



Feb 22 2020

AGAINST THE GRAIN

Introduction

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Victorian Adventists


Victorian Adventist
COMMUNICATIONS
a publication of VAC

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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October 15	November 28

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A note from the Editor's Office



A New Decade

It's 2020. The new decade has had a devastating start – with fires in so many large areas of Australia – and I know you're aware that Victoria hasn't missed out. With all of the natural disasters in our world, so many are asking how much longer can this old world keep going. Jesus coming must be soon!

Our Bairnsdale church folk, the ADRA in Bairnsdale team and ADRA Director, Rebecca Auriant have done a great job liaising with so many, and this year, God opened the way for ADRA to make a wonderful contribution to those in so much need. Food, funds, fencing and generators have all been greatly appreciated.

Due to the fires in the Alpine areas not too far from Camp Howqua, the Youth Department cancelled Gap camp, but, after seeking advice from the CFA, and after significant discussion and prayer, Phil and Rose were able to run successful well attended camps for juniors and teens. Thanks to the wonderful team of volunteers who've done such a great job... Well done to all involved!

So with the recent and current realities in mind, where to from here? What is God wanting from His people, and what is He wanting of His church in this new decade? The Gospel Commission is still current – and as you know, we've been working on that. The results are now in for 2019 – a year when we focused on 'reaping.' So many were involved in



Revelation Today with John Bradshaw and Eric Flickinger – thank you so much. Our pastors and members have worked faithfully – and God has provided the harvest. With 362 joining the Adventist church in 2019, it was the best soul winning year for Victoria since 1992. Praise God!

But there are millions who still don't know that Jesus is coming soon. What can we do in 2020 to more effectively reach our communities for Christ?

As Paul asks in Romans 10, How will they know if no one tells them?

Graeme Hunter

Vic.Adventist.org.au

Have you checked out our website lately? Please take the time to have a look. Browse through the pages that interest you. Then enter Survey2020 into the search bar and

participate in the short survey. Or if you would prefer, email feedback on your experience at our website to VictorianAdventistCommunications@Adventist.org.au

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For this devotional, we are contemplating the presentations for the Junior campers, by Natasha Sua. Why not accept the challenge, to go Against the Grain, just as Jesus did...



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Thank you to all the people who have been supporting ADRA in Victoria and the fire relief effort. ADRA in Bairnsdale worked tirelessly beside its community as fires gripped the region. And it continues to assist the affected communities in the aftermath



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Stories of service and of celebration. For more detailed articles, visit vic.adventist.org.au

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Please keep an eye on our notices section on the Conference website Vic.Adventist.org.au

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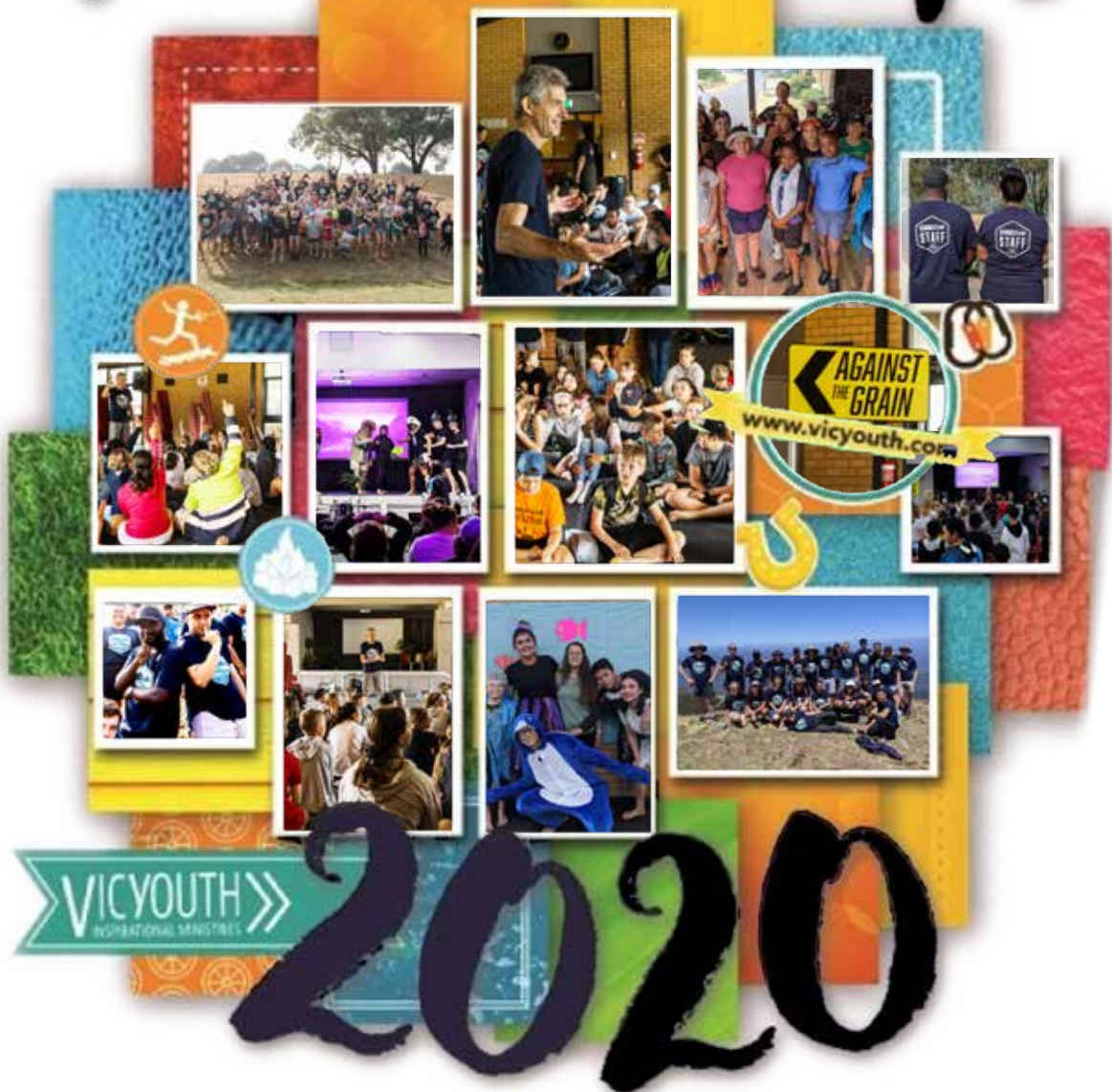
World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer coming up - Friday, March 6 - is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170

countries on the first Friday in March.

Visit <https://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/locate-a-service/> to find participating worship service near you on Friday, March 6

summer camps



It's been an unprecedented start to 2020 with all the tragedy, loss, heartache and grief surrounding the massive bushfires that hit Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

The fires impacted our Summer Camp programme too. When the state government declared Victoria a "State of Disaster" we decided to cancel the first of our camps - GAP camp (16-18 year-olds).

Praise God we were given the OK to run Junior and Teen camps with conditions being favourable and improving daily, including some much needed rains.

With both our Junior and Teen speakers originally from Victoria, it was a real

homecoming for them both. Natasha Sua, the Junior speaker, and Josh Stothers, the speaker for Teens, brought the Word each night to our campers, unpacking different aspects of our 2020 Summer Camp theme and what it meant to go Against the Grain. They explored going Against the Grain in the context of identity, love, hope, peace, forgiveness and relationships.

Friday evening is the high point of Summer Camp when campers are invited to various levels of commitment,

from a commitment/recommitment to Jesus, request for Bible studies or prayer to preparation for baptism.

The decisions made by both campers and staff at summer camps make all we invest in them worth every bit!

For this edition's devotional, we are sharing with you some of what was shared at the camps, and as you read, we encourage you to prayerfully relook at the Gospel accounts, Against the Grain.

AGAINST THE GRAIN

Jesus went against the grain, proving this time and time again in His ministry on earth and ultimately when He died for us. It was a supernatural sacrifice for someone so far above us in every way, to do what He did... It was an act of love that He would go against the grain for us mere humans, as Romans 5 reminds us. God demonstrated His own love toward us while we were still sinners, through Christ's death.

With this in mind, consider friendships; compare the world view of friendship with God's view, using the Biblical example of David and Jonathon, where true friendship will put the other person's needs ahead of their own, and the proverb *A friend sticks closer than a brother.*

Now recall times where you have tried to 'do it' alone, and times where you had support from your close friends. When Jesus was alone, that was when temptation struck hard. We are even more vulnerable when we are isolated, than He was. And He chose to complete His ministry with close friends. He could have done it alone, but by choosing a community to share His journey with, He modelled his love and value of true friendship, and God's desire for us to be a community to each other, relying on, helping and building up each other.

The story of the Prodigal Son emphasises God's love for us. Through the Ten Commandments He reveals that love; how to live a life of love with Him, and with each other. Jesus emphasised this when He spoke of the two great commandments. We are often deceived into thinking that true freedom comes from being able to do whatever we want. But true freedom comes when we are fulfilling the purpose of our design, living the way God planned for us, as demonstrated by Christ's life.

One of the hardest days of Jesus' life was the day He received the news of His cousin John's execution. If you study that day closely, His humanity shines through. But so does the image of God. We too, reflect the image of our Father. But mirrors can distort. What does reflecting God look like in our lives, in our choices and the decisions we make? On good days, and on the bad? How can we go against the grain of what we feel like doing in trying circumstances, to reflect our Lord better?

Jesus, as a carpenter, understood grain, that working with it keeps the strength and integrity of the timber. But with Peter, He chose to go against the grain because He knew the potential Peter had. He knew Peter would deny Him. He made the hard choice and told him he would do so... because He knew that exposing Peter's flaw would produce a stronger more powerful Peter. And He looks at you and me and sees the potential in our 'wood'. He sees our faults (and knowing them, He died for us anyway). And He will go against the grain, to produce His masterpiece of love.

To conclude the week, Natasha Sua wanted the campers to focus on actioning what she had been talking to them about. How do you be a follower of Jesus, and go against the grain when needed? Through reading His word for instruction, talking to Him in prayer and fellowshiping in community. They spent time in groups, having a Bible study, using a bookmark aid outlining the Discovery Bible Study method, and the ACTS prayer guide.

The campers returned home challenged to make this a daily practice. It is our prayer that you encourage these young people in your church and home to continue in this, and that you pick up the challenge too, and go against the grain, as Jesus did.

Natasha Sua was the presenter at Junior camp this year



ADRA COMMUNITY

With scores of fires burning out of control across Australia on Monday Dec 30, among the most dangerous were those raging through Victoria's Gippsland region. The scorching temperatures and wild thunderstorms saw the fires near Bruthen and Buchan expand and move rapidly.

By Tuesday, ADRA Bairnsdale had been activated to support the Red Cross and Shire. Volunteers continued to work tirelessly through the ensuing weeks providing items requested by affected communities, optimising small windows of opportunity to deliver these much needed goods and liaising with local businesses to purchase the provisions required.

I witnessed the Bairnsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church members and ADRA team operate under extreme circumstances to deliver essential support to communities

affected by the bushfires.

We prayed every morning for God to lead, to open doors. And He did. Through the devastation and heart-break of hearing people lose their homes and livelihoods, it was affected Adventist church members who continued to share of their hope in Jesus which has kept them going.

I thank God for giving us the strength to keep going, day after day. I would also like to thank our church members who have been volunteering tirelessly in many ways.

We also think of the church members in the fire torn regions, not just Victoria, but also in New South Wales and South Australia - you have watched your communities suffer, you too have suffered. May you feel Christ's love for each one of you.

*Rebecca Auriant
ADRA in Victoria*

GOD in ACTION through ADRA



Specifically Requested items were collated into emergency packs



Marilyn worked closely with other agencies and area coordinators



Emergency needs included livestock feed

Communities Helped

Calls soon came for support. Besides assisting the two local Relief Centres, January 1 saw a request from Orbost Relief Centre for support with emergency supplies. The next day the Fire Brigade requested assistance for Wairewa, which they then delivered as only they had access to this small valley where eleven families had lost everything.

Buchan, Gelantipy, Sarsfield and Clifton Creek received supplies.

In the crisis stage, food, water, hygiene and toiletry packs were the most sought after needs and an appeal went out to Melbourne with a checklist of items needed and two drop off points arranged for church members to drop off the packs.

Community Spirit

Volunteers were overwhelmed by the support of the wider community. It soon became evident, as the warehouse filled with goods, that the greater need, and in fact the best way to help, was to donate to ADRA's disaster relief fund, which was then used to purchase specifically requested needs, where possible from the affected communities.

The local community spirit was at its best too, with people sharing their food parcels and local businesses offering free photography sessions to make new memories, free massages, and free moving services. We experienced ALDI shoppers donating money in the aisles then coming back to the centre to help pack. A local business man donated a coolroom to support our current coolroom, VEGCO donated veggies and amazing support came from Melbourne.

The Need Continued

By Mid January hundreds of families in the following areas had been provided with supplies:

- Orbost and Wairewa - hygiene packs, food and water supplies
- Clifton creek - water, groceries, food, hygiene packs, cleaning materials, filtered jugs
- Bairnsdale Relief Centre and Lucknow Hall - catering and food supplies
- Sarsfield - food, water and sheep and horse feed
- Club Terrace - water, food, groceries, hygiene packs
- Orbost Emergency Centre - bread, fruit, veggies and water
- Buchan - lamps, masks, hygiene packs and fodder for goats and sheep
- Cann River - fruit, vegetables, frozen meals, bread and cleaning material
- Lake Tyers Community Health and Noorinbee - food supplies
- Gelantipy - food, water, hygiene packs
- People relocated to Lindenow - hygiene packs and essential supplies

Jan 9 ADRA Australia Facebook Post...

"We're so proud of our volunteers and their response to the devastating bushfires.

We have teams of volunteers mobilised across the whole country, and ABC Radio Australia spoke with Marilyn Beveridge, who is coordinating the efforts in East Gippsland, Victoria. The response is being described as "a triumph of clever logistics and finely tuned organisation."

"It's a matter of getting out to people what the need is," says Marilyn. "We're encouraging (people) to send the money here to buy locally, so that we're supporting the local businesses."



Supplying fencing enabled emergency services access unhindered by wandering livestock

More than Basic Needs

In addition to basic essentials such as food, groceries and hygiene packs, ADRA was able to assist, thanks to generous donations, with needs beyond immediate survival.

Sarsfield and people relocated to Lindenow needed furniture for emergency accommodation.

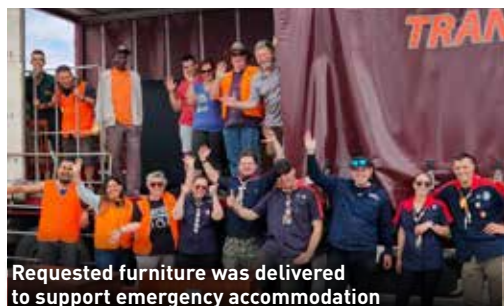
Fencing needs were essential. Emergency services were struggling with the livestock wandering freely on the roads. Fences needed more than repairing - they had been burned down.

ADRA distributed fencing wire, barbed wire and star pickets, solar energisers and insulators for the electric fences, purchased locally where possible, to Buchan, Gelantiply and Bete Belong N.

ADRA was also able to source a number of generators and water pumps, jerry cans and fuel to Club Terrace, Gelantiply and Buchan.



Church teams from across the state worked together



Requested furniture was delivered to support emergency accommodation



A warehouse donated by a local businessman continues as a minisupermarket, delivering needed staples

Beyond the Fires...

Donations to ADRA's Disaster Relief fund will continue to support fire affected people in Victoria. At the time of print at least 29 cash grants of \$500 each have been provided to fire victims.

ADRA Bairnsdale has now established a mini supermarket/warehouse to deliver quickly to remote affected areas as needed.

"ADRA Bairnsdale has had the policy of working closely with the co-ordinators in each Relief Centre, across this vast area, only delivering the items that have been identified as needed. Most deliveries have been with Police escort or with Permits supplied daily from the Incident Control Centre. The needs and deliveries continue and will for a long time to come."

Marilyn Beveridge



Thank You

To all the churches and members across the state, as well as Afri-Aus Care and the South Sudanese Equatorians, all of you who have gone Against the Grain, donating time and resources to contribute to the relief effort in a myriad of ways, thank you for what you have done and for your heart of service.

What Affects One Affects Us All...

Victoria has a number of church communities in fire affected areas.

Members have been volunteering tirelessly in many ways, from fighting fires in their own areas, helping with evacuations to working in ADRA Bairnsdale's centre.

And sister churches have helped by gathering and delivering packs to the Centre, funding generators, raising money... the list goes on.

Two Adventist families lost their homes and our thoughts and prayers go out to them, that they will feel Christ's loving arms wrapped around them, carrying them through this trying time.

We are a church family. We have all been impacted in some way by this fire season. Together let us lift our hearts in prayer - pray for healing, for strength, for support and for the advancement of God's kingdom in spite of tragedy...

JUSTICE
COMPASSION
LOVE

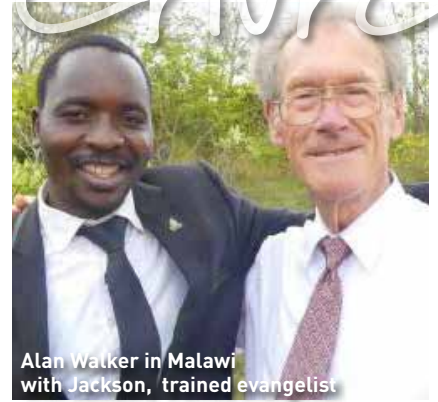
Church



The Drop-in Centre meets more than just the physical needs of those who attend



Some of the Adventurers at their first Investiture



Alan Walker in Malawi with Jackson, trained evangelist

Service for Christ

Bairnsdale church folk would like to share with fellow Victorian church members how they have united to serve, honour and share their love of Jesus both in East Gippsland and further afield, in celebration of God's activity in their midst.

It seems the last two years we, as a church family, have come fully alive! The seeds of much prayer and past outreach have sprouted and people are being drawn to God's message of love.

We have in recent months seen twelve people commit to Christ through baptism. We have just started our own Adventurer's group which is very active. Members of the church, involved in Cornerstone Ministries and Reach Out for Christ International, have taken a number of evangelistic mission trips to East Africa, resulting in many people there committing to following the Lord. And we have taken a huge step with the conception of the Hope Restart Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation facility on our grounds, which will really benefit many.

The ministry that seems to underpin all others, fuelling our passion, is service. Our ADRA Opportunity Centre began with a foundation forged around thirteen years ago. It was followed

soon after by the Gems'n' Jams Op Shop with their special interest in an orphanage in Myanmar while also meeting the needs of the local community. These two ministries came to work closely together and in December 2018 Merylyn and Don Beveridge were at the helm. They established Food and Friendship (F&F) Drop-in Centre. Come for a cuppa and snack on a Monday morning, and leave with much needed food supplies.

It became obvious friendship was the most important part for the ever increasing numbers attending. Often expressed remarks were "We feel accepted and safe here" and "You've saved my life." The latter was often literal as folk with multiple challenges in their lives were assisted out of homelessness or away from abusive partners or distressing mental health issues.

Some of these people began attending our weekly Sabbath lunches... then other programs and services. Some

asked for Bibles studies and baptism.

The customers have even began running F&F themselves, along with many previously somewhat less-active church members who have caught the joy of volunteering.

By the time the fire situation hit our region, ADRA had already been recognised and the local Council was involving us in service delivery to the extended community supported by Second Bite, ALDI, and Baker's Delight. The Centre was ready to become an official Fire Assistance Centre for the region. God is good.

The whole community has been blessed by God's leading over thirteen years ago. What's more, this spirit of service has spilled over into many other aspects of our church life until there's hardly a single person who isn't involved in some way or other and impacting our wider community.

Rod Twining, Judith Walker & IntraVic

Leongatha Fiftieth Celebration

Past members and pioneers of the church came from far and wide on November 2 in support of a church family that has enjoyed a long-standing reputation for warmth and connectedness.

It was a full day, with morning and afternoon programs, music conducted by the youth band and special items. After a time of reconnection and reminiscing over a magnificent

fellowship lunch, the four past pastors in attendance, along with the current pastor, highlighted their memories of happy fellowship and service at Leongatha and how it shaped their ministry. Our 'Fiftieth' proved to be a beautiful way to commemorate years of Adventist church life in one of the southern-most locations of mainland Australia. Our prayer is that God will continue to grow and guide our wonderful church family.

Chris Talty



Founding member, Lorraine Bentley, cutting the cake, with Pr Denis Hankinson



Operation Tin Can

A HUGE thanks go out to Macedon Ranges Adventurers and Pathfinders and their supportive parents and friends who helped with driving and sorting.

We were able to deliver to the food bank a trailer-load full of non-perishable items for the Gisborne Foodbank on Sabbath afternoon, 23 November. Rob from the Gisborne FoodBank was there to open the doors for us and he was close to tears to see the huge amount of food being donated by a caring community and collected by our young people.

The sorting was so well done that the Foodbank volunteers could quickly shelve the goods.

God bless our kids and may we continue to shine as a church in our community.

Sharon Tolhurst



Restore One Mission Trip

During late December, a team of volunteers from Burwood Adventist Community Church partnered with Restore One to help make a difference in a rural village in Cambodia. Little did the team members realise that through the opportunity to serve and bless others they gained just as much of a blessing.

Cambodia has endured a painful history and continues to heal. Although many local people have experienced pain and loss, it was inspiring to see their resilience and to experience their warmth and joy.

Restore One has been in Cambodia for over six years, helping establish a primary school, secondary school and pre-school in a rural village. It was here the volunteer team helped improve health and sanitation in the village, building and painting toilets in bright, attractive colours and designs. The families were grateful and thrilled to see the finished Picasso-like loos.

A highlight for the village was the pop-up clothing shop and impromptu fashion parade which brought fun and laughter to the lively event. We are thankful for the generous donations of clothing and shoes that made this event possible, raising funds for Restore One's school.

A visit to the primary school saw the team engaging in fun, practical ways of teaching hygiene and giving away new toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap. At the secondary school, nurses from the team taught students basic first aid, while others taught English, Science, Sewing, Music and Photography. A highlight for all the secondary students was having their class photos taken and Year 7 students were surprised to receive new stationery packs donated by Burwood members. The inaugural Year 12 class was thrilled when presented with their yearbook made especially for their cohort. Many of these students are hoping to go on with further study and training.

Upon reading the yearbook it struck us that this school is making a huge difference in the lives of students by helping change the trajectory of their lives and in turn helping their families also to have a brighter future.

When given an opportunity to serve go for it, even if you are not sure how you can help. When we make ourselves available to serve, God can use us to bless others in ways we never even imagined.

Natalie Thomas

Conference News

Adventist Motorcycle Ministry

Where Every Ride is a Mission

Members of this ministry take their mission seriously. Throughout the year, they visit churches, take road trips and help Grace Connections.

Each month they try to do something, whether it be a trip to Marysville, or a visit to a local church such as the ones they have just done to Longwarry and Yarra Valley, or helping Grace Connections with feeding the homeless and gang members in Dandenong.

Last year they took a weekend run to Portland, where Longriders Christian Motorcycle Club Mount Gambier joined them, many of whom experienced their first vegetarian lunch and were very surprised with how enjoyable it was!

As well as visiting churches, last year saw them mingling with the residents of AdventCare Whitehorse.

Cann River out to the east was the staging point for the 'Road Trip' through Eastern Victoria, up through New South Wales, finishing with our annual visit to Wangaratta. No one of course had any idea of the fires that would engulf these areas several months later.

The 'Record' breaking event for 2019 was the visit to Wodonga Church on the New South Wales Border, with 21 bikes including visitors from other denominations including some who hadn't attended church for nearly two years!

This is the sort of thing we work towards in our ministry as we follow the advice of 1 Thessalonians and Hebrews, to encourage one another



daily and build each other up.

2020 has kicked off with some huge events. By the time you are reading this we will be involved with Steps To Life, with a special recording of An Evening with AMM Vic at their studio. We are making a DVD for our ministry.

March will see our first ever AMM Bikers Church riders and their families, with special attendance and hosting by Gavin Chatelier. This will be held at Edinburgh Primary School function centre at Lilydale. You are welcome to come along.

Our AMM Australian International Bikers Convention will take place last weekend of March in South Australia.

This huge event is being hosted at Ankara Youth Camp, Walker Flat, S.A.

And that just covers the first months of this year. There are more big events planned for the rest of the year!

Details of all events can be found on our Facebook page @movemelord

You can also email John or Chris and ask to be added to the email list for updates.

johncbrereton@gmail.com
soapyhb@gmail.com.

Chris Howard-Bath



Big Camp is just around the corner. So this is a reminder to make your bookings if you haven't already. Follow the link at Vic.Adventist.org.au to register to camp or as a day visitor.

TRUST SERVICES

If you would like an appointment with Steve Whitson during Camp, to discuss your needs, Steve will be at the Village Square, but please book ahead. You can call him any time on 0423 784 000.

OH&S SEMINAR



On the Friday of Big Camp at 3pm in the Village Square Cafe, there will be an OH&S seminar for churches.

It will provide an overview of important and essential issues that churches should understand to create a safe culture within their practices. The seminar will not provide training, however, training workshops will be organised and communicated in due time.

- Church Safety Officer Position
- Essential Safety Measures (Preparing an Annual Essential Safety Measures Report – AESMR)
- Emergency Management Plan – Bushfire Management Plan
- Solv Safety – Online OH&S Platform

All churches are encouraged to send a delegate to attend the seminar.

For preparation and planning purposes, please confirm attendance by emailing the OH&S Manager, Samuel Shehata, at samuelshehata@adventist.org.au.



Growing Together

Many Churches in western nations are both shrinking and aging as younger generations disengage. However, there are scores of congregations that are bucking this trend and developing cultures that welcome, empower, and engage teenagers and young adults.

The Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) has conducted ground breaking research with over 250 of these leading congregations to learn what they do right. Based on this study of a diverse group of churches, it was discovered that there are six essential strategies any church can use to better involve and retain young people. The results are found in the book *Growing Young* - see fulleryouthinstitute.org/growingyoung). What's more, they found that as these innovative churches engage younger generations, it breathes life and vitality into the whole church. Intergenerational connection and involvement is strengthened throughout the Church, and a sense of vibrancy fills the entire Church.

The Victorian Conference, in partnership

with the Fuller Youth Institute, the SPD and the AUC, has offered a number of churches from across Victoria the opportunity to participate in a Growing Together Cohort.

Next weekend (end of Feb) participants will be attending the first of two summits, commencing a year long process which will provide their congregations with a holistic philosophy and practical ideas to make much needed cultural shifts. They will learn new strategies to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life and energy into the whole church, creating thriving churches for all generations.

Please pray for the participants and their churches throughout this year.



Hi VAAS Members

What a wonderful time the 70 people who attended our weekend retreat at Elkanah had. It was such a rich blessing to listen to Gary Kent speak on archaeological discoveries that prove the Bible is accurate and prophecies true, and that we can know that there is a loving God who knows the beginning and end. We also enjoyed the company of Gary's wife Robyn who assisted him in the presentations.

Thank you to all those who helped make the weekend the success it was.

If you have any photos you would like to share please send them to vaasingles@gmail.com so I can have them put up on the conference website. You can view the gallery at vic.adventist.org.au and click on VAAS.

Cherryl Martens



WAYMAKER

We are a community of young adults, using our creative talents to share the Gospel. The culture we cultivate is a reflection of our mission, values and passion for growing disciples in a day and age that craves loving relationships and deep, meaningful conversation.

SUBSCRIBE

No monthly fee.

BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT

When faced with decisions in your life, do you follow your heart or your head?

Whether we realise it or not Facts verses Feelings, that is, thinking with our heads or with our hearts, impacts all our decision-making... from what we should have for lunch, to what we should do for work.

I've found in my own life that following God can sometimes cause a similar conundrum. I've been convicted that Jesus is real and present in my life, but when asked for proof and "evidence" that God is real, how can just my faith and belief be enough?

Do you sometimes wonder if there's enough evidence to believe and justifiably prove a risen Christ? Renowned American Scholar Dr Darrell Bock shares that there are over 14000 independent historical manuscripts confirming the story of Jesus as told in the New Testament! By comparison, the history and account of Roman conqueror Julius Caesar, comes down

to a total of just ten reliable manuscripts.

God has empowered people to write the story of Jesus, encouraged through His Spirit for people throughout the centuries to read and study the story of Jesus for themselves and provided opportunity for the Good News to be shared far and wide. With the weight of historical evidence of Jesus' work and life, evidence that is accepted and supported by Christian, non-Christian scholars and historians alike we can be boldly confident that our heads and hearts can finally agree! Fact and feeling in unanimous agreeance!

Be sure to subscribe to Waymaker.TV and watch the fascinating *What Do You Think* episode entitled *Unanimous*, a short video presentation where you will hear some of the best scholars of today offer their thoughts, opinions and research on the evidence that Jesus Christ did in fact rise from the dead and is our risen Saviour. Browse and see what else has been published...

Natalia Melville

Victorian Pastoral Staffing 2020

ACADEMY Pr Darren Croft

ARARAT Pr Andy Litchfield

ASCOT VALE Pr Ainsley Wagner,
Mr Steven Munsuang

ASIAN (MASDAC) Pr Terrance Sim,
Mr Josh Wood

AUBURN Pr Pawel Ustupski

BAIRNSDALE Pr Andrew Wilson

BALLARAT Pr Andrew Kapusi,
Mr Marius Jigau

BAYLES Mr Daniel Brunt

BENALLA Mr David Maxwell

BENDIGO Mr Daniel Maher

BENDIGO KAREN Mr Eh Pyang

BENDIGO KAREN REMNANT
Mr Daniel Maher

BERWICK Mr Adrian Peterson

BUNDOORA Pr Vikram Panchal

BURWOOD Pr Jose St Phard,
Assistant Minister TBC

CAMPERDOWN Pr Steve Piez

CANN RIVER Pr Andrew Wilson

CASEY Pr Michael Mohanu;
Ms Sylvia Mendez

CASTLEMAINE Mr Graham
McNicol

COLAC Mr Tau Poasa (Intern)

COOK ISLANDS (Carrum Downs)
Pr Russell Puna

COOK ISLANDS (Clayton)
Pr Russell Puna

CRAIGIEBURN
Pr George Latchman

CRANBOURNE Pr Vadim Butov
& Pr Helen Butov

CROSSROADS 2421 Dr Vailele Afoa

DANDENONG POLISH Pr Roman
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DARETON Mrs Connie Toga

EAST PRAHRAN Pr Vadim Butov
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Pr Saifoloi Pale Lafaela

FERN TREE GULLY
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FILIPINO AUSTRALIAN Pr Jezreel
Locop, Mr Jared French

FRANKSTON
Pr Jonathas Newlands

GATEWAY CITY Mr Chris Guo,
Pr Laien Hao

GATEWAY EAST Pr Chris Moses

GATEWAY LIGHTHOUSE
Mr Chris Moses

GATEWAY WEST Mr Steven Liu

GEELONG Pr Gavin Rowe,
Mr Tau Poasa (intern)

GEELONG HUNGARIAN
Pr Gavin Rowe

GILSON Pr Mau Tuaoi

GLENHUNTLY Pr Paul Kotanko

GREENVALE Pr Georges Latchman

HAMILTON Pr Andy Litchfield

HEALSVILLE Pr Trevor Rowe

HILLSIDE SAMOAN
Pr Soifoloi Pale Lafaela

HORSHAM Pr Peter Rollo

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS
Pr Ainsley Wagner, Pr Malcolm Reid

HUGHESDALE TBA

KAREN BURMESE
Mrs Nan Myat Kyaw

LEONGATHA Mr Luke Letele

LILYDALE Pr Darren Croft,
Mr Ryan Vidot, Ms Faye Stothers

LONGWARRY Pr Ben Townson

MACEDON RANGES
Mr Graham McNicol

MACEDONIAN Pr Nikola Trajkov

MARYBOROUGH Pr Andrew Kapusi

MELBOURNE CITY
Pr Jinha Kim, Pr Roy Kim

MELTON Pr Malcolm Reid

MERNDA Pr Trent Martin

MILDURA Pr Mladen Krklek,
Mrs Connie Toga

MOE Pr Luis Bermudez

MONT ALBERT Pr Malcolm Reid

MORNINGTON Mr Peter Hughes

NHILL Pr Peter Rollo

NOBEL PARK Pr Russell Puna

NORTH FITZROY Mr Josh Wood

NORTHPOINT
Ms Wendy Saluni (Intern)

OAKLEIGH POLISH Pr Pawel
Ustupski, Pr Jan Krysta

OROMO GROUP DANDENONG
Pr Denis Hankinson

OROMO PARKDALE
Pr Georges Latchman

PAKENHAM Pr Vadim Butov &
Pr Helen Buto

PLENTY VALLEY
Mr Adrian Peterson

PORTLAND Pr Andy Litchfield

PRESON Pr Wayne Stanley,
Pr Vikram Panchal

RINGWOOD Pr Ainsley Wagner,
Mr Steven Munsuang (Intern)

ROBINVALE Mr Peni Toga

ROMANIAN Pr Paul Boeru

ROWVILLE Pr Denis Hankinson

SALE Pr Andrew Wilson

SAMOAN CARRUMDOWNS
Pr Aitui Fenene, Pr Eddie Erika

SAMOAN CRAIGIEBURN
Pr Aitui Fenene, Pr Eddie Erika,
Mr Apelu Tanuvasa

SAMOAN NTH MELBOURNE
Pr Aitui Fenene, Mr Apelu Tanuvasa

SAMOAN PAKENHAM
Pr Aitui Fenene, Pr Eddie Erika

SAMOAN SOUTHEAST (Lynbrook)
Pr Aitui Fenene

SAMOAN SUNSHINE
Pr Aitui Fenene, Mr Apelu Tanuvasa

SAMOAN WERRIBEE

Pr Aitui Fenene, Mr Apelu Tanuvasa

SAMOAN WEST MELBOURNE
Pr Aitui Fenene, Mr Apelu Tanuvasa

SEDDON Pr Miroslav Gagic

SHEPPARTON Pr Russell Bryan

SPORTSWOOD Pr Brian Lawty

SPRINGVALE Pr Victor Acuna

SPRINGVALE SPANISH
Pr Jonathas Newlands

SPRINGVALE SUDANESE
Mr Manuel Tikulin

ST ALBANS CROATIAN
Mr Daniel Tilkulin

STAWELL Pr Peter Rollo

SWAN HILL Mr Daniel Maher

THE OASIS Pr Faser Catton

THE ORCHARD Pr Malcolm Reid

THE ROCK Pr Brian Lawty

TRARALGON Pr Luis Bermudez

VIETNAMESE GROUP
Pr Georges Latchman

WANGARATTA Mr David Maxwell

WANTIRNA Pr Yong shin Chee,
Mr Daniel Brunt

WANTIRNA POLISH Pr Pawel
Ustupski, Mr Josh Stadnik (Intern)

WARBURTON Pr Quinten
Liebrandt, Mr Emanuel Millen

WARRAGUL Pr Ben Townson

WARNAMBOOL Pr Steve Peiz

**WERRIBEE / Point Cook Church
Plant** Pr Nicola Trajkov,
Pr Danijela Trajkov

WESTALL Mr Mauel Tikulin

WESTERN SPANISH
Pr Victor Acuna

WESTPOINT FILIPINO
Pr Brian Lawty

YARRA VALLEY
Mr Emmanuel Millen

ZOMI Mr Thang Guite

School Chaplains

GILSON TAYLOR HILL Pr Mau Tuaoi, Pr Paul Goltz,
Mr Jonathan Gillard

GILSON MERNDA Pr Trent Martin

HENDERSON COLLEGE Mr Gerrard Price, Mrs Connie Toga

HERITAGE COLLEGE Pr Laolagi Limu

EDINBURGH COLLEGE Mr Jamie Stanley & Mrs Elizabeth Borgas

NUNAWADING CC PRIMARY Mrs Karen Horsley

NUNAWADING CC SECONDARY Mr Simon Hutton

Advent Care Chaplains

WHITEHORSE Nalissa Maberly, Annie Rutherven

YARRA RANGES Nalissa Maberly

WHITEHORSE ILU Lynette Rowland

University Chaplains

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS Pr Ryan Vidot

MONASH UNIVERSITY Pr Kojo Akomean

Pastoral Team Farewells

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to members of our ministerial team. Some have accepted calls to other Conferences, both in Australia and elsewhere. Others are retiring (or re-retiring!) or following God's call into different areas of life. They have been a part of our lives and it is sad to say goodbye. We wish them God's richest blessings in the next chapters of their lives.

- Duane Suffolk is heading to Lismore for a break and possibly then to some voluntary work in the Lightning Ridge area.
- Lili Panozzo plans to return to Adelaide.
- David Pearce is re-retiring after eleven years at Hughesdale and will continue to contribute to the broader church.
- Chrissie Cooper is returning to the Land of the Long White Cloud (NZ) and will be closer to family.
- Peter McGowan is planning on travelling

more next year after two years volunteering at East Prahran

- Miguel Flamenca is heading to Sydney/ Newcastle area to be closer to his ageing parents.
- Matthew Vrancic is moving to pastor Griffith Church in SNSW.
- Rob Steed is retiring but will still be based in Melbourne. If you're looking for an experienced coach, Rob will be looking to do more in this area.



Apelu and Tanuvasa



Peni Toga



Jonathas Newlands



Steve & Lamnu Munsuang with Ruth



Josh Stadnik



Daniel, Maritza & Naomi Brunt



Luke & Sau Letele with children



Mladen & Denise Krklec

Welcome

With many departures comes many arrivals. We welcome those that will be joining our team in 2020.

- Apelu Tanuvasa, who already calls Melbourne home, joins the Samoan Pastors working with the Samoan Churches across Melbourne as one of our new interns.
- Steve Munsuang has been a lay worker for the Burmese church at Ringwood in recent years and has completed his Grad Dip at Avondale. He will intern at Ringwood and Ascot Vale Churches.
- Josh Stadnik originally comes from Melbourne where he joined the Heritage College Church. He has graduated from Avondale and will serve as an intern under Roman Chalupka at Dandenong Polish Church.
- Mladen Krklec has been the Associate Pastor in QLD for 20 years and will be the new senior pastor for Mildura Church. He will add valuable experience and musical ability to our team.
- Steve Piez is well known to many of us,

having previously been the ATSIM Director for the AUC. Steve has been working with his hands for the last year, renovating a building at Port Fairy and will now care for Warrnambool and Camperdown while also consulting for the Church in PNG.

- Daniel Brunt has been serving Blue Haven in NNSW and joins us to work with Wantirna and Bayles Churches.
- Laien Hau is an experienced pastor currently working in Hong Kong. He will be joining the Conference sometime during 2020 when he is able to and will be working with Gateway.
- Peni Toga is married to Connie and will be caring for Robinvale Church in 2020.
- Jonathas Newlands comes to us by way of ministry in New Zealand for the last ten years. Originally from Brazil, he is excited to be have moved to Australia and is looking forward to serving at Frankston church.
- Luke Letele has joined the team as a lay minister after working as a Bible Worker during the Revelation Today program in the Western region. He is studying Theology by distance education. He is interested in Bible study and has a keen focus on fitness. He will be working at Leongatha church.



Citation

Rob Steed is a committed Adventist Pastor who has ably served God as a Departmental Director, Ministerial Secretary and Church Pastor. He has a passion for coaching and mentoring, and is committed to small group ministry. His is a strong believer in the ministry of hospitality and personal evangelism and is not afraid to innovate, as exemplified through 'Homes of Hope'. He has produced valuable and effective resources, has been an excellent trainer and counsellor, and has organised and presented many seminars. Rob is known for his ability to be forthright, with an ability to hold his course in the face of challenges while passionately standing for what he believes in. His determination for the church to be more effective is reflected in his focus, and his willingness to share his skills and insights with others.

Rob has served with faithfulness, a sense of innovation, and a focus on mentorship and training that has impacted many in Victoria. We know Rob will continue to minister for the Lord in whatever he puts his hand to and wish him well in his future endeavours.



The Wrong Way In

It was so hot. Ryan and Daniel sat with their backs to the school building, trying to sit in the narrow strip of shade, "Stupid rules," Daniel griped. "Why do we have to be out here during recess?"

"Yeah," Ryan agreed. "Can't see any of the teachers out here."

"It's torture, that's what it is!" Daniel burst out. "I'm dying of thirst!"

"I wish there was some way we could get inside," Ryan sympathized. He felt sorry for his friend, who was still getting used to the rules at the Christian school.

From the primary end of the playground they could hear girls singing.

"Go in and out the windows, go in and out the windows, go in and out the windows," Daniel mimicked them. "Can't they think of anything else?"

Ryan turned and stared at him. "That's it!" he exclaimed.

"By playing a girls' game?"

"No. By going in the windows. Mr MacIntosh left the windows of the classroom open..."

"You mean..." Daniel still wasn't sure what Ryan was getting at.

"Don't you get it?" Ryan asked. "They're open. We can climb inside, and then we'll be cool and can get a drink from the water fountain."

"But what if someone sees us and we get into trouble?"

"What kind of trouble could we get into? Nobody will see us. And when they let the others in the building, we'll just be the first ones in the classroom. Come on!" he urged.

"Ah, this is much better," Daniel sighed blissfully after he had climbed through and drunk two glasses of water. The boys grinned as the other children trooped in when the bell rang. They looked so hot!

"Before we begin our work this afternoon," Mr MacIntosh said, "I want to read you something from John 10:1.

"Jesus said 'He who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but gets in some other way, is a thief and a robber.'" He laid the Bible down and sat on the edge of his desk.

"It has come to my attention that some of you did not enter this classroom by the door. And Jesus said that whoever gets in another way is a thief and robber. I don't want any of my students being suspected of dishonesty, so I want whoever came in another way to go out again that same way, then come in through the door, as he should have in the first place."

Nobody budged.

"Daniel," Mr. MacIntosh said, looking at him, "what will it be?"

Daniel's face turned red. Slowly he walked to the window and lifted himself up. He slipped out and dropped to the ground. "All right," Mr. MacIntosh said, "now the rest of you take out your history books and turn to page 197."

The students' books rustled. Ryan sat still, staring at the window. Daniel hadn't snitched on him. Daniel wasn't even a Christian, while he— he felt sick. What had he done?

"What's the matter, Ryan?" Mr. MacIntosh asked.

"Why don't you have your book out yet?"

"There's something I need to do first," he answered, getting up and going to the window. "I suggested it. I'm sorry. If you're going to punish him, you should also punish me." Swinging up onto the windowsill, he slipped out too.

As Ryan dropped to the ground, what started as laughter inside the classroom turned into an admiring cheer.

By Tonya Ball*

* Your dad told you to clean up your toys, but you're having fun. You don't want to stop playing. Besides, the room is messy, and you don't feel like cleaning up. What will you do?
(Read Ephesians 6:1)

WORDSEARCH

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

COMPASSION
 RESPONSIBLE
 RIGHT
 SAFE
 KIND

COOPERATION
 HONESTY
 TRUSTWORTHY
 ACCEPTANCE
 RESPECTFUL

INTEGRITY
 TRUTH
 CARING

✧
 Your mum made only enough cookies for your brother's class. She tells the family not to eat any. You really want a cookie, so you decide to take one. Mum notices a cookie is gone. What will you do? (Read Psalm 119:30; Proverbs 19:5)

Sometimes it's hard to do the right thing, especially when no one is watching. Read the * scenario's around the page and see what the bible says!
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✧
 You got in trouble, and you're angry. Your parents punished you, but you think your sibling deserves to be punished. You could hit, pinch or trip your brother or sister when no one's looking. You could hide or break one of your sibling's toys. What will you do? (Read Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:17)



✧
 You're with friends when they start teasing an unpopular kid, taking his things and calling him names. If you stick up for him, the group could turn on you. You start to slip away, but someone throws you the boy's backpack. What will you do? (Read James 4:17; Ecclesiastes 4:10)

With your family, write a list of stories in the Bible where a person had to do the right thing, even when it was hard. Take turns choosing a name on the list and then acting out the story while the rest of your family guesses what story it is.



Julie Catton
 Director of Children's Ministries
 03 9264 7777

FAMILY ACTIVITY

INDIANAPOLIS 2020 General Conference Session

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Riding With a Mission!
Stories of Faith and God's Leading, with
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Adventist Motorcycle Ministry (AMM) Victoria is a group of Seventh-day Adventists who have a passion for motorbikes, and who use this passion to share their greater passion for Jesus in ministry.

AMM Victoria has also raised around \$A14,000 for "Connecting Hands", an organisation rescuing young children from prostitution in Cambodia. They have also raised money to help the family of a newborn with major health issues and are currently paying for a couple of young boys to attend a Christian school to hopefully keep them out of the drug scene. They have been involved in feeding gang members and the homeless in Melbourne, as well as supporting literature evangelists in Western Solomon Islands.

AMM will be telling their stories of the experiences of God's leading in their ministry and in the personal lives of some of its members. These true stories will both inspire and motivate you to step up and do something for God this coming year.

- 6.00 pm – Our Stories Part 1.
- 6.45 pm – Meal Break and chat personally with the AMM team members.
- 7.30 pm – Our Stories Part 2.

Where: Steps to Life, 15 Industrial Park Dve, Lilydale (Off Beresford Rd)

When: 6.00 pm, Saturday, February 29, 2020

No cost - Please register for catering purposes

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Email: admin@steps.org.au

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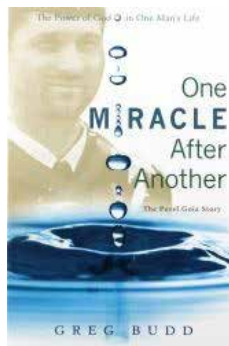


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