and they would be able to enjoy a wide range of activities and worship in our homes.

New Central Units are underway!

The fourteen new Central Units to replace the old ones at Nunawading are well underway.

The first concrete pour of the slabs and foundations was completed on 22 August. Within the next month the building frames were up and the cladding on the units installed to enable the internal works to be undertaken.

The first eight units will be finished by February 2019 and the last six units in September 2019. Upon completion of the second stage there will also be a new Community Garden for residents and a Community Centre for their use for a range of activities and social functions for the enjoyment of the residents and their friends and families.

Residents are watching the progress and are eager to settle into their new homes.



CEO Sleepout for the Homeless

Our CEO David Reece was invited to be part of the annual Vinnies CEO Sleepout raising much needed funds to address homelessness and poverty.

This year's event was on Thursday 21 June 2018 and held at the University of Melbourne's Parkville campus. This is a critical community need and it was rewarding that AdventCare was represented this year.

We receive calls from older people on a regular basis about affordable housing so that they can survive on a daily basis. The private rental market is tough and expensive, and these people are at risk of becoming homeless if they cannot afford the rent and daily expenses.

Our rental units at all three sites provide much needed affordable accommodation and we are pleased to contribute to the care and accommodation of those in need.



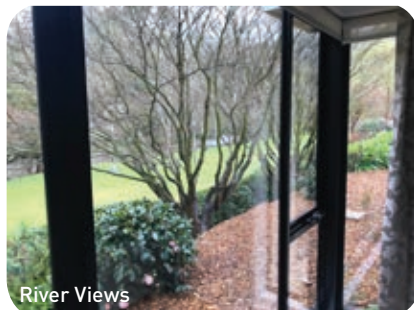
Opening of the Second Stage at AdventCare Yarra Ranges

It was a great and joyous day on 26 July 2018 when the Mayor of Yarra Ranges Council, Cr Len Cox, officially opened the Second Stage of the redevelopment of AdventCare's Yarra Ranges aged care home in Warburton

This stage saw the opening of a further thirteen resident rooms, a new care station and a new and expanded Chapel.

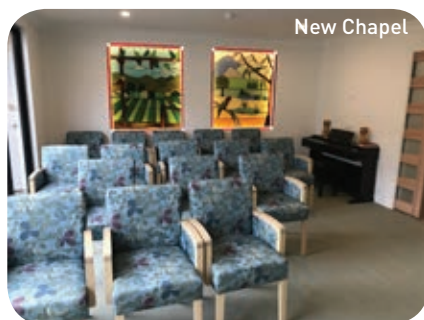
The Chapel will be a place of worship and reflection for residents and their families and opens out onto a new courtyard garden area. The resident rooms are attractive and have wonderful views of the mountains and river to provide a peaceful home environment for our residents.

Work has now commenced on the third and final stage of the redevelopment which will see the upgrade of the ten beds in the northern wing and will result in 42 resident rooms for the community of the Warburton Valley and surrounds by the end of the year. The building works have been carried



out by the firm Australian Building Enterprise and they have delivered a quality living environment for our residents and their families. The project has run smoothly and has been well managed and works have been completed in a timely manner.

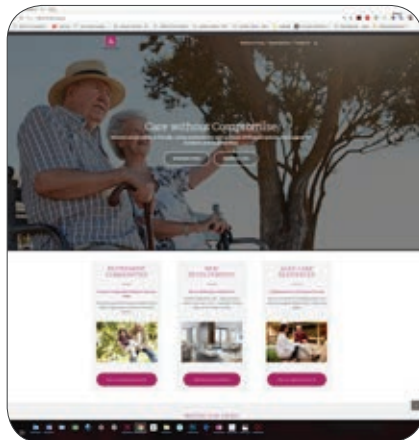
We have been fortunate to have a number of innovative features included by ABE in the redevelopment which will enhance the features of the home. One of these is an Australian first where the hydronic heating system [Thermaskirt] for the resident rooms and passageways is incorporated into the skirting boards of the rooms, thus creating more space in the residents' rooms whilst providing a warm environment.



New Website

Please have a look at our brand new website at www.adventcare.org.au.

Here you will find all the information you need to find out about our aged care homes and retirement units in Nunawading, Warburton and Bendigo. You can now, at any time of the day, register an enquiry online about our services and facilities and we will respond promptly to your query. If you are interested in working with us you can apply online for any advertised positions or send us your resume and expression of interest at any other time. We look forward to hearing from you and trust that you will enjoy this new and interesting website.



Bendigo Units

Our affordable retirement units in Golden Square are well located and are adjacent to the Bendigo Church.

Currently there are a few vacancies and we invite you to consider moving to the units for your next stage of retirement.

If you wish to view the units or seek more information please contact our Units Manager Keith King on keith.king@adventcare.org.au or 03 9259 2106.



Thank You

AdventCare Bendigo was honoured to have in its care, Pearl Heenan, who recently passed away. Long time employee, Pam, said it was a delight to look after Pearl, who taught herself to dive, won a number of medals, and then took up the sport again at the age of 64, winning Gold in the World Masters in 2002. Pearl's family greatly appreciated the care Pearl received.



AdSAFE

Training Update

The new online Safer Churches Training was made available from August.

It is still a generic training format which all people holding leadership and /or child-related roles in the local church need to complete.

Over the next few months AdSAFE will replace this training with customised modules, specific to the needs of Victoria and the position within the local church, held by the trainee.

At this point there is no new material for those needing Face-to-Face training.

AdSAFE supports approximately 750 churches, Adventists Schools, ADRA and other entities, so the preferred option, from an efficiency and cost perspective, is for people to complete the online training, which has been made less cumbersome.

Options for persons who DO NOT have internet access or the skill set to confidently complete the online training include:

- Joining an online Zoom training session delivered by AdSAFE to their local church or other nominated location.
- Face-to-Face training sessions provided annually by AdSAFE at Big Camp
- Face-to-Face sessions provided by AdSAFE and requested and funded by the requesting Church/Conference.

Paper versions are available in consultation with AdSAFE and will be approved on a case by case basis.

Pr Craig Gillis
Conference Secretary



Since I last reported I've seen more signs of growth and indications of progress – let me share:

Newly Organised Church – Endeavour Hills

I was delighted to be involved in the organisation of the Endeavour Hills Samoan Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sabbath 21 July was truly a day of celebrating what God has done and is doing through His people – and almost 500 people came from all around Melbourne for the special day.

The Endeavour Hills Samoan church was first recognised by the conference in October 2015. In August 2016, the group was granted church company status. Under the leadership of Pr Kanela Alefaio, the group had grown to a regular attendance of 35, with ten people then ready for baptism. The newly formed church now has more than 60 members and has appreciated the contribution of Pr Tini Rimoni, the appointed pastor for the church.

Leaders consider that Bible based preaching and teaching, a clear mission focus and God's blessing have been major factors in the growth of this church.

New Church Companies

The conference has granted company status for three more church plants/groups: Melton, South East SDA Church (Oromo) and Gateway Lighthouse.

This represents a significant effort on the part of leaders and members alike. It's wonderful to see God's hand at work.

Pavilions

If you've been past the Nunawading Estate recently, you will have seen a lot of activity. On Monday 30 July, a Sod

Turning Event marked the start of pre-work on site. Demolition has begun – the old LE hall is gone, as is the old house and Charis House (storage). So the way is being prepared for building works to follow.

At the last meeting of the infrastructure committee, it was good to hear the positive comments about the project from those who are professionals in the field of property development.

Please pray that God will continue to bless and guide this project.

Excellent attendance to hear It Is Written Speaker, Pr John Bradshaw

In spite of miserable weather, 1500 turned out on a cold wet and windy winter's morning to spend Sabbath together at the recent regional at Belgrave heights. I arrived early and wondered if I was going to be able to find a place to park, but with the help of wonderful parking attendants who braved the weather, it worked out well. And it was well worth the effort people made. There were so many comments of appreciation for the message Pr Bradshaw shared!

A week later, Gilson College hosted the regional for the western churches. A hall full of people really enjoyed the way Pr John Bradshaw opened God's word and pointed our minds towards Jesus.

Pr Bradshaw is the main speaker for the evangelistic meetings scheduled for May 2019.

Please pray for the success of the meetings.

Why not plan now to attend and bring a friend.

Pr Graeme Christian
Conference President





ADRA
AUSTRALIA

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Falling Through the Cracks

Four years ago, Jonathon was comfortable. Then his life turned upside down. He recounts an incredible journey of heartbreak, despair and, ultimately, hope.

It's 2am. Cold and dark. Jonathon lies awake, shivering. The abandoned factory Jonathon and his three young boys call their home is not peaceful ... next door an industrial laundry roars to life, disturbing whatever restless sleep the family was having. **Jonathon never pictured himself homeless. Never imagined begging for food. How did it come to this?**

The most alarming thing is how quickly everything turned upside down. It took just six weeks for Jonathon to go from living a normal life to having nothing. First an injury, then unemployment, and finally a vindictive housemate who sold all his possessions from under him while he was away. When he returned, he was homeless – a broken man.

"It didn't even cross my mind that it could happen," Jonathon says. "To go from having a normal lifestyle with a good income, savings and a roof over my head, to the unthinkable... **in the space of six weeks. That was all it took, from being normal to being invisible.**"

"As a father it was rather brutal not being able to provide my kids with a proper house and basic things they needed. It was very depressing, which didn't help anybody's mental state. I found myself withdrawing more and more into myself and not wanting to interact with people."

Jonathon remembers vividly the shame and embarrassment from that painful period. He remembers drifting between different soup kitchens and service providers with his kids.

Mostly he remembers the feeling of worthlessness and loss of dignity.

It's important to have dignity because when you've got nothing, even your dignity starts to disappear because you've got to beg for food or rummage through garbage just to find food to survive. That gets really depressing – people look down on you or they don't acknowledge you at all, they don't smile at you.

"You just disappear, you just fall into the cracks and disappear. We felt worthless. A feeling that we didn't matter, nobody cared."

It was when he almost reached the brink that a turning point came. Jonathon calls it a miracle.

We were given a piece of paper with the Vive Café address on it."

He'd heard about Vive Café – a community in Melbourne's Eastern suburbs run by ADRA. As well as offering a hot three-course meal, guests could access grocery items sourced through Foodbank and SecondBite. But most of all, you'd get friendly smiles and have meaningful conversations with people who actually cared.

"It was an inkling of some hope that we might be able to get some food there, and some conversation and a bit of help," he says.

Straight away, Jonathon and the boys started to feel noticed and appreciated. "That alone was worth more than any other thing that could be provided. That feeling that you're a person and you matter, which we hadn't experienced at any other outreach place that we'd attended before."

He says Vive Café had "a general atmosphere of wellbeing and just a nice place to come. Even just for one night a week it made people feel human again, that they mattered."

"It gave people back some dignity."

Now back on his feet, Jonathon still turns up every Thursday night. Why?

"To give back some of the help we received."

Jonathon's story highlights the mostly hidden issue of homelessness in Australia, the so-called 'lucky country'.

"Australia is the lucky country if you've got money. If you're living below the poverty level, it's not lucky, it's very hard to survive. If you don't live in that world, you don't know of its existence."

His challenge? Do something. Anything.

"If every person did just a tiny bit to help, we could end homelessness and poverty in Australia very quickly. It would be great if Vive wasn't there in future, purely because it wasn't needed."

Josh Dye

The annual ADRA Appeal takes place during October. Your support helps people like Jonathon to thrive, Visit adra.org.au/appeal or contact RebeccaAuriant@adra.org.au

p.s. Jonathon was baptised at Oasis Church last year and manages the Boronia Op Shop every Friday.

Vive Cafe needed some extra groceries and so Rona went to the local grocery store in her ADRA apron and a customer paid for all of the groceries valued at \$80, because they knew of the work we do. Praise God!



Vive Cafe was featured on SBS Insight in July, focusing on families struggling with food insecurity and telling Jonathon's story. Earlier this year Foodbank released research that exposed how 1 in 5 children are living in food insecure households.

AUSTRALIA

Suzanna's Story

It was a knock at the door that changed Suzanna's life. After struggling with depression, anxiety and a fear of going outside for much of her life, that knock was the catalyst for Suzanna to visit the ADRA Community Centre in Macquarie Fields. Now, she's begun to heal and volunteers at the centre to help others. "After feeling worthless for so long, being here at ADRA has given me a sense of value within myself as a human being," she says.

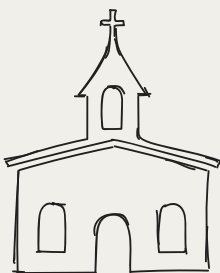
"I CAN SHARE A PART OF ME WITH PEOPLE HERE THAT I HAD THROWN AWAY FOR A VERY LONG TIME."

Macquarie Fields Community Centre, Sydney

Photo by Wes Tollhurst

90

ADRA projects operate out of local Adventist churches in Australia



More than

293,000

hours

contributed by volunteers in Australia during 2016 - 2017



ADRA operates

30 OP SHOPS

around Australia



AUSTRALIAN DISASTERS

When disasters strike, ADRA is there.

ADRA Australia's role in responding to disasters in Australia varies by state. Our role in disasters in NSW is through a formalised agreement with the state government to provide people with accommodation at local motels. In other states, disaster response arrangements are more informal, with ADRA teaming up with Seventh-day Adventist church members to respond to local community needs.

Cyclone Debbie Recovery, Australia

Photo by Charlene Luzuk



6 DISASTERS

were responded to during 2016 - 2017 in Australia



1,890

beneficiaries helped during disasters in Australia



120 VOLUNTEERS

activated for national disasters



4,488

estimated total volunteer hours for 2016-17 financial year

INTERNATIONAL

Linh's Story

Linh lives in a remote village with her husband and two children in one of Vietnam's poorest areas. Money was tight, food was scarce and her children couldn't go to school. When ADRA came to her village, Linh and her husband eagerly joined the ADRA project, partly funded through the Australian Non-Government Organisation Cooperation Program (ANCP). "ADRA provided 20 families with loans to build proper latrines because there was a lot of open defecation and diarrhoea occurring in my village," Linh says.

**"IN RECENT YEARS I HAVE REGAINED
CONFIDENCE AND MOTIVATION FOR
LIFE SO I FEEL BETTER NOW."**

Sustainable Livelihoods Program, Vietnam (ANCP funded project)
Photo by Reuben Ennor

AFRICA **BENEFICIARIES: 17,995**

250

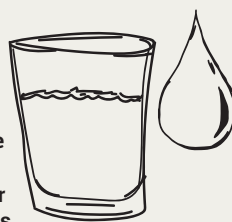
farmers in rural Zambia are growing and drying bananas for local markets, increasing household income levels and improving diets



ASIA **BENEFICIARIES: 33,883**

300

households in Cambodia now have safe drinking water after adopting water purification methods



PACIFIC **BENEFICIARIES: 12,101**

350

adults can now read after passing literacy courses in Malaita Province, Solomon Islands



INTERNATIONAL DISASTERS

Hurricanes, flooding, drought and ongoing conflict were some of the key causes of emergencies across the globe last year. By working through our partners in the global ADRA network, we have been able to respond quickly and effectively by providing life-saving assistance and protection to populations in need with food, water, sanitation facilities and temporary shelter.



Cyclone Pam Recovery, Vanuatu
Photo by Michelle Abel

IN 2016-17, ADRA AUSTRALIA CONTRIBUTED FUNDS TO THE FOLLOWING ADRA NETWORK RESPONSES:



29,982
people helped during
international disasters



392.8
tonnes of food distributed
across Kenya, Somalia
and South Sudan



288,000
water purification tablets
distributed in Haiti after
Hurricane Matthew



1,060
back-to-school kits
distributed in Sri Lanka
following monsoon flooding

CHOSEN, the national teen leadership development program, has impacted the lives of dozens of young people from across Australia since it first started in 2008. The Naamaroo Conference Centre which borders Lane Cove National Park in Sydney was where the tenth anniversary of CHOSEN was held.

The outcomes from the 2018 CHOSEN have been no different. Be inspired as you read the comments that follow from those who attended from Victoria. We look forward to hearing and seeing what a difference our teens make back in their local church and community.



"It was a life changing experience which brought me closer to Jesus".

Chelsea Pitzner



Chosen was an amazing experience for me as it greatly boosted my self-confidence and has made me a more ambitious follower of Christ. It is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to become a passionate follower of Jesus.

Tinashe Madhuvu

What an experience! Chris and my self were privileged too go to this amazing spiritually encouraging week along with 90 other teens. The week was filled with different workshops on how we could be better leaders. It motivated us to step up and make a change, so we decided to do the talk in our school chapel. Thank you to all and a especially big thank you to our mentors Breanna and Michael.

Chloe Macgillivray



VIC
INSPIRATIONAL MINISTRIES
YOUTH

Chosen was a time to deeply explore who God is who I am and who I can be. I was left with some essential values to set me up for life and a spiritual fire burning within me. It also gave me some ideas on how to better improve and develop my church.

Charlton Townsend



Nominated by their local churches, delegates already had such servant hearts but it was a privilege to watch them grow even more. The group bonded together to encourage each other and formed friendships for life. I was inspired by their energy, resilience and passion to serve and grow their churches. I'm excited to see how God uses them in the future, I know they'll do great things for His Kingdom.

Brianna Hailey



The camp Chosen was a real spiritual moment for me, as it was really inspiring seeing any people my age being moved by the word of God. It gives me real motivation to pursue my ambitions for the Lord!

Melissa Chipomhi

I had a wonderful time at Chosen, it was good to connect with new faces and also it was a great and positive atmosphere. There was also encouraging words from the speaker and a blessed week.

Calvin Fauatea





Live With Purpose. The more I think about it, the more I realise this is what so many people are longing to do. Last night I listened to a video on Youtube where an atheist compares the views of the famous academics Sam Harris (atheist) and Jordan Peterson (believes in a higher power). The interesting thing was that the atheist concluded the video by saying that he had some disagreements with Sam Harris. He even hinted that he might be agnostic now, as compared to atheistic.

Why? Jordan Peterson had challenged him on the flaws of a naturalist world-view. The major flaw - there is no meaning to life in a naturalists world-view. According to the naturalist, we human beings came about by random chance and one day the universe will cool, implode, or wind up, and our species will cease to exist.

Notice how the former supreme court justice, and philosophical thinker, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr reflects on the Naturalist world-view: "If one thinks coldly a modern person has to admit that there is no reason for attributing to a man a significance

different in kind from that which belongs to a baboon or a grain of sand."

In other words, if I came about by random chance, and one day it's all going to wind up, what meaning does my life have? In reality, I'm no more valuable than a baboon or a grain of sand.

Some people, of course, will try to create their own purpose in things like family, riches or humanitarian aid. But when we look at the big picture, these things don't give a sufficient purpose.

Notice what the philosopher Professor Thomas Nagel says: "Even if you create a great work of literature which continues to be read thousands of years from now, eventually the solar system will cool or the universe will wind down and collapse and all trace of your effort will vanish... The problem is that although there are justifications for most things big and small that we do within life, none of these explanations explain the point of your life as a whole... It wouldn't matter if you had never existed. And after you have gone out of existence, it won't matter that you did exist."

The flaws of a naturalistic world-view. We can find meaning in the things we do day to day, in the relationships we have, in the pursuits of this life, but in this framework, there is no meaningful beginning and no hopeful future. No wonder so many people are troubled.

So where do we find purpose? I know a guy. He said something like this: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except

through me." – John 14:6

On the 13th and 14th and 20th - 21st of July VicYouth presented this Guy to the young people of Melbourne at an event called "Live With Purpose." We connected with our youth leaders and Life Group leaders and encouraged them to invite their non-Christian friends. Between 70-100 people attended the evening meetings and a number people made a decision to learn more about Jesus Christ. It is early days, but we feel God moving. We hope, dream, and pray that the missional movement that God is leading amongst our youth will continue to thrive!

Stay in tune for "Live With Purpose" 2019!

Simon Gigliotti



PS: Here is the link to video I mentioned in case you are interested - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBSOTY1rTtg&feature=youtu.be>



Path into Ministry

Jody Eddy came to Victoria in 2009, where she served her Internship at Burwood Church. She is currently serving at Warburton Church and in July, amidst family and friends, she was commissioned.

The first time Jody remembers wanting to give her life to follow Jesus was when she was four. Her Dad was having Bible studies and was planning his baptism... and she wanted to be baptised too. Thankfully her parents and the pastor took her request seriously and while they explained she should wait until she was older, they told her she could still dedicate her life to God right then.

Jody's parents became very involved in church life and she was always included – and this continued after her Dad became a pastor... They set a strong example of what it means to truly love and follow God.

A StormCo trip in 1993 highlighted what it meant to be the hands and feet of Jesus, impressing Jody to understand her faith for herself. Her father studied the Bible with her and hers was his first baptism after his ordination.

Sadly, during her university years, Jody stopped investing time in relationship with God and her faith wavered. September 11, 2001 shook her up – but it wasn't until Big Camp two years later she realised she really missed God and made changes in her life. Her Dad told her about a small group in her area that was hoping to plant a church. Jody started attending and this small group became a big part of her life.

By the time Southpine church plant began, Jody was a key member of the team. This was a unique experience – planting a church. Jody grew with the church and when it moved into becoming an official company and one of the requirements was to have a recognised leader, Jody was asked to take on this role.

And it was through being involved with Southpine that Jody truly reconnected with God and for that she is eternally grateful.

Jody was still enjoying her career path

within the Queensland Public Service. She always had a career plan in place and knew what steps she wanted to take next. In early 2006 during a meeting with a work mentor she realised she didn't care about the next steps anymore. She was negotiating for a shorter work week so she could work more on church projects, however walking back from her meeting a clear silent voice said "You know where you need to go next, full time ministry."

This did not sit comfortably and she spent much time in prayer but the Lord persisted. As Jody continued to resist, the story of Jonah continued to replay. Finally she chose to learn from his mistakes and accepted the call God had placed upon her heart.

Discussions with mentors and her parents affirmed her leadership and God's call on her life, in spite of their concerns about the hard road travelled, being a female pastor. So she commenced a graduate diploma in Ministry and Theology at Avondale in 2007 while working at the Central Coast Community Church with Pr Wayne Krause.

The Victorian Conference offered sponsorship during her last year and employment as an intern upon graduation.

Life was very full and busy being an intern but one thing was missing from her life, a partner. Thankfully God had that one covered too and Tim and Jody met at Burwood Church. God bought them together and Tim has been a wonderful partner in ministry, as well as husband and father. His skills complement hers and Jody firmly believes that while the original call to ministry was made when she was single, God led her to Tim and helped strengthen her abilities through him, and continues to call them to ministry as a team.



“It means a lot to me to be a Seventh-day Adventist – to belong to a worldwide church that is Bible based, Christ centred and mission focused. It's a world church with common practices according to General Conference policies and guidance.

I want you to know that the Victorian Conference has always set out to be compliant with the world Church. The leadership of the Victorian Conference and the Australian Union Conference are committed to following that guidance, and I know that is also true for South Pacific Division leadership. We're loyal to the world Church and committed to preaching our message – which, by the way, is a message that is second to none. We're committed to a focus on mission – to see more people ready for the soon coming of Jesus.

The Seventh-day Adventist Minister's Handbook, produced by the General Conference outlines that ordination and commissioning are an acknowledgement of God's call and set the individual apart and appoint that person to serve the Church in a special capacity. The person thus set apart becomes an authorized representative of the Church. By this act the Church delegates its authority to its ministers.

The Handbook, recognises ordination for men and commissioning for women in ministry.

The commissioning service for Jody Eddy followed what is outlined and the Church has formally acknowledged God's call on Jody, and has set her apart for continued service to the Church. Please pray that God will continue to bless Jody's ministry.”

*Graeme Christian
Conference President*

Education News

Gilson Mernda new Secondary Classroom Block

On the 18th of July, Gilson College, Mernda Campus, hosted the Deputy Premier and Education Minister, The Honourable James Merlino, who opened the new Secondary classroom and library block.

Mr Merlino was particularly keen to open the block as the State government contributed almost \$1 million dollars to the \$3 million project. As part of the opening, a group of students presented a musical item which they had composed.

The completed ground floor of the two storey building comprises a library, five classrooms, toilets and change rooms. The upstairs section which will be completed at a later date, allows for a further eight classrooms to be fitted out.

Both the principal, Mr Mark Vodell and the Director Adventist Schools Victoria,



Mr Brian Mercer were determined to see this building completed from the unfinished structure left from Acacia College. "Each day thousands of cars pass the school and completing this building is a promise to the community that Gilson Mernda is here to stay..." said Mr Mercer.

Gilson Mernda now has almost 200 students (Prep to Year 11) in attendance and commences Year 12 in 2019. The next project for development is an Early Learning Centre which is planned to be built in 2020.

*Brian Mercer
Education Director*



An Inaugural Event for Chaplains...



Adventist School Chaplains from around Melbourne met together at Nunawading Church late August.

It was the first time that school chaplains, counsellors and wellness staff have all met together along with other Adventists who are school chaplains in public or other private schools.

The group enjoyed sharing their experiences and resources and gaining new ideas and insights from each other. The group plan to repeat the experience in future!

*Darren Croft
Ministerial Secretary*



Our Schools

Edinburgh College

ELC to Year 12

Phone: 03 9728 2211

edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au

Gilson College

Foundation to Year 12

Taylors Hill Campus

Phone: 03 9365 9365

Mernda Campus

Phone: 03 9717 7300

www.gilsoncollege.com

Henderson College

Foundation to Year 10

Phone: 03 5024 5192

henderson.adventist.edu.au

Heritage College

ELC to Year 12

Narre Warren South Campus

Phone: 03 9796 0100

Officer Campus

Phone: 03 5943 2900

www.heritagecollege.com.au

Nunawading Christian College

ELC to Year 12

Primary Campus

Phone: 03 9878 9927

Secondary Campus

Phone: 03 9877 3555

ncc2.vic.edu.au

KINDNESS FROM A-Z

write down an act of kindness for each letter!

a _____
b _____
c _____
d _____
e _____
f _____
g _____
h _____
i _____
j _____
k _____
l _____
m _____

n _____
o _____
p _____
q _____
r _____
s _____
t _____
u _____
v _____
w _____
x _____
y _____
z _____

Choose an act of kindness to do from
your list each day for a week.
You can do this with your family or for
your family in secret to surprise them!

KIND WORD *WORDSEARCH*

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

GENEROUS
 SMILE
 GOODNESS
 COURTESY
 GENTLE
 UNSELFISH
 KINDNESS
 COMPASSION
 SWEETNESS
 HUMANITY

KINDHEARTED
 HOSPITABLE
 RANDOM
 THOUGHTFUL
 TENDERNESS
 UNDERSTANDING
 HELPFUL
 EMPATHETIC

No act of
 kindness, no
 matter how
 small, is ever
 wasted.

Kindness
 is the
 language
 which the
 deaf can hear
 and the blind
 can see.

Goodness is about character - integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage, and the like. More than anything else, it is about how we treat other people.

Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward... one day someone might do the same for you.

And then read with your family a story in the Bible of someone who was very kind even though he didn't know the other person.



Read Luke 10:25-37

Julie Catton
 Director of Children's Ministries
 03 9264 7777

Book Launch

Advent Brass Band

Launched at their recent fundraising concert, A Brief History by Milton Hook, tells the story of our Brass Band.

This band of volunteers, under the baton of William Gilson, followed by his son, Bruce, and grandson, Reynold, has engaged in numerous charitable functions, both civic and church, taken part in the Anzac Day marches through Melbourne city streets, given concerts, made disc recordings and toured interstate. Follow their story in this historical narrative from 1925 to 2017.



Our LE's at Work

Bright is situated in northeast Victoria. With only one Seventh-day Adventist living in the area, Pastor David Maxwell invited four Literature Evangelists to work in the area and find interests for the Wangaratta church to follow up. After faithfully visiting the homes, God blessed with seventeen people who will now be contacted and visited.

Late Friday afternoon Geoff Wall decided to do just one more call. An ambulance was parked near-by and he went over to say hello and introduce our Beyond DVDs. The officer thanked Geoff for his interest in her career. She accepted the DVD entitled, Pain. "As an ambo I meet with a lot of pain in both homes and accident scenes," she said.

Our team has many such God-led encounters. Please pray this work and consider inviting us to your church.

Joe Paola

Ground Breaking News

Pavilions Retirement Village Project

Dignitaries and special guests met together on the Nunwading Estate in July, to celebrate the commencement of works on the Pavilions Blackburn Lake project, with a sod-turning ceremony.

This momentous occasion, over ten years in the making, marked the end of one era and the beginning of the next. Conference President, Pr Graeme Christian spoke to the history of the Estate, the many memories our church members cherish of times spent at Big Camp and of the relationships and friendships made there. Our church use of the site was for the people and he pointed out that while going forward will, of necessity, involve change, the use of the old Nunawading Campground will continue to be for people, but a broader community now.

Galen Gan, Conference Infrastructure Coordinator, spoke of the development having 'broken the mould' of traditional retirement villages, by setting a new industry benchmark for village living.

"We wanted to match the Church's deep experience in promoting wellness and encouraging a holistic healthy lifestyle, with the active and fiercely independent spirit of today's retirees. We wanted to create a place that brings people together and complements the natural woodlands of our site with beautifully designed residences that provide a sensitive and harmonious link between the indoors and outdoors."

Very special guest Michael Sukkar MP, Federal Member for Deakin gave credit to the Church for persevering with a vision that has been a long time coming, stating that this was yet another way our Church has contributed to the local community.

Also in attendance, Cr Prue Cutts, City of Whitehorse local councillor, expressed the Council's appreciation for the thoughtful development and how it valued the state of the art, environmentally sensitive design and the Church's ongoing commitment to promotion of holistic living in the community.

Following the ground breaking ceremony dignitaries, Conference

staff and people who have expressed interest in the development or had already bought in were offered a tour of the site or could simply mingle.

One delighted lady, clearly excited about being there and looking forward to her new home, was heard to tearfully thank Pr Darren Croft who was MC for the morning, for opening and closing the proceedings with prayer. A Christian herself, she had not seen this done before and was so grateful.

Please continue to pray for this development which has such a great potential for sharing God's love to the community on so many levels.

Sherrie Courtney



To Know What Love Is

Victorian Adventist Adult Singles

I want to know what Love Is *was the topic for special guest presenter, David McGibben from Wahroonga SDA Church, at VAAS's annual weekend retreat in July.*

The 44 attendees appreciated Pr McGibben's presentation on Sabbath morning, and after an afternoon walk some of the members shared their testimony on how God has led them in their lives.

Saturday night we had a delicious Christmas in July dinner and then sat back, relaxed and enjoyed a movie.

As always, Elkanah in Marysville provided excellent accommodation and food. This annual winter event, with great presenters, fun and fellowship, is an encouraging time, and we would like to extend an invitation to those who are perhaps lonely and needing fellowship

to consider joining us next year. But why wait until then - come along to one of our monthly programs.

Call 0411 481 930 if you wish to go on the mailing list to be notified of all that is happening.

20th of October we will have a BYO Picnic at the Rhododendron Gardens in the Dandenongs, the 10th & 11th November weekend we go to Macedon Ranges and Daylesford and the 9th of December we visit the Imax theatre and have dinner in the city.

Come join us.

Cherryl Martens



NOTICES

These notices and more are available at Vic.Adventist.org.au under the News and Notices tab

- Sanitarium Scholarship for Victorian Year 12 students... **applications close SEPTEMBER 30 so hurry...**
- An invitation to join a SKYPE Prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings...
- Save the Date - Gilson College 30 Years Reunion - Saturday October 20 <https://bit.ly/2P9ynT6> to register.
- Fire wood for sale - proceeds to One Day Church Project

OCTOBER 19&20
M V M N T

WITH NIMROD MAUA
LYNDELLE PETERSON

lunch provided

• AFTERNOON WORKSHOP
WITH LYNDELLE

NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

NOTICES

The Official 2018 Big Camp Mission Offering Project

10,000 TOES Campaign
Showering our diabetes in the South Pacific

Also announcing a video competition highlighting the need in the South Pacific.

Great prizes. Go to www.10000toes.com for more info

Every year thousands of men, women and children in the South Pacific die as a result of type 2 diabetes. Thousands more lose their toes and limbs. Each loss is preventable. Your offering is going towards making diabetes health a reality.

Thank you Victoria for your generosity in donating \$38,000 for your Big Camp Mission Offering.

Visit www.10000toes.com for information, stories and more ways to get involved.

Victorian Adventist Adult Singles

MACEDON RANGES HOTEL & SPA
ACCOMMODATION | WEDDINGS | CONFERENCES

Weekend in Macedon Ranges

Date: 10th & 11th November 2018

9.30am Sabbath School & Church, 18 Barringo Rd, New Gisborne (fellowship lunch provided)

2.30pm Macedon Ranges Hotel & Spa 652 Black Forest Dve, Macedon

3.30pm Visit Hanging Rock & the gardens

6.00pm BYO Picnic Tea (sunset @ 8.15pm)

Sunday 11th November

8.00am Full breakfast provided

9.30am Drive to Daylesford Markets

1.00pm Lunch (your cost)

2.00pm Drive back to Melbourne

COST: \$125 (accommodation & breakfast)

BANK: Commonwealth BSB 063535 A/C 1048 0183

Travel: Car Convoy to be arranged

RSVP: 25th October

Phone: Cherryl 0411 481 930

Bring your swimmers for the Spa

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Worship Tour

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- Experience Scripture come to life
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