



March 23  
2019

# Reach Out...

## Make it Personal

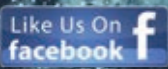


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Victorian Adventist  
COMMUNICATIONS

IntraVic Newsletter  
a publication of VAC



Victorian Adventists

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

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#### Cover Photo

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## A note from the Editor's Office



### The Time is NOW!

Can I be right up front with a couple of simple but direct questions?

With only weeks to the start of the 'Revelation Today' series, what is our most urgent need?

What will you do in those few weeks?

Who are you praying for? Who are you sharing with? Who will you bring along? Who will you invite?

We've already had Pr Gary Webster present his material on archaeology. Other events will be happening soon -- events friends can be invited to.

The Tut Road Show has just arrived in town, providing school communities the opportunity to see evidence of the truth of the Bible. Haven't heard about it? Google... I think you know what to do!

Gary Kent from the Incredible Journey will meet many from his television audience in the upcoming dinner events. Of course, that's another opportunity to bring a friend along.

Easter provides another great opportunity to connect with community people as they reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus our Saviour.

The Revelation Today series starts 3 May with John Bradshaw and Erik Flickinger. There'll be four venues across Melbourne. Plan now to attend and to bring a friend along. Many will watch live streaming online in addition to the crowds who can attend in person.

So what's our most urgent need? As a church? As individuals? We clearly have a job to do - one given to us by Jesus Himself when he gave the church its commission. Making disciples is so important and that involves teaching and baptising them. We have a plan - and we're working on that.

But what is our most urgent need?

"A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord.... A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer." E. G. White

Apparently we need prayer even more than we realise. So I have one more question.

Will you seek God anew? Will you pray?

The time is now!

*Graeme Christian*

## IntraVic September 2019

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Our Church News section this edition has been renamed! It is overflowing with stories from local churches, telling what they have been doing in the lead up to the Revelation Today series in May...

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We have had an increase in the numbers of field workers which is fantastic, as well as new members to the team, replacing those who transferred elsewhere. Here we introduce you to some of them...



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“It's really a huge blessing for us to partner with the Victoria Conference. Administration is wholeheartedly embracing sharing the gospel, church members are getting involved on the front lines and when you add media to the mix you've got a powerful collaboration. Really, it's a great example of how various entities can work together to advance the cause of Christ.”

*John Bradshaw  
It Is Written*



# They can never say... I Did Not Sing

**Jack was not raised an Adventist. In fact, he'd had almost no interaction with the Bible before finding a flyer offering free end-time prophecy videos in his letterbox. Interest piqued, he quickly ordered, received, watched...**

**And was amazed!**

The first video arrived and I was amazed at the content, it was so clear and simple. The Bible came alive right before my eyes and I was finally able to understand it and to see that it had prophecies that told what was going to happen. I was hooked!

As I have studied and shared Daniel I have been impressed by the trust that Daniel had in God. He'd received a proper education, worshipped each Shabbat, ate as instructed... An upstanding Jewish childhood. For all we know, his family was then murdered, his home destroyed and he was taken captive, transported to a foreign country and made a eunuch. Yet in the first chapter of Daniel we read how he made a decision for God – a decision which altered the course of his life. A decision that saw Daniel taking a stand on a simple issue of food and putting his trust in God. An action that stood witness to that trust, to those around him. An action that led his friends to put their lives on the line with him. Their steward saw this witness and subsequently put his life on the line. The ripples of this witness spread to others...

Daniel's life was not easy, but through the hard times he became a witness that still influences us today. Without those hardships, this would not have happened. Why not purpose in our hearts, here and now, to not wait for the inevitable hardships life throws at us, but to be the witnesses that Jesus is calling us to be, right now?

In the second chapter, Daniel has another chance to trust God. The king, angry that his wise men cannot tell him his dream and what it means, ordered the murder of every wise man in Babylon. Daniel and his friends fell into this category and responded by praying. This king who had stolen their entire existence was about to take their lives and, trusting their God, they prayed and then went to sleep. And God responded, giving Daniel both the dream and its meaning.

Daniel had totally relied on God. What a witness this is. He prayed and then went to sleep and we still read about this today! If Daniel had not gone to sleep then, if he had stayed awake worrying and fretting, there would be no book of Daniel. His witness would have ended.

It was because Daniel trusted God so

much that God was able to give him the answer to his prayer. He had no idea how God would answer, not even if He would answer, but he went to bed trusting God. Later in the book, Daniel's three friends were able to stand before the king and say "Even if our God does not save us, we will not bow down."

They all trusted God completely, were prepared to go on trusting even if they did not get the answers they hoped for.

Our witness should be one of complete trust in God. When things in life are easy we trust Him, and when things in life are broken we, trust Him. Even if.

Daniel returned to the King with the dream and its meaning, requesting he quit killing the wise men. When we experience salvation in our lives, we have this change of heart where we want others to be saved. Daniel experienced this. First, he cared about saving his life and the lives of his friends, but then he wanted the other wise men to be saved too.

When we are experiencing God in our lives we can't help but become a powerful witness for God.

Daniel recounted the dream and its meaning. The King had a longing in his heart to know the future and God delivered. The message of the dream, its purpose, extended to all who heard it. Even to us today. The Book of Daniel tells us there is a God in heaven who knows what we are going through. A God who cares and shares with us. Daniel told the king that his God not only loved him, but He loved the king too. By showing love to the king and his wise men, Daniel lived the principle that Jesus taught. Love your enemy. These people destroyed Daniel's life, then threatened to do it all over again, yet he shared love with them.

This king who could command anything, wanted more. A longing the things of this world could not satisfy. Only Jesus could fill the longing. Through Daniel God shared His love and because of this, the murdering bully king eventually surrendered his life to the King of the universe. All because Daniel trusted God completely and lived that trust.

The most requested recording from Carnegie Hall, a famous event centre for the performing arts, is not one of the



Your life, which may not always be easy, is your witness. Choose to trust Jesus, even if...

Jack Phillips is part of the It Is Written team that will be in Melbourne during May. He is the IIW Bible Worker Coordinator

Beatles'. It is of Florence Foster Jenkins who was a true lover of the arts. She helped support music and other arts in her community, but she also loved to sing herself. Having trained from a young age she loved to perform and often sang for friends and small audiences. Finally, she was ready to perform at a large centre. Many had heard of her and longed for their chance to see her live, and the tickets sold out quickly.

When she began to sing, however, the crowd began to laugh. She sang with all her heart, but they just laughed the louder. It turned out that she was a very poor singer.

Soon after, she passed away, but before doing so, it is reported that she said "They may say that I cannot sing, but they can never say that I did not sing."

Your life - which may not always be easy... may even be hard - is your witness. Choose to trust Jesus no matter the hardships or eases in life. Choose that no matter what, your life will be a good witness. Some may say you don't know how to, that you can't witness, but never let it them say that you did not.



# Bigger Than the Ashes

Written by Eric Flickinger  
ASSOCIATE SPEAKER, IT IS WRITTEN

If you could somehow bend the realities of time and assemble the greatest Australian Ashes XI ever, who would you put on the team?

*Adam Gilchrist. Shane Warne. Glenn McGrath. Matthew Hayden. Justin Langer. Ricky Ponting. Who would don the Baggy Green against England?*

If it were up to you, what combination of players would yield the greatest likelihood of overwhelming success? While there is no doubt that certain players may stand out in your mind over others, there is also no doubt that teamwork is essential if victory is to be achieved. Victory doesn't happen if it's each man for himself.

And while there is no doubt that teamwork is essential when it comes to besting the Old Enemy in cricket, there is a greater enemy with whom we are called to contend. And if we think that we are able to sit and watch this test as spectators, we will find out all too soon

that we will be bested, to the chagrin of the Greatest Captain ever.

Beginning May 3 in four locations across Melbourne (and others in surrounding region), all of the area churches are banding together to help bring the gospel message to millions who desperately need it. And if this effort is to be a success, it will be in large part due to the teamwork exercised by members of our metropolitan churches.

And what can you do to help this be a resounding success? To begin with, find out from your pastor which venue your church will be working with. Then decide that you want to be more than just a spectator. You want to be one of the proverbial XI!

**Here are some things you can do to be a part of the greatest evangelistic team that Melbourne has ever seen.**

1. The greatest asset for the success of an evangelistic effort is a church in good, spiritual condition. The greatest hindrance to soul winning is a church where sin is being practiced and where friction and misunderstandings exist. We are told that God is too wise to bring people into some of our churches at present because of the spiritual condition of the church. Clear the King's Highway in your own life by putting away every known sin. Go the second mile in bringing about reconciliation with anyone in the church with whom you have had difficulty. The spirit of love and unity in the church, the Saviour said, reveals to

others that we are His disciples.

2. Prayer and soul winning are inseparable. So:
  - a) Make a prayer list for yourself. Write the names of 10-15 people who you would like to see come to the seminar. Don't just think about making the list. Actually write it.
  - b) Pray earnestly in your private devotions for these specific individuals, for the church, and for the seminar.
  - c) Pray earnestly in family worship for specific unsaved friends or relatives.
  - d) Pray earnestly at all church services for God's blessing on the seminar and for a great ingathering of souls into the church.

It would be well to take a minute or two during the Sabbath School service while the church is still in classes to pray for those on prayer lists. Pray for one and then another until they come in.

3. Furnish your evangelistic team all the names you can for their mailing list. Especially remember former members and people who have attended our church meetings before.

4. Surrender yourself to God for service and ask Him to help you lead at least one soul to Christ and His truth.

5. Prepare yourself for more efficient service by taking a Bible training course.

6. Besides the individuals you will work for, take a specified territory of one or

more blocks as your special missionary field. Work this area consistently with tracts, missionary books, handbills, and personal visits, endeavouring to secure openings in one or more homes for Bible studies. Do prayer walking in this area regularly.

7. Prepare the soil by making friendly contacts with your neighbours and friends before the seminar begins. Visit especially those on your prayer list. Win their confidence by doing them a favour. Show them Christ's love in action. This is essential just before the series begins.

"If we would humble ourselves before God and be kind and courteous and tender-hearted and pitiful, there would be 100 conversions where there is now one." Testimonies, Vol. 9, p. 189

8. ATTEND EVERY MEETING YOU POSSIBLY CAN of the evangelistic series. A large attendance demonstrates interest and attracts more people. Many seminar guests wonder why our members are missing. Even if you think you've heard it all before, your presence speaks loudly to others that you believe what is being shared. And chances are actually pretty good that you'll learn something new during the series. So go to [RevelationToday.com.au](http://RevelationToday.com.au) and book your seat.

9. Take responsibility in the effort according to your ability and special aptitudes. Have a high sense of responsibility. Find where the Lord can use you and allow Him to use your gifts to bless others.

10. Be gracious to all who attend. Put yourself out to welcome the guests. Smile and greet them, but don't overwhelm them with too much attention.

11. Guard your words during the effort:
  - a) Do not discuss doctrines with those attending before they are presented by the speaker.
  - b) Be especially guarded in

discussing controversial and advanced subjects such as health reform and the Spirit of Prophecy. It might be better to secure the help of the pastor, evangelist or Bible worker in the presentation of these subjects even with those with whom you are personally working. These subjects prove a stumbling block to many that are otherwise interested in the truth. Many have stopped attending the meetings because some zealous church member has said too early, "You must give up pork and alcohol."

- c) Endeavour to avoid using such terms as remnant church, Sister White, the Spirit of Prophecy or Three Angels' Messages before the evangelist presents these terms and topics, to avoid confusion.
- d) Do not be critical or condemn other churches and their ministers.
- e) Do not criticize the evangelist or the seminar if things are not conducted just as you think they should be.

12. Be responsive to invitations. Register for the seminar, take and fill out cards for all items offered and respond to all appeals you can honestly respond to. By your example, you encourage others to do the same.

13. During the effort make as many short, friendly visits as you can to interested people you have invited but who have not yet attended, to encourage them to attend. Arrange transportation if needed. Don't give up when they don't attend immediately. Keep inviting. Offer to take them to the meeting if necessary.

14. In visiting those who have slipped away from the truth:
  - a) Do not condemn them for their mistakes. They already know they have done wrong. Mention how Christ has helped you in specific ways.
  - b) Do not enter into arguments with them over old issues.
  - c) We are instructed to study the

parable of the "lost sheep" in working for those who have backslidden, and our hearts are to be filled with the love of the Good Shepherd.

- d) Tell them the Lord loves them, the hour is late, and "we would be so happy to have you worship with us again".

15. Carry on your heart a burden for souls and ask God to use you not only to lead someone to Christ and His truth, but also to see them well established.

16. Never view any person as hopeless. The Spirit of God can touch and soften the stony heart. Never give up hope. Have faith that God can and will use you to spread the gospel and introduce others to Christ.

17. Finally, invite them to join you in Christian service that they in turn may become workers together with God.

18. By uniting our efforts in this way, experience has proven that souls will find Christ.

Here is our recipe for success:

**"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" -Ministry of Healing, page 143**

If we are united with Jesus in this effort to share the gospel with Melbourne, we will see great success. Someday, one of your neighbours may very well greet you in the kingdom and say, "If it hadn't been for you, I wouldn't be here today."

And that would put your name on a list greater even than the Ashes XI.

Welcome to the team.





# Ancient Prophecies Unlock the Future

## REVELATION TODAY

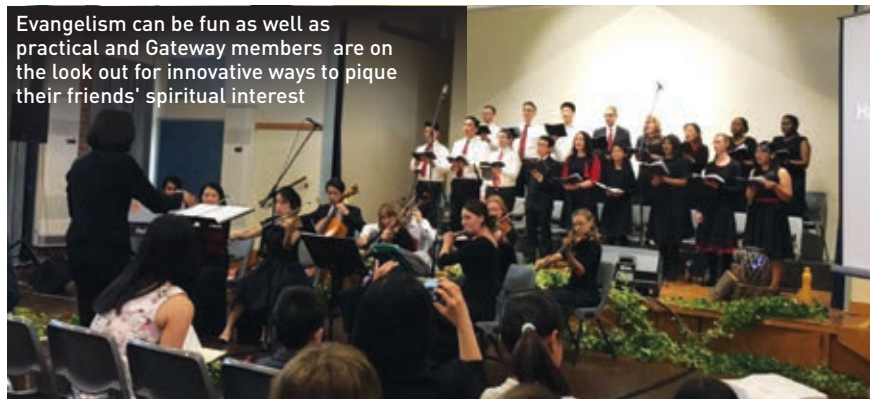
Starting the beginning of May, Revelation Today is an evangelistic series presented by *It is Written* presenter, John Bradshaw, as part of our Conference's strategic five-year plan for evangelism, which has been called Harvest Victoria.

In the lead up to the May series, Revelation Today, a number of our churches have been involved in various activities, making connections with their local communities and seeking out people who are themselves searching for something more. This edition we are sharing some of their stories with you. If you, or your church, have not become involved yet, it is not too late. Harvest Victoria is a strategy, and you can still be part of it. It should in fact be integral in every day life, not just for five years but with no endpoint - looking for ways to share Christ intentionally, with those who are searching.

Who do you know, who might be interested in attending Revelation Today? As we have been learning with this Quarter's Lesson Study, the book of Revelation is the story of Jesus, how He is still in control, knows what we are going through, and in spite of all that is happening, holds our best interests in the palm of His hand... On His side, who can stand against us. What a message of hope for those living in a time of corruption, terrorism, fear and uncertainty.

## Evangelism is Fun...

Evangelism can be fun as well as practical and Gateway members are on the look out for innovative ways to pique their friends' spiritual interest



At Gateway, we are always looking for new and fun ways to share the Good News.

In December our Clayton members organised a Christmas program called *The Priceless Gift*. Guest musicians and singers combined efforts to bring the program to life and the experience was a small taste of heaven! The audience overflowed the original hall capacity, God blessing us with over 270 attendees including new friends from the community to whom visitor bags containing the book *Desire of Ages* were given. Members mingled and socialised with visitors during the free lunch after the program.

There is much gain in personal effort! The feedback from the community was very positive so we set our eyes on the Easter season to run a similar event. In early April, again in Clayton, we will host *Timeless Love*, narrated by Pr. Gary Kent of *The Incredible Journey*. He will walk us through the story of the Great Controversy with specially selected songs and narrative. We are excited to invite our friends to hear the gospel.

Joanne Rodrigues



Dr David Rankin (below) spoke to attendees of the Dinner with a Doctor hosted by Glenhuntly



Sing Le (with Sue Robinson) has been attending the Overcoming series for nearly eighteen months...

## Dinner with...

Last November, Glenhuntly Church held its very own "Aussie" version of the celebrated "Dinner with the Doctor" program. Twenty two participants – eighteen from the community – attended the dinner and listened to Glenhuntly Church's own Dr. David Rankin speak on the benefits to the heart and overall health and wellbeing of a plant-based diet.

Banquet-style courses of vegan nibbles, mains and desserts – ably prepared by Alex Bolek and his daughter Hilary - were served to each table by a team of helpers during the talk. There was opportunity for participants to ask questions and discuss issues among themselves.

A church volunteer was seated at each table to help get conversation flowing and let participants know just what a friendly, fun bunch we all are!

Everyone received a gift pack of goodies, dinner recipes and promotions of other upcoming events. One attendee also received Sue Radd's cook book: *Food as Medicine*.

Participant verdict - The night was great!

Deb O'Mahony

## Overcoming

Nunawading Church has been hosting for its community a general interest series for nearly three years. Topics are often related to mental health issues and other topics like Emotional Intelligence, Body Language and Work/Life Balance.

Sing Le has been coming for half of that time and has made a number of changes for the better. She recalls how *Comfort Zone* suggested she be proactive in her life, and how helpful tips from *Insomnia* assisted her sleep.

Another lady named Sarah was present at the Self Esteem talk. In the discussion it was suggested that someone looking for work submit at least one application per day. Unemployed, Sarah took this to heart and within several days, she was accepted for a night shift job at a local fast food outlet.

Our main objective is to provide attendees with helpful alternatives that will assist them in their every day lives.

The series runs for an hour every Monday night at 7pm (except during school holidays). Please call me if you would like to know more about our program.

Bernie Robinson  
0413 246 237



## Harvest Victoria Events Early 2019

- January • Harvest Training
- March • Dinners with Gary Webster: Ancient Mysteries  
• Prayer Summit with Jerry and Janet Page  
• King Tut Roadshow  
• Invite a Friend to Church Day
- April 1-4 • Dinners with Gary Kent - Solving the Messiah Mystery
- April 6 • His Timeless Love with Gary Kent and Gateway
- April 20 • Invite a Friend to Church day

**REVELATION TODAY Commences:**  
7pm Friday May 3 • The Drum, Dandenong  
with John Bradshaw,  
• Plenty Ranges  
Arts and Convention Centre, South Morang with Eric Flickinger,

2pm Saturday May 4 • Gilson College, Taylors Hill with John Bradshaw,  
• Box Hill Pavilion with Eric Flickinger,

Revelation Today will **livestream** from [VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU](http://VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU) for those unable to attend.

Please visit [VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU](http://VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU), call 1800 519 560 or download the app to register attendance, and for further info re locations and schedule of events.





# Church News

## A Bright Light in the Suburbs

*One dark night, the residents of the suburb of Saltwater (near Point Cook) may have wondered why so many youngsters were making their way to their brightly lit community centre.*

If they had ventured to look inside, they would have seen a hall overflowing with young people, silent, with their heads bowed, deep in prayer.

The Point Cook SDA Church, a light in the darkness, was hosting a community youth dinner, an initiative of Werribee/Point Cook youth, who were inspired to be a part of their church's involvement in Harvest Victoria.

Without a doubt, if Point Cook Church's dinner was any indication, *Revelation Today* in May is going to reap abundantly; each Adventist youth was asked to bring a non-Adventist friend with him or her.

"I was surprised how they took to heart the bring-a-friend thing," said Pr Danijela Trajkov. "You should have seen them coming in and out, waiting at the door for their friends, the smiles on their faces as their friends arrived. For most of them that was the first experience they have had of what it means to bring someone to church."

Initially, we had planned to cater for only 80 youths however we had over 120 young people attend, with half that number being new friends. Spending this time with our Adventist youth, these young people saw first hand how you can have fun without alcohol and other stimulants.

Fittingly, Pastor Danijela led the opening prayer, asking for blessings upon all and praying that the Holy Spirit be present.

Generally, the adults kept a low profile, allowing the youth to host the event; they tackled the task with aplomb. They also need to be congratulated on decorating the venue, as well as ensuring that every table was adorned to reflect such a joyous occasion.

Reminiscent of the miracle of the feeding of the 5000, the young, healthy, appetites (and unexpected numbers) stretched our resources, but everyone was served in a timely manner, with

sufficient food.

Certainly the Holy Spirit was moving amongst the attendees, as they were entertained (and instructed) by the youth with skits on living a Christian life in a fallen world, Christian music and some words of wisdom, with references to the Bible, from a member of an older generation.

Importantly, many new friendships and connections were kindled in a atmosphere of joy and celebration; a night buzzing with life in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Pr Danijela certainly received requests from Adventist and non Adventist alike - "When will we have another dinner, that was so good and fun."

And who knows... maybe some of those neighbours who noticed what was happening may have their interest

piqued, wondering about such a light in their darkness.

*Robert Bryson*

In December, Church members hosted another dinner, their End of the Year Community Dinner, inviting contacts and non churched family members. Over 80 people came.

Another outreach that the members of Pt Cook and Werribee congregations do is door knocking several times per week, searching for those who are seeking to understand the Bible. Recently a group of teens found three people interested in Bible Study, in less than an hour door knocking. The need now is for more 'labourers' than ever before to follow up these contacts and study God's word with them regularly.

And early March saw church members again involved, this time with the Gary Webster's program Ancient Mysteries Reveal the Future, a Dinner with Gary, held in Keilor.

**How is your church working for God's Harvest? The harvest is plentiful, and there is always room for more workers.**



Bright smiles and lots of fun, Point Cook youth enjoyed their one for one dinner and sharing Christ in this way



## Jump into Health

*There was a good turnout for a Healthy Living Expo run by Hamilton church with the help of Pastor Don Sforcina and his wife Aileen.*

Cooking demonstrations, health checks, juicing and smoothies with free tasting, computerised Health Age tests and short health presentations were all part of the Expo and there was a steady stream of visitors from the community. Additionally, community businesses ran health-related stalls. Best of all, a prior mayor of Hamilton provided live background music. He was also instrumental in helping organise an article in the local newspaper, and provide contacts with the Shire council. Hamilton's Senior Citizens Centre, located on a main thoroughfare of the town, was an ideal venue.

A number of advertising platforms were used, helping ensuring a good turnout. Sister churches around the Western district lent a hand to the small group in Hamilton during the Expo.

The Expo was followed up with *Jump into Health*, a series of weekly healthy living workshops. Registrations for the workshops exceeded 40, and the number attending totalled 36, with 18 receiving certificates of completion on the final day.

The presentations were well-received, with wide interest in continuing to learn more with follow-up meetings. One attendee has expressed interest in attending church services. A depression recovery series is planned for early 2019.

*Peter Tung*



## A Reason to Sing

*It was with great anticipation that Westpoint company applied to be considered for full church status in the Victoria conference, and they are very excited for the future now it has been approved.*

Meeting in the auditorium of the St Albans Meadows Primary School, this congregation has a strong social ministry as it's core outreach focus and their meetings combine traditional preaching with good fellowship and amazing Filipino food. They hold regular Saturday night meetings that combine Bible study, preaching and fellowship. This ministry has resulted in close to twenty baptisms over the last few years.

The church also has a growing youth ministry that runs the worship on a quarterly basis, holds youth social events and has the mission to attract youth to Jesus. This emphasis flows down to teen and child involvement in music worship, with free music lessons often held in the afternoon.

Westpoint embraces a simple vision and mission as a basis for accountability in living out the gospel commission. That vision is to be the face of Jesus Christ in their community. Through this vision they want to fulfil the mission of prayer, invitation to worship, nurture and fellowship of the community and fellow believers, and be a growing centre of influence in the west side of Melbourne.

Attendance has grown from 45 attendees at its formation to 85 attending services each week.

Next steps for Westpoint include continuing to grow and expand their influence in the west, and to continue in prayer for God to provide a permanent home for this rapidly expanding church.

*Justin Bone*



## Vanuatu Trip

*Nunawading Church Men's Ministry wanted to do something that assists a community as well as improve the bonding and authenticity between men, fathers and their sons at church.*

So last year we went on a Fly and Build, helping with some of the building work at El Haven on the outskirts of Port Vila, Vanuatu. This whole project was established on faith and a strong desire to be of assistance to the Vanuatuan people.

El Haven is a Mother-Baby refuge and is being built for local single (and hence ostracised) mothers and their unwanted babies, to save the mother the heartbreaking choice of either aborting or giving birth and leaving the baby in the jungle.

We also visited the prison on both Sabbaths, worshipping with the men. The Deputy Commissioner for Prisons accompanied us and gave a very encouraging message followed by a personal hand shake with each prisoner.

Plans are underway for more service. *Anthony Henriques*





# Conference News

## Pressing together and moving forward...

*Truly the harvest in Victoria is ready, and looking ahead we can confidently say that God will be with us as we humbly serve Him in 2019.*

May we continue to pray for a deeper experience with Christ, that as we go forward with our hearts softened and filled with His Spirit, we will be used as God's channels for communicating His blessings to others.

I love the quote in Colporteur Ministry page 154, "As the end draws near, the work of God is to increase in full strength and purity and holiness. The workers are to be filled with love for God and for one another... Let us ever remember that we are labourers together with God."

As a church we have been blessed with many different ministries all playing their part to carry forward the everlasting gospel in our Victorian harvest field. In unity there is strength, and as we minister in our different callings, understanding that we are labourers together with God, we will be used as His vessels to hasten the return of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

### As Literature Evangelists we will...

1. Continue to connect our contacts with church members and Pastors
2. Encourage many in the community to come along to our church services and programs
3. Further encourage church members to distribute literature
4. Grow the Literature Ministry team
5. Sell and give away many message books into the community.

Recently two more LE contacts were baptised. Thok PaI, our part-time LE and currently studying at Avondale, had the joy of seeing Nyahok Kim and Nyamach Khat baptised. Pr Russell

Puna writes, "It was beautiful. On the Edithvale beach in front of the Sudanese members and beach goers. Celebration songs from the choir in their robes. A good witness!"

Looking back over the 30 plus years of working as a full-time Literature Evangelist I have seen many LE contacts give their lives to Christ and be baptised. Literature distribution is ordained by God and is a part of God's great plan in these last days before Jesus returns. "And in a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory." CM page 4.

Let's all be involved! The harvest in Victoria is truly ripe and one way that we can be involved is to share literature and books with our friends and neighbours. Every piece of literature distributed is an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to touch some life for the kingdom of God. You can make a difference in someone's life today. Lead your church into widely distributing our publications and watch the powerful difference it makes in the growth of your church. God will honour your faithfulness and do something special through your efforts.

Wanting books like Steps to Christ, Great Controversy etc for mass distribution? Considering inviting an LE team to your church neighbourhood, contact me on 0421 028 171 or lejoe@tpg.com.au

Books are our assistants, they keep influencing minds and touching hearts long after we are gone!

*Joe Paola  
Conference LE Team Leader*



## It is Written... Free to Air

*A key part of the Harvest Victoria initiative will be Revelation Today, hosted by popular It Is Written speakers, John Bradshaw and Eric Flickinger.*

With *It is Written* soon returning to Australian television, this will be a great opportunity to raise public awareness of Pastor Bradshaw. Invitations to Revelation Today will also be sent out to the 11,000 Victorians who have previously enrolled in courses through Adventist Media's Hope Channel Bible School or have recently requested *It Is Written* material.

Hope Channel director, Pastor Wayne Boehm, said it is an amazing opportunity for Adventist Media to collaborate with the Victorian Conference and local churches.

"There are not many opportunities that come along like this. We try to partner with local churches when they are running events, but it rarely happens on a conference-wide basis. So this is huge both for Victoria and for us."

While in Victoria last year, Pastor Bradshaw — who has been hosting *It Is Written* since 2011 — filmed three new episodes.

"Once *I/W* returns to air, there will be four Adventist programs on Australian free-to-air television, which is very significant," Pr Boehm said. "It gives us an opportunity to be in people's homes right across Australia, allowing people to have access to the gospel message."

*Tracey Bridcutt  
Adventist Media*



It is Written will soon return to air on Sunday mornings on free-to-air station 7 TWO.

## Joining Christ...

*Late January saw a four-day training event focusing on how to lead people to Jesus.*

Topics ranged from building bridges and developing relationships to sharing your testimony and how to lead through a Bible study. The training was led by Pr Andrew Jasper (Personal Ministries Director) as well as the team from *It Is Written* who flew in from the United States for the weekend. Yves Monnier, Eric Flickinger and Jack Phillips shared presentations and Jack joined the attendees in door-to-door work in the afternoons.

Sylvia Mendez attended and said "Yves' presentation was one of the best I've heard on how to present the gospel in a simple and visual way, using an A5 piece of paper and pen. Anyone can do it and everyone should know how easy it is to share the good news."

"The weekend has given me a usable toolkit to embark on the challenging journey of bringing people to Christ," said Steven Wong. "It has significantly lifted my ability and passion to share the Gospel at every opportunity. The training not only equipped us with the necessary skills, but the trainers shared their collective experience, making the training extremely practical."

The weekend concluded calling each attendee to commit to bringing five friends to the Revelation Today series in May. Attendees left inspired to share Jesus and grow God's family in Victoria.

Pr Andrew Jasper said the weekend was a great success. "What we've seen since the training completed is a good number of Bible Study requests coming back from the door to door work members have done. The training has unlocked their potential and given them the tools and confidence to share Jesus in their communities."

*Fraser Catton*



150 local church members, pastors and Bible Workers from across Victoria came together for Joining Christ in the Harvest training.



## Investing...

*Peter Hodgkin is a property investor and sees a spiritual aspect to property investment as stewards of what God has given. He has particular concern for his tenants.*

"Wouldn't Jesus want us to try and reach them for Him?" he asks. "What if every Adventist who owned an investment property took out a Signs subscription 'for 'The Resident' of their property and made it a matter of prayer?"


Peter has put his idea into practice for his own tenants. "It's nice to think there will be people in heaven who have heard the gospel message through this means," he says as he encourages Adventist property investors to 'sign up a tenant to life' and look forward to meeting them in heaven.

Evangelism doesn't have to be an event on the calendar with advertising and an international presenter. It also happens one-on-one. It's what flows naturally from your life with God and into your everyday relationships. Who are the people you come into regular contact with who don't yet know Jesus? What are you doing to expand your friendship network for the kingdom? And, whether or not it involves a magazine designed for outreach like Signs, what's the next step God is asking you to take?


Kent Kingston  
Editor,  
Signs of the Times  
[signsofthetimes.org.au](http://signsofthetimes.org.au)








# TOO YOUNG TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



# NEVER



We had three Summer Camps which ran back-to-back beginning the second week of January with a number of people going straight from Molesworth to Howqua! GAP Camp (16-18 years) was attended by 29 young people and Pr Annalise Lindsay, from Springwood Church in Queensland, shared the Word on what it means to Lead like Jesus.

The highlight of GAP Camp was TJ Jordan's baptism on Sabbath afternoon, a decision he made at Summer Camp last year. Many of TJ's family and friends were able come to Camp Howqua to share in this high point in his life.

At the baptism, three more young people responded to an appeal and as a result and we are looking forward to another baptism at GAP Camp in 2020.

The Teen Camp speaker was Travis Siutu from South Australia. He spoke on current issues facing teenagers and how Jesus can help us at every step of our journey.

Pr Ian Cangy was the speaker for our Juniors and he too encouraged his listeners to Lead Like Jesus. This was the summer camp theme, followed by the tag line, 'Too young to make a difference? Never!'

We have had an ever-increasing number of non-Christian attendees across all Summer Camps, as our young people invite their non-churched friends to come; some of these young people put their hands up for Bible studies too!

Summer Camps still prove to be an effective witnessing tool, even to those who are unchurched. Please continue to pray for this ministry moving forward into the future.



**JUNIOR CAMP – 62 ATTENDEES**  
56 committed to Lead Like Jesus  
39 requested Bible Studies  
39 expressed interest in baptism  
31 asked for prayer

**TEEN CAMP – 67 ATTENDEES**  
51 committed to Lead Like Jesus  
38 requested Bible Studies  
23 expressed interest in baptism  
20 asked for prayer  
33 wanted to join a teen group



Converge had the biggest turn out since it began four years ago with 380 youth and young adults from across Australia coming together at Stuart's Point on the Central Coast. Victoria was well represented with 70 young people attending - the largest contingent of any conference!

A team of Victorian young people (led by Matt Courtney, Burwood Church) led us into worship every morning and evening. Pr Tacyana Nixon, from Andrews University, took us on a journey of understanding God's heart - we were reassured that in our mess and brokenness, God loves us with an everlasting love and cares about us more than we know; He's even interested in the monotonous moments of our lives - like when we lose our keys!

Pr Simon Gigliotti took a practical spin, discussing what

makes a good leader? He shared tips on how to lead well, with practical steps for young people to take back to their local churches.

During one of his sessions, he made a call for young people to step up into courageous leadership including those eager to plant churches, revitalise their local churches or study ministry and theology. It was truly inspiring to see the willingness of our young people to be used by God!

They have returned from the conference with fresh perspectives of God and with a desire to serve their local church and communities. Many are inspired to start missional life groups and get involved in outreach. We look forward to seeing how God will use them in the months to come.



Camporee took place the first week in January. 3000 pathfinders from all corners of Australia met at Molesworth, an hour's drive north of Lilydale, for this event. Although it was hot (several 40 C days!) this did not prevent our pathfinders from having a great time!

There were six activities centred on stories from the life of Paul, some utilising the natural contours and billabongs of the camporee property.

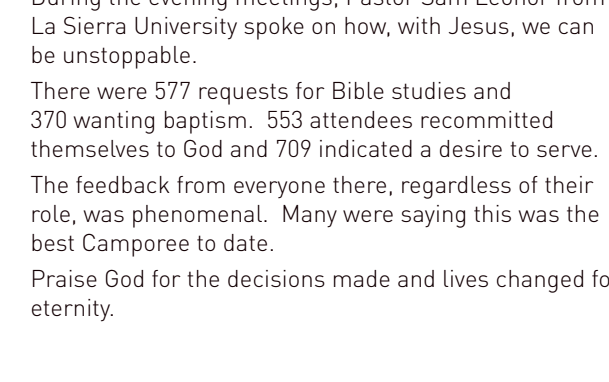
The purpose of these activities was to encourage teamwork and comradery and the attendees loved meeting new friends and reconnecting with old ones.

During the evening meetings, Pastor Sam Leonor from La Sierra University spoke on how, with Jesus, we can be unstoppable.

There were 577 requests for Bible studies and 370 wanting baptism. 553 attendees recommitted themselves to God and 709 indicated a desire to serve.

The feedback from everyone there, regardless of their role, was phenomenal. Many were saying this was the best Camporee to date.

Praise God for the decisions made and lives changed for eternity.





## Engaging the Community - Sowing the Seed

**A harvest happens when the right elements have been planted...**

In ADRA's world, planting love, compassion, mercy and justice may lead people who have never heard of Jesus to start wondering who you are and what you stand for. Through the acts of giving and service to others,

your light shines so bright it draws people to wanting to know its source, the source your hope and joy... Christ.

ADRA can help your church build this bridge of love and acceptance so that people in your communities who are experiencing pain and suffering can, like us, lift their eyes to the source of

their help, and ultimately share in our great hope at the final Harvest.

Psalm 121 NIV. <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? <sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth... <sup>4</sup>Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

*Rebecca Auriant*

## Harvest Connections in Rural Victoria Engage Community



### Traralgon

The Traralgon Adventist Church' vision is to "Grow people and community through growing plants, connecting with others and working together on common ground." Their last family day in the garden started to realise this vision for the future....

"It is a work in progress. We have two families coming to the garden," says Pr Matej. "One single mother has brought her kids and they have helped in planting and watering. Most of the work is still being done by our church members but our biggest crop (Corn) was all planted by toddlers and young children and you should see the ears of corn already ripe.

"We have used the produce to reach out to the community. Just last week someone gave us a \$10 donation after receiving some of our veggies."



### Longwarry

The Longwarry Adventist Church operates an op shop once a month from a shipping container located on the church property.

"We are building relationships with some of the locals, through our market day and food parcels, we have several interested in healthy eating/vegetarian cooking classes. We have built a good relationship with the local school after responding to one of their children in crisis, and are reaching out beyond our boundaries. Assisting people with food, groceries, some furniture and the sense that there is someone out there willing to help when things get tough." - Clint and Ronny (pictured)

Clint and Ronny also support the Saturday night homeless outreach at Queen Victoria Market.



### Bairnsdale

The Bairnsdale's ADRA Op Shop provides a "Food and Friendship" drop-in service, supporting over 50 families every week with food parcels. "As well as a drop-in centre, we deliver about 60 packages per week to those who can't drop in," says Marilyn, the op shop manager. "We also deliver to about 20 drought-stricken families in the Buchan area every three weeks and pay monthly visits to food centres in Orbost and Sale. Additionally we provide weekly support to a local school breakfast program, a local maternal and child welfare centre and the local indigenous centre.

"Many of the local agencies we work have clients who are lonely, or suffer from anxiety and depression, and having an environment where they feel safe and loved is so important. Our friendship team do a wonderful job in providing this environment."

## Community Garden at Springvale Spanish Church...

*In February, six students with disabilities commenced employment under the Federal Government's Disabled Australian Apprenticeship Wage Scheme at the ADRA Community Centre.*



The students will establish gardens and sell produce to Chinese markets across the south-east providing income for centre, in partnership with Asian Australian Business Women's Association Inc and Afri - Aus Care. Jonathon Loveridge (pictured in blue), homeless just two years ago and supported by ADRA's Vive Café in Croydon, was baptised into the Oasis Adventist Church. He now supervises

the students and loves engaging with them in the horticulture Cert 2 apprenticeship, making use of his own farming background. ADRA is also working on a proposal with Chisholm TAFE to provide a pilot program which will consist of CALD former offenders spending two weeks learning how to weld and then devoting at least a week to volunteering in the local community using their new skills (welding) and any existing skills to make a difference.



### Echuca

"Small congregations sometimes struggle to make an impact on their local community. Echuca members believe they have found a working formula. They run a monthly stall at the Moama Market. This is the largest market run in the twin towns of Echuca/Moama. They partner with Haven, Home Safe who provide assistance to those experiencing hardship and homelessness in the wider region. This not only provides funds for Haven, Home Safe but also raises the profile of the church using ADRA as the vehicle. An added bonus is that it gets our members used to interacting with the general public." - Jack Spencer



### Ballarat

The Ballarat Adventist Church raised \$3627 for the annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser and \$4157 in October for the 2018 ADRA! They have also been proactive in their local community supporting the foodbank program for the most vulnerable in Ballarat. Thank you to the ADRA Regional Leader Peter Ashworth for connecting the local church to the community. "We have seen connections made with our community," says Peter. "Some have led to people being interested in our health message. Other agencies appreciate our pro-active presence in the community and we are building bridges.

"ADRA is helping us move from being a transactional church (once per week) to a transformational church. Through giving we in turn are blessed."



## And the Winner Is...

After the ADRA Appeal last year, Victoria ran a competition, where entrants kept their tin for a little longer, to see who could collect the most.

The winner is Ros Reid from Ballarat Church.

Ros raised a total of \$815.15.

Well done Ros.







# BEING LIKE JESUS

## WORDSEARCH

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

- |             |              |            |           |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| PERSISTENCE | FRIENDLINESS | HONESTY    | FAITH     |
| COOPERATION | PATIENCE     | COURAGE    | HAPPINESS |
| FORGIVENESS | CARING       | RESPECT    | LISTENING |
| COMPASSION  | LOYALTY      | KINDNESS   | TRUST     |
|             | FAIRNESS     | GOODNESS   | PEACE     |
|             |              | COURTESY   | LOVE      |
|             |              | GENTLENESS | JOY       |

Make a banner with your family to hang up and remind yourself of the verse: Jeremiah 29:11.

The rain forest is my home. I'm really tall and really wide, with a hollow trunk, but I wasn't always this size. Years ago, a bird dropped a seed it had eaten, onto a mossy branch at the top of germinated and began sending out roots from the trunk into the shady forest below. Year by year, my (that like to eat me) because I was so high, grew thicker and longer. They circled around the tree trunk until I squeezed it so tightly it quit growing! As I grew, all my leaves blocked the sun to my host tree and it eventually died, but I continued to grow around its hollow, lifeless trunk. God has given me a special job - I produce fruit all year round, feeding birds (who then plant more of my seeds on other trees!) and mammals when other food is scarce. I am an important part of the food chain in the rain forest. God thought of everything when He created me - the Strangler Fig.

He created you with a purpose too - a perfect plan for your life. And living that plan means you don't have to be like anyone else. Just be who God made you to be. And ask Him to shine through you every day.

## LOOK-ALIKES

Some people dress up with wigs and makeup to look just like someone else. They are called impersonators. To them this may be fun, but many animals are look-alikes for serious business.

If a mockingbird tries to eat a monarch butterfly, the bird is in for a real surprise. After the first bite, it thinks it has bitten into the sourest lemon ever. The butterfly tastes so bad it makes the bird throw up and never want to eat another butterfly that looks like that again! This the way God made the monarch butterfly protect itself.

God has made another butterfly we call a viceroy. Mockingbirds won't eat viceroys even though they taste delicious (to birds!) Viceroy means 'in the place of the king', and the viceroy is a monarch look-alike living off the reputation of the true monarch, which is considered the king of butterflies.

The viceroy protects itself by being a look-alike on the outside - but on the inside it's a viceroy.

We can look and act like someone or something we are not and trick most people some of the time. But like the viceroy butterfly, we are living on someone else's reputation. God created us to be just who we are. He doesn't want us imitating anyone else unless it is Him! He is the ONLY person we should look like, and not just on the outside, like the viceroy. He wants us look like Him on the inside too!

Talk to your family or a friend. How can you look and live like Jesus (without just pretending) today?

from a fig  
a tall tree. The seed  
sunny top of my tree, down the  
roots, protected from ground animals



Julie Catton  
Director of Children's Ministries  
03 9264 7777



## Update from the President's Desk

Here's a quick overview of some of what's happening in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Victoria.

### Joining Christ in the Harvest

More than double attended this year's training weekend, compared with last year, and it was even better this time around! Loads of literature and media was sold or given away and Bible workers were provided special training with Jack Phillips from *It Is Written*. It was really appreciated.

### Revelation Today 3 May to 1 June

The objective is to increase the number of interactions with contacts and invite people to coming events:

- Evenings with Gary Webster
- Tut Roadshow at four Adventist Victoria Schools
- Dinners with Gary Kent
- 'His Timeless Love' Easter Concert
- Bring a Friend days at local churches

All leading to the Revelation Today series in May.

100,000 more It Is Written Bible Study Request Cards have been printed.

Your support is needed in May - prayer, involvement, invite a friend, plan now to be there.

### Mission to the Cities Symposium & Church Planting Conference:

A number of pastors and members from Victoria attended the recent SPD run Mission to the Cities Symposium, followed by the Church Planting Conference. Pr Steve Leddy from New York, one of the speakers, threw out a challenge. What are we doing to reach the majority population group?

I grabbed my phone to do a google

search. What is the majority population group in Victoria? Caucasians account for close to 60% of the population, yet we find it easier to reach other groups. Let's make it clear that we don't mind what colour God's children are. Nor does their country of origin concern us. But the question remains. What are we doing to reach the major population group? What more could be done?

### Great News...

For a number of our churches and projects. Werribee Church's building works have commenced - the concrete slab was poured 19 February. We're very thankful to God, to the builder and to all involved. Casey Church has been granted the necessary permit for the building to be redeveloped as a church. This is truly a very positive step forward. Praise God! (You can read more about these projects on page 23.) North Melbourne Samoan Church has also submitted their planning permit application.

As you'd be aware with the Pavilions project, we're still in the pre-sales phase, and while preliminary works have already started, we're getting closer, by the day, to digging the footings for the first building. Reservations have been flowing in and we praise God for the high level of interest and buy in. Please keep praying for this project.

### Numurkah Church Closure

The closure of this country church (see side column article) is a timely reminder that while knowing how to reach the vast population in Melbourne is challenging, our country regions face challenges too... please pray for those who work in our country areas.

### Westpoint Church Status

Westpoint Company have been granted Church status as an organised church and that's great news! The growth of the church is just wonderful (flip back to pg 11 to read more).

### Trust Services

In 2018 Steve Whitson wrote 414 Wills, 103 Power of Attorney documents and he visited 22 churches. The service provided by Trust Services is highly valued by our people.

### Youth Department

Phil Hyland, our youth director, reports a very busy start to the year with the AUC Pathfinder Camporee followed immediately by Summer Camps, then Converge. These events create great opportunities for younger people to make commitments to Christ and His church.

As you can see, there's a lot happening. Please continue to pray for God's leading for His church in Victoria. *Graeme Christian*



## Goodbye

*It is with sadness we see our Church in Numurkah close its doors.*

The decision was not made lightly. Declining attendance and a loss of local leadership, due to families leaving the region over the last 18 months, has seen regular attendance drop from fifteen to five.

There have been many efforts to grow the church, with distribution of Bible study guides, videos and Christian books. The church hosted a radio broadcast, and advertised this to the township. They held mid-week meetings open to the community, for fellowship, prayer and Bible study. They reached out to former and missing members. All of this with no members actually living in the township!

Members wrestled with the problem for 18 months, exploring worship styles, various church structure options and leadership options. But with no opportunity for a leadership able to focus on growing the church community, and after much prayer and consideration of the options available to them, the church members voted to close their doors.

But even in their dissolution, there is a bright light - they requested and it has been approved, that proceeds from the sale of their property go to Shepparton Church, and will be used for this church's new building project.

Conference Administration acknowledges the difficulties small rural congregations face and commend Numurkah members for their prayer and deliberation, before making this decision.

*Craig Gillis*  
IntraVic | 19

## WHAT AM I?





Clockwise from top left: Edinburgh NZ Band Tour; Andrew Fuller (ASVAC Keynote); NCC Canteen Award; Brian Mercer (ASVAC); and Heritage Stand Tall Day

# Schools Snapshot

## Band Tours New Zealand Edinburgh College

It was the opportunity of a lifetime as Edinburgh College students and teaching staff farewelled their families and flew to South New Zealand. With ten performances in as many days, the schedule left little time for error, covering almost 2,000km in a three-vehicle convoy across the island.

## Stand Tall Day Heritage College

To set a great culture for the year ahead, Heritage College hosted 'Stand Tall Day', where the four values of the college are explored: Excellence, Resilience, Service, and Respect.

Combining all students from both Narre Warren South (P-6) and Officer campus (P-12) into one large cohort for the day at Officer campus, conditions were perfect for a morning spent in challenges throughout different stations. The students enjoyed learning, exploring and participating at each station.

## IGNITE – Opening Chapel 2019 Henderson College

To mark the beginning of the school year, Students and teachers took part in our opening Chapel, introducing the theme for the year: "Ignite – it only takes a spark."

Ignite connects to the school's four core values of Respect, Integrity, Success and Compassion.

## No. 1 Community Food Premises in Shire Nunawading Christian College

Congratulations to Dores Fame and her amazing Nunawading Christian College Canteen team. The NCC canteen was awarded Whitehorse City Council's 5-Star Community Food Premises of the Year for 2018.

Read more stories from schools at [asv.vic.edu.au](https://asv.vic.edu.au)

# Employment Opportunities

## Casual Relief Teachers, ASV

Adventist Schools Victoria is seeking expressions of interest for casual relief teachers in all schools across Victoria.

## New Opportunities

To see a list of all current employment vacancies, please visit: [asv.vic.edu.au/careers](https://asv.vic.edu.au/careers)

ASV offers a range of career opportunities that include: Teaching, Management, Administration, Maintenance, Marketing & Communication and Community Program Coordination. If you are passionate and committed to Christian education, we would like to hear from you. To register an expression of interest in working at ASV, please contact our HR team on (03) 9264 7730 or email [asvhr@adventist.org.au](mailto:asvhr@adventist.org.au)

# Schools on the Move

In the past five years, Adventist Education in Victoria has experienced remarkable growth.

As we reflect on the progress of schools, we are tremendously proud of our vibrant and engaged learning communities. We have seen so many positive changes to facilities, student opportunities and growth in learning and faith. It is important for us to pause and give thanks for what we have. However, we recognise that this is not the finish line. Every staff member at an Adventist School in Victoria is committed to partnering with parents to develop vibrant Christian learning environments that will empower, nurture, challenge and inspire students to achieve their God-given potential.

## Spiritual Culture

We continue to endorse the focus of education as being evangelistic - one of providing Adventist Christian education for its members and as an evangelistic outreach to our communities. As 75% of our student enrolments are from non-SDA backgrounds, we continue to have a very intentional evangelistic program operating in our schools. This involves both curricular and extra-curricular programs. This year, schools will partner with Harvest Victoria, providing centres for training and programs.

## Learning and Teaching

Learning and teaching in schools is continuously improving and we have active partnerships with Universities, TAFEs and Independent Schools Victoria for staff and students depending on the projects and initiatives. This year ASV welcomed 37 new teachers to Victoria including graduates, teachers moving from other Adventist schools around Australia and exceptional



staff from our local communities.

At the beginning of 2019, Teachers from Adventist schools around Victoria gathered at Nunawading Christian College for the Adventist Schools Victoria Annual Conference (ASVAC). This year's ASVAC theme was Breathe and centred around the Encounter Bible curriculum and wellbeing for students in schools.

On the day, over \$10,000 was raised to support ADRA Australia's work at Chombua Primary School in the Solomon Islands.

## Growing Schools

The desire by parents to have Christian values as central to the education of their children is evident in the continued increase in the number of students attending our schools. Since 2013, Adventist Schools in Victoria have grown 36%, adding an additional 682 students. In the past year alone, 185 additional students enrolled in Adventist Schools across Victoria. This is a testament to the strong culture being developed by exceptional staff and leadership in schools. We are so blessed with the opportunity to

provide an excellent values-based education to greater number of students in 2019.

## Developing Facilities

Each school has undertaken significant building developments to support the growing number of students and it is exciting to see the development of our learning facilities. Over the past five years, the ASV team have worked with Principals to complete new buildings, extensions and renovations to classrooms and facilities in all schools.

We have clear evidence that God is leading our schools. We see the exciting developments in both system expansion and how schools are actively engaging in the mission of the Church in Victoria. Thank you for your continued prayer and support of our schools, principals, teachers, support staff and ASV office personnel, as we work together to see parents and students in the kingdom.

## School Directory

Adventist Schools Victoria		Head Office		(03) 9264 7730		<a href="https://asv.vic.edu.au">asv.vic.edu.au</a>	
Edinburgh College	Lilydale Campus	Early Learning to Year 12	(03) 9728 2211	edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au			
Gilson College	Taylors Hill Campus	Foundation to Year 12	(03) 9365 9365	gilsconcollege.vic.edu.au			
Gilson College	Mernda Campus	Foundation to Year 12	(03) 9717 7300	gilsconcollege.vic.edu.au			
Henderson College	Mildura Campus	Foundation to Year 10	(03) 5024 5192	henderson.vic.edu.au			
Heritage College	Narre Warren South Campus	Early Learning to Year 12	(03) 9796 0100	heritagecollege.vic.edu.au			
Heritage College	Officer Campus	Early Learning to Year 12	(03) 5943 2900	heritagecollege.vic.edu.au			
Nunawading Christian College	Nunawading Campus	Early Learning to Year 12	(03) 9877 3556	nunawading.vic.edu.au			



# The Team Grows

*Our pastoral team has seen some change as 2018 came to a close, and we welcome a number of new faces to the team. While the majority are replacing pastors who have received calls out of Victoria, we have also seen a slight increase in the size of our team, which is great news.*



**Miroslav Gagic**, his wife Ana and their two children come to us from Serbia, where Miroslav was Youth Director in the South Eastern European Union Conference for five years. An easy going guy, Miroslav likes music and plays three instruments. In his ministry, he loves preaching and visiting people in their homes. He is passionate about evangelistic programs and service trips, and is confident he will fit in well here in Victoria. He is serving Seddon Church.



**Marius Jigau** actually grew up in Melbourne, and spent much of his adult life studying in the field of Science. This interest has developed into a passion for apologetics, especially when related to creation and evolution. Marius is acutely aware of God's infinite mercy in his own life, which only truly began once he decided to give it to God and spend time each day with Him. He now has a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfilment that had been an elusive dream before. He and Gabrielle married three years ago, and they now have an amazing little boy. They both enjoy the outdoor activities. It was while they were working as Bible workers that Marius chose a life of service. Discovering there are people who are actually seeking Jesus, and that all he need do is look for them, was the turning point. He is working with Ballarat Church.



**Sylvia Mendez** is also well known to many of us. Over the last three years she has been a lay

minister at Wantirna while completing her studies through Avondale's distance education program. She is thrilled to be an intern here in Melbourne this year, and have the opportunity to continue to serve Wantirna Church in this way. In addition, she is involved with Harvest Victoria as a regional director for the May outreach series, and Liaison for Adventist Women with the AUC. And still she has time for reading the occasional book or just enjoying interesting conversations with others. She is excited for what 2019 holds, and grateful to be part of the team.



Graduating from Avondale in 2014, **Tauae Poasa** has worked as a Bible worker at Northpoint Church and then Ascot Vale Church, so he is not new to Victoria either. However this year sees him commencing his internship, working with Geelong and Colac churches. He loves the vast landscapes Victoria has to offer and he praises God each day for His guidance and unfailing love. He looks forward to continuing this journey in serving and sharing Christ.

**Jared French** has a number of passions. He loves animals – spiders in particular (he was a Curator of Zoology in NZ) – and exercise (especially if it involves a basketball and his two sons). He's not averse to board games and holidays either. He loves books and publishing (worked for 16 years as a Literature Evangelist, developed the Jump Start LE program for AU and NZ and comes to us from the Division where he has been a part of the Publishing Department). And he is passionate about the Gospel, particularly the love of Jesus and His promised soon return, Jared was born in Sydney but grew up in New Zealand, and his wife, Beatriz, is from Peru. He will be working with our Filipino



**Jonathon Gillard**, from New Zealand, loves his home country and was sad to leave, however his fiancé (now wife, Catherine) has been teaching at Gilson College the last two years, so he willingly accepted a call to serve the College as part of the chaplaincy team. After graduating at Avondale, Jonathon served as intern at Invercargill and Queenstown churches and chaplain of Southland Christian College, NZ. Jonathon loves sport, although he is not sure about AFL.

But he is sure about bringing young people to know Jesus and for people of all ages to know and recognise the value God has placed on their lives by sending His Son to die for each and every one of them.

Australian church and is excited to see God at work in the hearts and lives of people drawing closer to Him. His favourite Bible verse is Matthew 24:14.

**Paul Kleinmeulman** did not grow up a Christian. He fell in love with the God of the Bible while at university. He and his wife have since dedicated their lives to the church and for the last eight years have been serving Him in SNZ. Paul has a love for evangelism, pastoral ministry and the fantastic power of prayer. He is in awe of how God will use ordinary people like us for extraordinary things. When not working, Paul loves spending time with his family, gardening and hiking. He has a new passion too, electronics and renewable energy. Paul and his family (pictured at his ordination in 2017) are excited to join Nunawading Church and sincerely believe God has called them to this church for a specific time and reason. They look forward to growing together with their church, in commitment to the Lord's will.



## Casey Approval

*A unanimous decision to grant Casey Church a permit to use their building for worship was made at the City of Casey's February Council meeting and brings to an end a thirteen year search by Casey members for a new church home, after leaving their original Dandenong church building in 2006.*

Two local Ward Councillors spoke strongly in favour of Casey's application stating that the former gymnasium had fallen into disrepair and was a focal point for local delinquency and drug abuse. Casey Church's occupation of the building, located directly opposite Narre Warren train station, was a "Win-Win-Win" Cr Aziz said. "It is a 'Win' for the local businesses by bringing activity into the area, 'Win' for the local community by reducing local criminal and anti-social activity, and a 'Win' for the City of Casey having another church community calling the municipality home."

The journey to this point has not been easy, with repeated relocation and complicated planning hurdles, however they persevered with unity and trust and the Lord has blessed them.

Casey received a South Pacific Division Church Grant and support initiatives from our Conference while local members diligently supported their relocation fund financially, with many "giving til it hurt."

There is a lot of work to be done given the building has been derelict and vandalised for many years. Please pray the soon to commence renovation will go smoothly so we can have another congregation making a difference in their community.

Galen Gan



## Werribee Project

*Following many years of planning the redevelopment of Werribee Church has started.*

Strategically situated on the crest of a hill on the main arterial road linking the two commercial precincts of Werribee city, the church building is the only physical Adventist presence between metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong.

Located in one of the fastest growing areas in Victoria, the redevelopment of the Werribee Church is intended to make this building a field 'headquarters' for the local region. It is planned that, joining Point Cook, many daughter congregations can be planted in nearby regions, launching from and being supported from this Werribee Church location.

The redevelopment project was the recipient of South Pacific Division Church Grants funding and has been supported by the Victorian Conference as a project of strategic Conference significance. Many generous church members and supportive project consultants have donated their time, skills and professional services to help move this project forward. The local congregation has also contributed through their fundraising efforts and their commitment to seeing the Mission potential of this project delivered.

The new building is planned to seat 220 people with potential to expand to accommodate more than double that. The facility will also provide 'hot-desk' offices for local pastors and Bible workers, meeting rooms, a dedicated children's play area as well as a large multi-purpose auditorium and annex.

The foundation slab was poured on the 19th of February 2019, and construction works continue to progress quickly. Please pray for the quick and successful delivery of this important project. May it be a 'lighthouse' that serves the local community and promotes the Mission of the Church in this vital urban corridor.

Galen Gan



## Open Doors Update

*Did you know that, world wide, one in nine Christians are persecuted for their faith?*

According to Open Doors, this has increased from a year ago, when it was one in twelve.

In the top 50 countries where it is most dangerous to follow Christ, around 245 million followers experience high levels of persecution. Countries that rose or entered the 2019 World Watch list include India, China and Russia, and North Korea ranks as #1 (since 2002).

For 30 years Open Doors has been producing this yearly list ranking the top 50 countries persecuting Christians. "The list," says CEO Mike Gore, "shows that where the gospel is being shared, persecution exists."

As we see changes to religious freedom globally, the World Watch List is relevant to the church in Australia as we learn how persecuted Christians stand firm in the face of persecution.



To learn more about the World Watch list visit [opendoors.org.au](http://opendoors.org.au) - serving persecuted Christians world wide...



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