



July 27 2019

A Balancing Act?



Or all
pervasive?

IntraVie
Victorian Adventists



IntraVie Newsletter
a publication of



Victorian Adventists
COMMUNICATIONS

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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Issue Schedule:

DEADLINE	IN CHURCHES
Feb 25	March 25
April 15	May 26
June 15	July 21
August 15	September 22
October 15	November 24

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A note from the Editor's Office



What Will it Take?

"You must be very satisfied," he said confidently.

"No," I replied. "Far from satisfied."

My answer was clearly a surprise. The conversation had been about Revelation Today. Stories had been told, memories shared and statistics presented – 2,000,000 homes received advertising, 1,017 community people attended, 159 made decisions for baptism and that number is growing, and to date, 44 have been baptised from the evangelistic meetings and all that in the secular city that Melbourne is.

From surveying Adventists who attended, 78% reported an increase in Biblical understanding, 88% indicated the meetings led them to reaffirm their commitment to the Adventist message and 87% said they're now more likely to share their faith.

There are thirteen Adventist church plants currently active in Victoria, we've just dedicated another Centre of Influence facilitated by Gateway East and there's so much being done by our faithful pastors and our dedicated people.

The stats tell a story of growth and I'm sure you'd agree - it's a good one. So, you may be asking, why wouldn't I be satisfied with those results?

It's simple if you do the math. How many of the 4.8 million people in Melbourne know Jesus? How many of the 6 ¼ Million Victorians will be ready to meet Jesus when He returns? We believe the three angels messages of Revelation 14 and we understand the job Jesus gave us. We're eager to make disciples – but the question remains, what will it take to reach the masses of people in Victoria?

What will it take to lead them to faith?

What a great effort we made in May this year with sooo many working sooo hard for the spread of the gospel. All the hard work is really appreciated! And we don't want it to end here.

What more can be done?

What if our churches were friendlier churches – friendly to new people? What if our worship services were even more inspiring? What if we used radio to reach the masses, to share the message we hold dear?

And what if we focus on personal work? What if there was an army of people – believers equipped and empowered to share? What if that was a life-style choice?

Let's pray like never before for the spread of the gospel, and for God, the Lord of the harvest, to send out more workers.

And as we work and pray, we can plan now to be at Big Camp at Elmore, Easter 2020. See you there!

Thanks for your faithfulness, your dedication and commitment.

Thanks.



IntraVic July 2019

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To Run this Race...

How committed should we be?



By Eric Flickinger
IT IS WRITTEN PRESENTER

**Cathy Freeman.
Anna Meares.
Jarryd Hayne.
Stephanie Rice.
Adam Scott.
Allan Border.**

This small sampling of some of Australia's most famous athletes has something in common.

While they did compete in different sports at different times, they did not make it into the record books by chance.

These athletes determined at an early age to be the best that they could be. And then they followed through on that determination. They surrounded themselves with others who would urge them forward. They sought out trainers and coaches who would bring out the best in them. They didn't let setbacks or injuries derail them from their purpose. And in the end their names are practically legend.

How did it happen? Well, at some point in their lives, they decided that their chosen sport wouldn't just be a pastime for them. It wouldn't be relegated to the "when I can find the time" drawer. Instead, it would become a part of their lifestyle. Everything that they did, from what they ate, to where they slept, to when they woke up, to who they associated with, revolved around their choice to make their chosen sport a very prominent part of their lives.

The Apostle Paul makes an interesting observation in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. He states, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

The athletes of Paul's day, just as much as the athletes of our own, competed to obtain a prize that is corruptible. It passes away.


Whether in the form of a laurel wreath or a digital record that may one day be replaced with a single tap of the 'delete' key, the glory achieved in sports is truly only temporary.


Of how much greater worth is that imperishable crown that Paul writes about!


And the beauty of the picture that Paul paints is this: You don't have to win the genetic lottery or begin your training at five years old to help you get ready for this race. You can join at any point in your life and the prize (salvation) is available to an infinite number of people.


If you are reading this, there is a high likelihood that you are already in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. And that is something to rejoice about! But what of the multitudes who don't yet have that experience? How can we reach them so that they can share in the soon-coming victory parade?


A world-class athlete adopts a lifestyle that revolves around their chosen sport. As Christians, we ought to adopt a lifestyle that revolves around what is most important to us; continuing our walk with Jesus and helping others to join us on our journey. So what are some simple steps that will help us to accomplish that?


 Spend devotional time with God. Mark 1:35 says, "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." He knew He needed to recharge His spiritual batteries regularly and spent time each morning communing with His father. If you are unaccustomed to spending regular devotional time with God, then start small. Five minutes a day is better than nothing. Work your way up from there.


 Go to church each week – Daily time spent with God is very important, but coming together each week to enjoy a Sabbath blessing is not to be missed. Hebrews 10:24,25 says, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." As we get closer and closer to Christ's return, we will need one another's encouragement more than ever.


 Choose to be a blessing – Look for opportunities to be a blessing and a help to others. They'll begin to wonder what motivates you to live such an unselfish life.


 Live your faith on the outside – Let your relationship with Jesus radiate from you everywhere you go. As people see the joy and peace in your life, they will be drawn to you and wonder what makes you so different. Then you'll have your opportunity to tell others about your walk with God. It's always a wonderful thing when others approach you rather than you having to approach them.


 Pray for opportunities – Ask God each day to lead you to someone with whom you can share the hope that you have in Jesus.


 Look for opportunities to share Jesus with others – As you interact with people throughout the day, listen carefully to what they say. You may pick up on something that would give you an opportunity to insert a spiritual thought into the conversation. That might be the seed that grows into a baptism.


 Carry literature with you – Visit the ABC and pick up a variety of tracts that you can share with people at appropriate times. If you are praying for divine appointments, God will give them to you.


 Build intentional spiritual friendships with people – We all have secular friends that we interact with all the time. Become intentional in your desire to turn those secular friendships into deep spiritual ones.

 Seek out training opportunities near you – A number of churches in the Victorian conference have Bible workers who would love to show you how to help others study the Bible. There are also regular training seminars taking place in your area. or you can find free online training from *It Is Written* by going to salt.training and clicking on the 'SALT 365' tab.

 Become familiar with your church's evangelism calendar – Every church has activities planned throughout the year that are designed to maximize their ability to reach out to the community with the gospel. Find out when those activities are taking place and what you can do to be a part of them. Some activities will be focused on in-reach, nurturing the members of the church, strengthening and preparing them for other activities which are focused on outreach to the wider community.

 Participate in Sabbath School – Many members miss out on a blessing by arriving for church after Sabbath School has come to an end. Catching the sermon and joining friends for potluck is better than nothing, but something special happens during Sabbath School that doesn't happen at other times of the week.

 Go to prayer meeting – Sometimes the mid-week service gets missed because life just gets too busy. But that mid-week pick-me-up might be just what you need to get you through until Sabbath.

 Ask your pastor if you can help him/her with Bible studies – Your pastor comes across many people who would like to know more about the Bible and Jesus. Ask if you can accompany them on a Bible study or two and see how exciting it is to watch someone learn what life is all about.

The lyrics to a famous hymn begin:
"Lord, lay some soul upon my heart,
And love that soul through me;
And may I bravely do my part
To win that soul for Thee."

May that also be our prayer as we journey to claim our imperishable crowns.





In our DNA

By Sherrie Courtney
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Is evangelism a balancing act – something we have to prioritise, to set aside time for, at the expense of something else in our lives?

Or could it be something that pervades everything we do?

Part of our very DNA?

Evangelism is a word we have used repeatedly in IntraVic. We've shared about Mission to the Cities; the cycle of evangelism; Pr. Glenn Townend's Multiplying Disciple Makers model, based on Jesus' harvest metaphor. We have referred people to Disciple.org.au and talked about our Conference's five year Joining Christ in the Harvest initiative. And during the month of May, many churches and members were involved in the major evangelistic event in the middle of this initiative, Revelation Today.

For some, such a program is the epitome of evangelism. The culmination. But is it really?

A quick google search finds the definition for evangelism to be the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.

Evangelism is Ongoing

In his article in news.adventist.org titled *Personal Evangelism is the Real Public Evangelism*, Christopher Thomson quotes Mark Finley as saying that "evangelism is not an event but rather, a process." Christopher goes further, saying it is a process of discipleship. As disciples, we are committed to make more disciples, not just converts. We must commit to seeing new believers beyond baptism, walking their ongoing spiritual journey with them.

Yes, evangelism involves major conference run events and church run events. It involves church projects, community services and worship styles. It involves fellowship... But let's not forget the personal side to evangelism – the lifestyle side.

Evangelism is Lifestyle

Intentionally wearing your love for Christ on your sleeve and don't be afraid to let slip mention of Him into your conversation. For example, you cook something for your neighbour who is under the weather and when you are thanked, give Him the glory

– "God's given me enough... I am just happy to share..."

Evangelism can be bringing people into your home. Getting to know them. Inviting God in too and asking Him to speak to them through you.

The AUC's Open Homes project offers ideas to help be more intentional about this.

An important part of evangelism could simply be listening. Listening for the leaks when your friend is telling you about things they do. They may not say they are hurting, but something may leak through and if you catch it, there's an opportunity to be the means God uses to hug them. They may not ask for help, but reading between the lines you may become the way God guides them... You can read more about this in Karen Ehman's book *Listen, Love, Repeat*.

“The efforts made after meetings have closed are of far more consequence than the work done before”

Ellen White

Asking questions and then listening to the answers as those you talk to open up is another form of evangelism. Don't necessarily tell people what you believe, even if they ask – rather ask what they believe and then listen. Care. Be interested. In his book, *Tactics*, Gregory Koukl shares ways of asking questions and emphasises listening, giving yourself time to digest the conversation and formulate a response. It is not about one-upmanship, but about genuine interest and stimulating productive thought. And much easier to do if you are prepared.

It is the Holy Spirit who convicts, and when He does, people who know you will know where to go with their questions or to ask for help.

Evangelism is Friendly

We need to develop truly authentic friendships with those around us. We need to put our own hearts on the line. We need to care. No strings attached.

In his book *Seeking Allah, Finding God*, Nabeel Qureshi describes a pivotal friendship. It was with a fellow college student who was authentic and upfront about his faith. They first met as teammates on their college forensic team. They were going to a tournament and bonded before even getting on the bus. The trip was fun and the teammates spent the time goofing off, practicing their forensics, sharing stories and laughing. Then after dinner, while Nabeel unpacked, David pulled out a Bible, sat in an armchair and started reading. Flabbergasted, Nabeel had never considered someone reading a Bible in their spare time! From the start there was no doubt David was a Christian. They became solid friends. They lived life together. They debated

“Effective evangelism requires relationships. There are very few exceptions”

Nabaal Qureshi

“If evangelism means sharing Jesus and Jesus is awesome, then true evangelism just has to be awesome”

Elise Harboldt

their beliefs, David's statements often sending Nabeel home to his father's library where he would plonk down on the floor, researching through his father's books to rebut David's challenges. Sometimes the arguments became serious, but their friendship always won over because they cared about each other. Nabeel says that this was an essential contributor in his journey to Christianity. He had listened to street preachers, admired them even - he appreciated people who stood up for what they believed. But he felt like an object of their agenda. Their message did not reach him. And he even went as far as to say he'd found many Christians think of their evangelism the same way.

The problem was, he said, that the gospel, particularly for Muslims, requires a radical life change and when a true friend shares this message with heartfelt sincerity, knowing an individual's specific circumstances and struggles, it will have impact. He had plenty of Christian acquaintances, who he knew would have been his friend had he become a Christian, but Christian friends who accepted him unconditionally were a different thing all together. David was such a one, who cared unconditionally, and therefore Nabeel cared about what David had to say.

Evangelism is Concerned

At Lightbearers.org there is a blog by Elise Harboldt, titled *Evange-Baggage*. Elise takes a refreshing look at personal evangelism and how a simple solution to many of the superworthy causes that people get all worked up over is putting God first in your life and sharing Him; it's the most effective form of activism because we can't share Christ without involving ourselves in causes that bring relief to the suffering. Check it out and be challenged.

Evangelism is for You

Siku Daco, Senior Editorial Assistant for the Collegiate Quarterly at the General Conference believes that much of the drama we experience in our lives could be avoided if we all had an evangelistic outlook. Such an outlook causes you to look outwards toward others, thinking of how to help them know Christ better; taking yourself and your perceived wrongs and difficulties out of the equation you can focus more on others and what you can do for them.

By engaging with others you may be forced to confront your own short comings and biases. This leads to another benefit to you of evangelism - humility as you realise you still have some 'growing' to do. Which leads to the next benefit.

Drawing your attention up, your insufficiency points you to the One who said all power belongs to Him, and who promises to complete in you, the good work He has started.

She concludes her blog at www.cqbiblestudy.org/plus saying that with an evangelistic outlook we can be helpful, humble and hopeful as we share Jesus with a world in need (and save ourselves a whole lot of drama!)

“So much interpersonal drama would be avoided if Christians were all about evangelism”

Sikhu Daco

Evangelism is So Much More

Not to forget the benefits of simply putting our mouth where our beliefs are and our more positive sense of well being when we are striving for God. As surely as muscles grow when we use them, so does our spiritual 'muscles'.

Revelation Today has inspired us, our faith is on fire. There are so many more areas in our lives which could become evangelistic if we were intentional about it (we've just touched on a few here). So let's take the next step and make evangelism part of our very being. Not only will we help others, we will be better for it...

REVELATION TODAY

It is now the end of July. Revelation Today is well and truly over... or is it?

This edition, we would like to share with you some of what happened during May.

There have been wonderful stories filtering through of how God has used relationships to draw people to Him.

Revelation Today could fit into our very lifestyles: sharing Christ with others should never be just an event.

A Lifestyle not an Event

We have such a wonderful message of hope for a frightened world. Where other religions insist that you have to try really hard to be something or it will happen all over again in the next life, or you have to pray a particular way or perform other religious rituals at specific times and in certain ways and still you can only hope you will be good enough... we have a loving Saviour who has done it all for us and just asks us to love and follow Him... really He has done it all except accept the gift on our behalf – we have to do that. Why would we not want to tell those we care for about such love? Why wouldn't we want to share such a wonderful thing with our associates? Why would we be content to watch our neighbours struggle with life and with illness and death, and not help them? Be there for them. Love them. And let the Holy Spirit use us to reach them?

Sharing Christ with others should be a way of life. Revelation Today was just that – part of our church lifestyle for the month of May and the months preceding it. But we pray that Revelation Today has become part of our DNA and that we will continue to see its effect as we seek to find new ways to share our wholistic Biblical message of hope.

Over the last few years, church members across Melbourne became increasingly involved in preparation

for Revelation Today. This involvement was changing their lives. They were learning how to be courageous speaking up for their convictions. They were learning how to share Christ through service, through door knocking, through prayer.

Many discovered the blessing of volunteering: letterboxing; helping with various community events through their local churches; helping with Dinners with Gary Webster and Gary Kent; running special Easter programs to which they had invited their friends; and as May commenced, committing to four times per week attending and helping at the Revelation Today seminars.

This was no small task, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of those volunteers. From car parking assistants to greeters. From signing in and registering attendees to hosting the Kids Club at each venue where the children attending were, in child friendly creative and fun ways, taught the basics of what their parents were learning about. Not to mention performing, acting as ushers, photographers, the audiovisual crews and camera operators...

The time and effort spent, while exhausting, has been exhilarating and most would agree that they have been blessed by what they have been involved in over the last few years. God is good that way.



How Revelation Today Played Out...

In the weeks preceding May, there was television advertising promoting Revelation Today and flyers were distributed, some by hand and some through the postal service. Contacts from the Adventist Media Network and people invited to the Dinners were also invited along with church members giving personal invitations to their own friends and contacts.

Revelation Today was hosted at four sites across Melbourne, with each site running four sessions per week. John Bradshaw presented at the South East site (The Drum, Dandenong), which was also livestreamed from six

different social media platforms, and the Western site (Gilson College) while Eric Flickinger was at the Eastern (The Pavilion, Box Hill) and the Northern (South Morang) sites. Additionally one of our churches hosted locally, with the recordings from the Drum being played the following day, and one of our country pastors presented the seminars himself, with material kindly provided by *It is Written*.

At all the meetings John and Eric presented biblical truth to guests who were eager to hear. As challenging topics were shared, guests were given an opportunity to respond. Across all venues there were 159 guests who made a public decision for Jesus in

either baptism or re-baptism. There were also 164 guests who made a commitment to start keeping the Sabbath. One man said, "Eric, you've convinced us of what the Bible says and we now have to work out how we can keep the Sabbath."

The clear overall impression was that God was at work during these sessions, and everyone worked well together, to God's glory.

Of the four main venues, The Drum had the largest capacity (630). There was still some overflow and they were able to accommodate this with screens in several smaller rooms. Extra sessions were conducted at the Pavilion to





One gentleman who left God about 40 year ago, had begun attending church again a little while back. He confirmed that Revelation Today consolidated his belief that he was back where he was meant to be. He is a different man now, but still has his old friends, so is now working out how to share Christ with them and has started his own small group. He was also instrumental in getting his nieces to attend the seminars, and they are now looking at baptism.

accommodate the initial overflow there.

The layout of the Pavilion was different to the Drum, being long and narrow, however as the meetings progressed it was felt that this helped create a more intimate atmosphere and a sense of connection with Eric as he was close and on the same level.

A marquee was the venue at Gilson College - rather daunting for the beginning of winter, it was soon perceived as a blessed venue - it was plenty warm enough with the heaters and there was lots of space for connecting with each other after the program, over light refreshments. We are so grateful to the Gilson school community, which helped in many ways through out the program, not the least of which was helping with the parking.

The main difference with the South Morang venue (Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre) was the seating arrangement. Attendees were seated at round tables, and began building connections almost immediately, with time spent after the seminars chatting across the tables. Most tables had an allocated host who was kept busy handing out various things, facilitating and making people feel welcome - in general adding to the whole atmosphere, to such an extent, some guests wanted to know which churches their hosts attended as that was the one they wanted to go to.

Highlights throughout the program included special musical items and the Sabbaths that the presentations were held at local churches and attendees visited with members. The ABC store attended each venue for a session and there was a very old Bible display shared among the four sites for attendees to look through as well.



Another attendee's first contact with Wantirna church was through their Christmas Hamper Pickup program. She made contact again a few months later asking for more help. Invited to Dinner with Gary Kent, she registered to attend. Sadly, on the night, when she and her friend arrived late, there were no seats left. But still they stayed and listened. And then they began attending Revelation Today. After about the fifth session, the pastor, recognising that they were regulars, but not remembering her, asked for their names. Satan was having another go. But as soon as the lady told the pastor how they had met, memory kicked in and all was good! The lady and her friend have been attending church every Sabbath since late May and are about to start Bible studies.



From Now on...

As we have mentioned, some of the contacts have already followed Christ's example of baptism. Still more are undergoing studies, and our bible workers will continue to be employed throughout the remainder of the year.

An exciting plan that is being worked out as we are preparing this edition is to bring one of the speakers back in November and utilise both regional meetings, adding several sessions in between. It will be a time of mingling between church members and newly interested people, a time to invite your friends who perhaps were not interested in Revelation Today but by November may be... a time to celebrate and praise God for how He is moving across Victoria...

And riding on the wave of our own new found zeal for sharing Christ's love, having put ourselves on the line during this last year or so, local churches will continue to build bridges with their communities, friends and family, sharing the love of God.

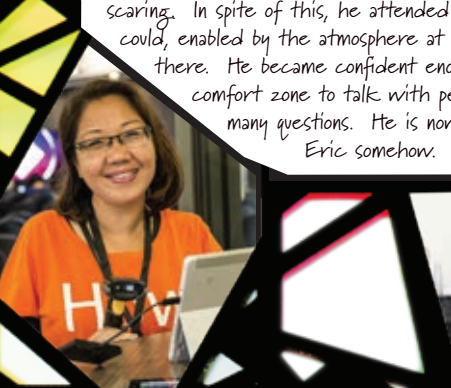
This is going to be a time of growth for our church families and as you read this, please pray for a heightened awareness of these new friends coming through your doors. The Holy Spirit

needs you to be His arms hugging them in love and acceptance; His feet, walking with them in their journey, accepting and encouraging them. Doing life together. The devil is going to be waging full on war, targeting them and trying to destroy their new found joy and commitment to follow Christ. He is going to be doing his utmost to hinder the changes they are making in their lives and their efforts to share their new passion with their own family and friends. They will and do need the compassion and support of an understanding extended family - a church family... you.

IntraVic



In the north, a Bible worker was visiting a contact made during the door knocking training in January this year. He had requested Bible studies, but when she visited, said he just had too much trouble in his life and wasn't interested. Not to be deterred, the Bible worker seeking common ground, started to talking about his car. The conversation continued in Italian, and he changed his mind, agreeing to have the studies. Over the last ten years, following brain surgery, he rarely left his home, and when he did, it was never without a hat covering the extensive scarring. In spite of this, he attended as many Revelation Today sessions as he could, enabled by the atmosphere at the meetings and friendships he made there. He became confident enough to remove his hat and go out of his comfort zone to talk with people. He even spoke with Eric, asking many questions. He is now committed and wants to be baptised by Eric somehow.





Two of our country churches, pastored by David Maxwell, were part of the Revelation Today program, with astounding results. Wangaratta livestreamed the program, while at Benalla, David himself presented the material provided by the It is Written team. The Lord blessed their efforts, with fourteen new members joining these church families. Praise God.

A couple of nights after the Sabbath topic was covered, a man shared his story with John Bradshaw. "After the meeting last time I was here, I was telling my family, "That was so much louder than usual tonight." But they said, "No, it was the same as every night." I didn't know what was going on until I realized I could hear out of BOTH ears now! I have been deaf in my right ear for thirty years. The doctors told me there was nothing they could do. I had

not heard anything out of my right ear for thirty years, but during the sermon last time God healed my ear and I can now hear perfectly out of both ears." He was beaming. And then he said, "It's a miracle!" His family all agreed. It was a miracle. The man's hearing was restored during the Revelation Today presentation.

Administrative Update From the President

We have some great news from our recent administrative meetings.

Building is underway!

Progress is underway at the old campground. Builders are onsite, a very large excavator has arrived and is at work - 'Pavilions' has started! Thanks so much for your prayerful support for this project. It means a lot!

Yarra Ranges Opening Celebration

Refurbishment of the Yarra Ranges Residential Aged Care Facility at Warburton is now complete! The opening celebration was on Wednesday 3 July. The initial stage of the refurbishment was opened twelve months ago and residents have been enjoying the benefits that came with the new work. Now that work on the final stage is complete, we celebrate what has been achieved and recognize the hard work of the builder and a number of people from the local area.

At AdventCare Yarra Ranges you can enjoy amazing natural beauty and a truly lovely facility! I'm sure there'll be many wanting to see what's been done - and that can be easily arranged!

Victorian Government Voluntary Assisted Dying Policy

The State of Victoria's Voluntary Assisted Dying Policy that came into effect as of 18 June 2019 has raised many questions for physicians, hospitals, pharmacists, social workers, aged care providers and others.

AdventCare has chosen not to participate under the Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation in Victoria. This means that

no AdventCare employees will participate in activities under the Voluntary Assisted Dying policy while on the premises of an AdventCare facility, or while acting within the scope of any employment or contractual relationship with AdventCare. If a patient requests assistance under the Voluntary Assisted Dying policy, a referral may be provided.

In keeping with our mission, AdventCare believes we have an obligation to openly discuss the patient's concerns, unmet needs, feeling and desires about the dying process. Our goal is to help pursue the underlying causes regarding the patient's questions and help the patient understand the range of available options, including comfort care, hospice care and pain control. We encourage all to respond to a resident's query about life-ending medication with openness and compassion. Ultimately, our goal is to help our residents make informed decisions about end-of-life care.

*Graeme Christian
Conference President*



Media Ministry

For personal growth or personal ministry, there are digital options for you!

Check out WAYMAKER. Or visit our own website Vic.Adventist.org.au and click on Media to see what resources we have available. The full series of Revelation Today are available there and access to podcasts and churches streaming their sermons.

And did you know that FaithFM has seen significant growth around Australia in the past few months? "We've been seeing an increasing amount of pastors and

church members producing content for FaithFM, which gives the show a much more Australian feel," said FaithFM radio producer, Brad Martin. FaithFM's ministry has returned multiple requests for Bible studies and baptismal studies, with many individuals giving testimonies about how listening to FaithFM from the privacy of their homes inspired them to reach out to a local church community. (Vic.adventist.org.au for more on FaithFM)

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Waymaker

There's no question that the digital media world is where most of our young people have taken up residence when it comes to communication and information sharing.

Millennials spend 3 hours a day just looking at their phone alone! That amount to 1 day out of every week! The most popular and familiar way of consuming content is by online delivery, specifically video-on-demand and Livestream. In other words, young adults want the control what they watch and when they want to watch it!

Introducing WAYMAKER: media ministry environment - a digital discipling ecosystem - a Christ connecting community. WAYMAKER is the brand name that encompasses all that will become a digital space for relevant, young-adult focussed Christian-living content pointed specifically at our church Millennials and their friends. WAYMAKER will become the environment where young adults may network and connect with other young adults, sharing information, inspiration, ideas and resources.

WAYMAKER will become the method by which we will do much of our communication and information sharing as a church here in Australia.

Read more at vic.adventist.org.au





Breaking News...

End of June, the Age reported alcohol consumption causes more harm than crystal meth. October last year a top medical journal published Bill Gates 25 year study revealing the extent of harm alcohol causes. And just recently the Anti Cancer Council changed their

recommended guidelines to discourage starting to drink in the first place.

As happened with tobacco use, evidence now supports our Church's stand on alcohol consumption! Read more at vic.adventist.org.au/intravvicnews.

Pavilions Update Conference Administration

The much anticipated major works on the Nunawading Estate have commenced!

Since the ground-breaking ceremony last year, significant preparatory works have been undertaken with over 6,000 detailed design schematic drawings created across multiple consultancy disciplines. Over \$9M has been spent so far on progressing this project forward, to ensure that Pavilions will be the best facility possible for our future residents.

There has been some delay in receiving our statutory approvals from Council. Unfortunately they have been very slow in responding and approving our required submissions, however the project team and Builder pushed forward on all the other works that they were able to proceed with, such as services installation, under-boring works and approved tree removal.

With final approvals being received, major works are progressing without delay. "We understand and appreciate the

frustrations of many of our purchasers, not seeing works taking place on site," says Conference Infrastructure Coordinator Galen Gan. "Our future residents have made this major decision to purchase... we have done everything we can think of to move works forward quickly. We very much appreciate their patience and trust in us and we look forward to delivering on the retirement home of their dreams."

The project leadership wishes to thank our project partners and our multi-discipline project consultancy team who have worked tirelessly to see this project through.

Stage one is anticipated to compete in Mid-Late 2020. With the whole project delivered in 2023.

For further information on sales, please call Mary on 0455 616 337.

Change in the Wind Literature Evangelism

Changes at the Division have seen a structural change within this frontline ministry.

Brenton Lowe, an LE team leader from WA has been appointed as Literature Ministries Coordinator within the Adventist Media Network and is the one to contact now if your church would like a team visit. (BrentonLowe@adventistmedia.org.au)

With the restructure, the local team leader position no longer exists. "I have been blessed to serve as leader in the Victorian Conference," says Joe Paola. "Thank you to all our conference leaders, pastors and church members for your tremendous

support over the years. And to my fellow LE's. We are encouraged by the words of the prophet in Colporteur Ministry, pg 11, "As long as probation continues, there will be opportunity for the canvasser to work." So many lives have been touched by personal one on one witnessing and we can be confident many more will continue to be touched by a visit from an LE."

Joe will continue as a full time LE here in Victoria. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his work as a team leader, and wish Brenton all the best in his new role.



Lorraine was recognised for her work with government, businesses and youth to educate and bring about change...



Permit Received! N Melb Samoan Church

After an extensive application process and wait of over twelve months, the church has been granted a Place of Worship planning permit.

This caps off a lengthy quest for a permanent home for the Adventist Samoan community in Melbourne. Started by Pr Eddie Erika in the early 2000's, the Samoan church set a Conference church planting record, growing from one to nine metropolitan communities.

The North Melbourne Samoan Church received a building grant from the Division in 2018 with additional supporting funds coming from the Victorian Conference, which is pleased to support the Samoan community and recognises their significant efforts in spreading the Gospel to their community.

The church is located in Campbellfield, and preliminary pre-construction work is underway to convert the warehouse into a multipurpose church facility.

*Galen Gan
Infrastructure Coordinator*



A Young Achiever Spotswood Church

Each year the Victorian Young Achiever Awards recognise the achievements of young people across Victoria.

The purpose of the awards is to acknowledge, encourage and most importantly promote the positive achievements of all young people up to and including 29 years of age as of 31st December each year.

Congratulations to Lorraine Ngwenya, the winner of Saward Dawson Community Service and Social Impact Award, which celebrates young social entrepreneurs, community service workers and volunteers who are dedicated to the needs of others and who seek innovative solutions to address social issues.

The Community Service Award receives by far the most nominations, making the task of the judges even more difficult and Lorraine's recognition is all the more significant, coming up against so many other worthy recipients.

Lorraine is committed to addressing youth unemployment and is the founder of Useful Link, an organisation that seeks to empower young people in areas of employment, personal development and leadership. She has worked with over 2000 young people over the last two and a half years.

Phil Hyland, VicYouth Director



AUC News

Pr Darren Garlett, the Australian Union Conference Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) Director recently attended the Adventist Schools Association gathering to give an Introduction and Acknowledgement of Country.

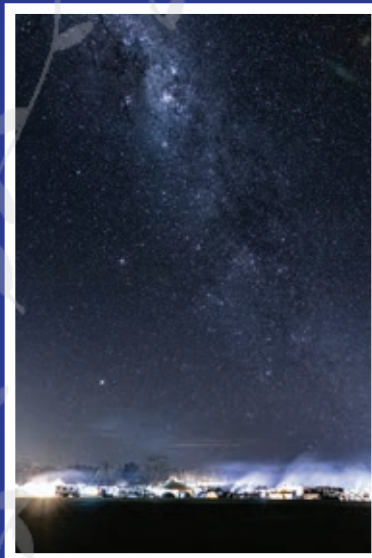
Present were a large group of school leaders who, at the conclusion of the meeting, were approached by a school administrator. At an induction earlier in the year, she and her colleagues were each given a pack of ATSIM resources.

She passed on thanks for the resources from the administrators, saying how they assisted in their roles as school teachers and administrators.

Many of our schools now use the Acknowledgement to Country at the start of assembly. The resource bookmark Acknowledgement to Country that ATSIM has developed to assist churches, schools and conferences to respectfully follow cultural protocols and promote reconciliation.

If you would like to receive an acknowledgement pack, contact KellyJackman@adventist.org.au





Expedition is an annual event for Pathfinder Clubs, held over the June long-weekend.

At expedition, the pathfinders are encouraged to work together in small, club-based teams, hiking through the forest using their map and compasses for navigation to identify as many checkpoints as possible.

This year, we had our biggest turnout for a Pathfinder Expedition, with 530 pathfinders, volunteers, leaders, directors, district directors and junior counsellors turning a small paddock in Rushworth, Northern Victoria, into a mini city!

Over 18 clubs were represented, some coming from as far as Mildura to attend.

We were blessed with clear skies, cold nights and crisp mornings.

Orienteering is one of the skills

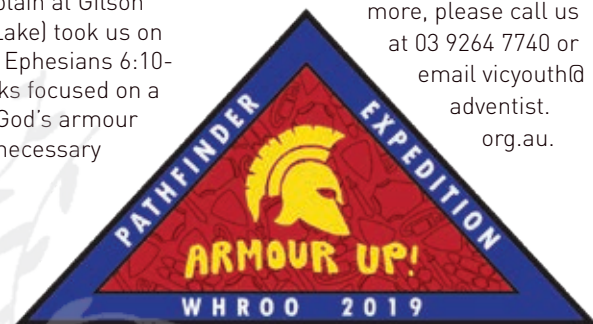
pathfinders are encouraged to develop over the duration of Expedition. We had 214 pathfinders participate in the Level 1 day hike (some teams walking upwards of 20 km), 130 Level 2 hikers (who camped in the forest for one night while orienteering on both days) and over 70 Level 3 hikers who completed a staged "search and rescue" operation while spending two nights in the state forest.

Our theme for this year's expedition was "Armour Up!" Pr Jono Gillard (Chaplain at Gilson College, Taylor's Lake) took us on a journey through Ephesians 6:10-18; each of his talks focused on a different piece of God's armour and why they are necessary in our lives.

Some of the pathfinders returned from their

hikes tired, others came back energised! Through the weekend they were challenged but learnt to overcome these challenges by working together in teams. New friendships were formed, existing friendships were deepened and memories to last a lifetime were made!

Pathfinder Ministries helps shape our young leaders to be bold, courageous and live a life of service for God's Kingdom. If you would like to know more, please call us at 03 9264 7740 or email vic youth@adventist.org.au.





Clockwise from top left: Gilson College third overall in State hospitality competition; Nunawading Year 8 STEM building solar-powered cars; Edinburgh Year 9 students visit aged-care residents; Henderson students at Eco Village; ASV IT Manager presents at State forum; Heritage Year 6 students with their buddies

Schools Snapshot

Students Pray with their Buddies Heritage College

Year 6 students from Heritage College recently met with their Year 1 buddies and delivered a heart shaped letter with a Bible promise. The older students explained to their buddies how God offers us lots of promises that we can hold onto. Students then prayed together before going back to class.

Sharing Stories with the Elderly Edinburgh College

Year 9 students from Edinburgh College recently visited a local aged care facility to spend time sharing stories and entertaining the residents through music.

ECO Village Visit Henderson College

To celebrate World Environment Day, students from Years 1 & 2 visited the

Eco Village. They learned what kinds of rubbish we can take to the tip and how we can separate it to recycle and think more environmentally friendly.

Sustainability in Year 8 STEM Nunawading Christian College

This Semester, Nunawading Year 8 students have been exploring energy through the design and construction of solar-powered vehicles. Students have learned how energy transfers and transformations cause change in simple systems.

Culinary Skills on Display Gilson College Taylors Hill

Four students from Gilson College recently competed in the Victorian State Hospitality competition run by the Australian Hospitality Federation. Competing against 9 other schools and TAFEs, students' preparation paid off, achieving third overall in Victoria.

Presenting at State Conference Adventist Schools Victoria

Ashley Bailey, General Manager Information Technology, was recently asked to present on ASV's technology developments at a state-wide conference for IT professionals.

Read more stories from schools at asv.vic.edu.au

Enrol for 2020 & 2021

Limited places are available in Adventist schools for Early Learning, Prep and Year 7 in 2020 and 2021.

If your family is considering enrolling in an Adventist School, visit asv.vic.edu.au to find out more information or contact your nearest campus.

Culture in Adventist Schools

Living in the 21st century is complicated. If we compare it to life back in the 1940s when only one in three of us lived in a city, and then recognise that by 2030 around 60% of us will live in cities – we can see things are changing. There is a global phenomenon where more of our population is living in cities and, yet despite being surrounded by people, we are more and more lonely and lacking a sense of belonging.

Early in 2018 Britain's then Prime Minister, Theresa May, appointed a Minister for Loneliness due to the fact that more than 9 million people reported that they were lonely. Here in Australia one in four adults are lonely and yet this is not distributed evenly through the age brackets. Australians over 65 are the least lonely and they also report better physical health and psychological well-being, less social interaction anxiety, fewer depression symptoms and greater social interaction than younger Aussies (Lim, 2018).

So, in the midst of all these societal challenges how do we build a culture for young people that is different? A culture that allows them to fit in, feel valued and not dilute their beliefs. How can we be in the world but not of the world? (John 17:14-15) For some people the answer to this is to take the monastic approach and withdraw from the world. Obviously, this is not what Jesus had in mind when we were asked to be His ambassadors (John 17:18). Some people choose to compromise what they believe and this leads to poor outcomes.

Finally, there are those who

choose to live by God's standards while being culturally relevant to the world in which they live.

As Christians, although we are physically present in the world, we are not necessarily a part of its value system. The apostle Paul often wrote about the Christian life and illustrated it with athletic metaphors from the Olympic Games. Running 'with perseverance' (Heb.12:1; Phil. 2:16; Gal 2:2; 5:7) and boxing (2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Cor 9:26) are used to illustrate self-control, discipline and focus.

In the same way, organisational behaviour attempts to explain how in the business world, a person's beliefs, attitudes and responses to their work place are influenced by the systems and personnel surrounding them. The importance of good organisational behaviour is highlighted when it is stated that it is the "single greatest advantage any company can achieve" (Lencioni, 2012, p. 1).

Organisational culture is the way we are supposed to behave, dress, act and work in various situations. There are also written and unwritten rules that tell us how we gain acceptance by our colleagues, and finally how we can be successful in our career.

In Adventist schools we aim to provide a place where students can feel part of the team and be valued. However, we do that in a way that allows people to develop like Jesus did – 'in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man' (Luke 2:52), without compromising the Biblical values that we hold to be self-evident truths.

*Mark B Vodell
Principal, Gilson College*

Lencioni, P. (2012). The advantage. San Francisco, California: Jossey-Bass.
Lim, M. (2018). Australian Loneliness report. Retrieved from Analysis and Policy Observatory: <https://apo.org.au/node/202286> website:

School Directory

Adventist Schools Victoria	Head Office	(03) 9264 7730	asv.vic.edu.au
Edinburgh College	Lilydale Campus	(03) 9728 2211	edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au
Gilson College	Taylors Hill Campus	(03) 9365 9365	gilsconcollege.vic.edu.au
Gilson College	Mernda Campus	(03) 9717 7300	gilsconcollege.vic.edu.au
Henderson College	Mildura Campus	(03) 5024 5192	henderson.vic.edu.au
Heritage College	Narre Warren South Campus	(03) 9796 0100	heritagecollege.vic.edu.au
Heritage College	Officer Campus	(03) 5943 2900	heritagecollege.vic.edu.au
Nunawading Christian College	Nunawading Campus	(03) 9877 3556	nunawading.vic.edu.au



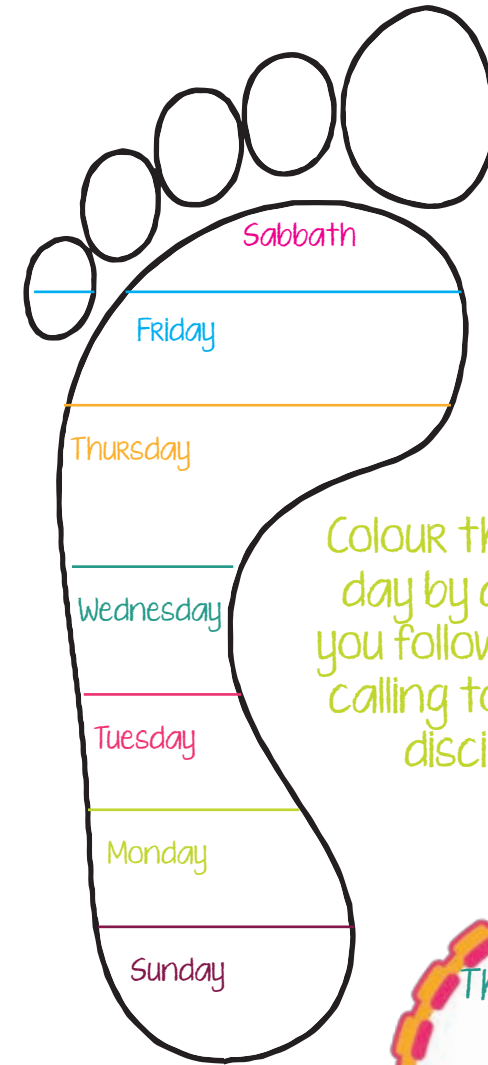
You are a Disciple!

UNSCRAMBLE...

...these words to find out what characteristics a disciples should have.

- voles seJus rtif
- sSsllfee
- mbulHe
- Dtcaededi
- Nto edcflinenu yb wordl
- fSel-tcornlo
- vLise yb dGos dwro
- areShs sJeus
- vLeos veronyee
- eeNds odGs ghtensrt

Go to Vic.Adventist.org.au/childrens-ministry for answers



Colour the foot day by day as you follow Jesus' calling to be His disciple!



Jesus calls us all to be His disciples. And there are times when this seems easier than others. But we can ask God to help us learn one step at a time. Pray with your family and discuss one thing you could do this week to be a disciple of Jesus

MAKE A LIST OF AS MANY OF JESUS DISCIPLES THAT YOU CAN THINK OF.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Read Matthew 28:18-20.
Did you know that Jesus wants us to be His disciples too?!!
What makes a good disciple?

WHEN YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANY MORE
LOOK UP MATTHEW 10:2-4



Julie Catton
Director of Children's Ministries
03 9264 7777

Following Your Service Order

I smiled at the magistrate because I knew he had just been given a second chance.

She spoke to him about consequences but also gave him hope and encouraged him to keep following the service order and continue to seek support. She treated him like he was made in the image of God - not a number - not a stereotype - not a statistic.

I reflected that we are all broken but we all have a biblical hope of eternal salvation. Our ultimate magistrate is God and we too must follow a service order to show love, compassion and hope to a broken world. Otherwise we can become apathetic, judgemental and out of touch.

I love serving people through ADRA. To see the opportunities not the

disabilities or the past mistakes.

Thank you for your support as we wouldn't be able to help the 112 clients referred from the courts through the Settle Assist program with Afri-Aus Care or the weekly referrals for women escaping family violence or the 1400 food parcels and meals we provide across Victoria every week.

Rebecca Auriant

From Refugee to Victorian Police Senior Advisor...

It was a privilege to be part of the Nuer community conference in June. The conference covered and provided training over a range of topics from mental health, to conflict management, AOD and community development initiatives.

Guest speakers included Mayor, Cr Roz Blades from City of Greater Dandenong, the Victorian Police and service providers (including ADRA on the programs offered at our Springvale centre). One of the highlights was hearing stories from the field whereby people's lives had been impacted through ADRA in South Sudan - not only through disaster relief but through employment opportunities.

Tito's story is very moving as he overcame the immense hardship of war to rebuild not only his life but transform the lives of others around him - both in South Sudan and now in the Victorian Police. A true hero.



Tito's Story

Early 1996, I left the refugee camp where I had been studying in Ethiopia, because I was homesick. My age is uncertain and I was somewhere between 14 and 16 at the time, and just halfway through Grade 6. Shortly after that my relationship with ADRA began and twenty three years later, I regard myself as a member of the ADRA family.

The second Sudanese civil war was in full throttle, people moving from one place to another, avoiding the conflict hotspots. I joined my family in Mading, a small seasonal town, a few hours drive from the Ethiopian border, along a dirt road. Mading had an airstrip and everything was supplied by UN agencies, including ADRA.

There was one primary school in the centre of the town. With no classrooms or offices, everything was conducted under trees. The school provided up to Grade 4.

The headmaster was a Year 12 graduate from Sudan and the other four teachers were Grades 8 or 9 graduates. I volunteered what little I knew and became the youngest teacher, given Grades 1 and 2, with about 55 students in each group.

ADRA administered the education aspect and worked closely with UNICEF. As Southern Sudan refused to adopt the Sudanese education system, the curriculum and syllabus were borrowed from Kenya.

While Mading is a small town, the settlement spread into neighbouring smaller villages. A small creek/swamp separated Mading from one of these villages and during the rainy season, it became impassable for younger school children so I approached the headmaster about opening another school.

The town administrator - now an Australian living in Melbourne - and the headmaster approved and I offered up to Grade 3, with an assistant who helped with Grade 1.

Like Mading, school ran under the trees. Rain meant the kids went home.

News spread quickly. ADRA and UNICEF learned about it and pledged their full support. They visited me numerous times. I even received a nicely typed letter in an envelope from a UNICEF director thanking me... It was the first letter I'd ever received.

Through ADRA's advocating for me, I attended a teachers' training course, Certificate I in teaching. On the first day the local school authority dropped my name from the list of prospective trainees. Their reason was that the class was full. I was surprised but there was nothing I could do. They were all soldiers and were not known for having great complaint handling systems. There must have been many dynamics at play and due to my age, I was the easy target.

ADRA's program coordinator Santos, got on the long range radio and requested extra resources such as textbooks, uniforms and food from ADRA's Nairobi office.

This creating an extra position in the course so I could attend. After three months, I graduated top of the class. Over the next two years, I went on to complete Certificates II and III.

I loved teaching- making a difference in kids lives gave me purpose. Some of those children I taught went on to complete their school studies in neighbouring countries. A good number are now senior officials in the Government of South Sudan or working with aid agencies. It's satisfying. They still call me 'teacher.'

But I never forget it was only possible because others gave me a chance. UNICEF and ADRA provided basic materials without which the school could not have functioned. Their support and encouragement motivated and inspired me. I was just a young man but I was given opportunity to contribute to community development initiatives, exchanging ideas with big people.

In April 1998, Santos nominated me to be trained as a trainer and after three months I was training some who even

had higher educational qualifications, in creating curriculum and lesson plans. ADRA paid me \$USD100 per month to train the teachers. It was a load of money!

In January 2000, I managed to get out of Mading to Kakuma Refugee Camp where I continued my primary school, from Grades 7 to 9.

I arrived in Australia early 2003 and completed my VCE in 2005.

I hope one day to meet Santos again and thank him for the great work he did with ADRA, and his personal support for my educational development.

Tito Tut Pal



L- R, Afri- Aus Care, ADRA, Mayor Cr Roz Blades and Victorian Police at the conference in June



Springvale Spanish

There's been a lot of visitors in the garden at ADRA's Community Centre in Springvale!

Representatives from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the City of Greater Dandenong, South- East Community Links and Afri- Aus Care visited in May to see how we can further collaborate with the current programs run in partnership with Afri- Aus Care.

Thank you to Springvale Spanish SDA Church for the opportunity to run these programs which provide education, employment and counselling to people in need.



"Thank You"

Early June one of ADRA's volunteers, Helena from Wantirna Polish Church) turned 80.

Thank you, Helena, for all your support every week, so that we can help the community.



BIG CAMP is BACK

BigCamp

2020

April 9 - 13

@Elmore

Please note - Family tents will no longer be available as AUC Tent Services has closed...

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RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Pavilions Blackburn Lake, 133 Central Road Nunawading.

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