



Photo Credit: Kalan Howse

## A HEART OF SERVICE

1 JOHN 3:18

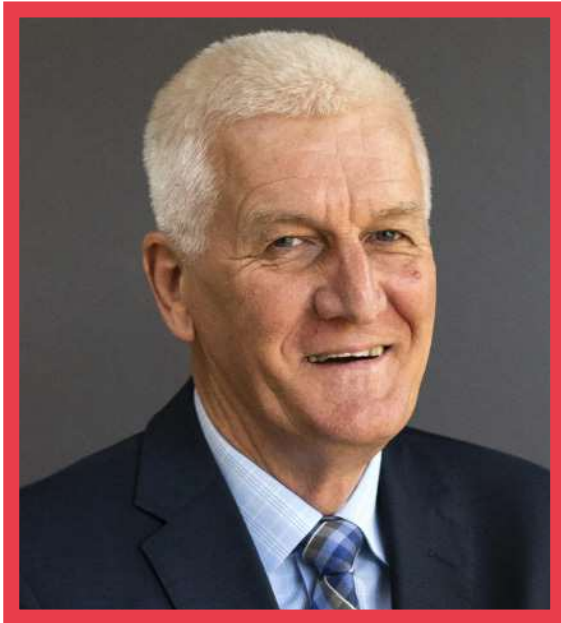
A Victorian Adventist Conference Magazine

# INTRAVIC

● ● ● ● ● ● SEP - DEC 2023



# A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



## SERVICE AND THE HEART OF WORSHIP

I have just come out of a Big Camp Planning Committee.

The discussion was animated. Various opinions were expressed as we discussed how we, here in Victoria, could implement an initiative of the global Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our world leaders have made a global appeal calling all people into a daily personal worship time with God.

Would we call it, *The Heart of Worship*? Or would *Back to the Heart of Worship* better communicate our need for a closer connection with Jesus? "Back to..." suggests we may have drifted a little - or a lot - from the ideal - and when we're honest, that may well be a current reality for at least some of us.

So many lead busy, media-saturated lives. It is challenging to find the time for essential communion with God that is so necessary for our spiritual well-being.

Without it, the God-shaped hole inside is empty. It's what our hearts are desperately craving.

After thoughtful and prayerful discussion, the decision was made that our Big Camp at Elmore, Easter 2024, will revolve around this theme:

### **Back to the Heart of Worship.**

It's not about being prescriptive, or judgmental. It's not even about the form of worship. Rather, it's about a lifestyle. It's about being supportive and encouraging as we seek to follow the example of Jesus who cherished personal moments of deep connection with His Father.

It's about bringing families together as they focus on our wonderful heavenly Father. It's a recognition of the invitation to start each day with Him, to walk each moment of the day with Him, and end each day with Him.

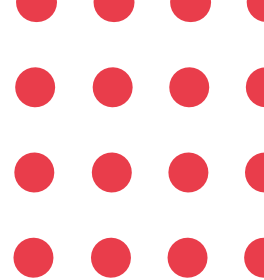
By now, I think it's obvious that "Back to the Heart of Worship" is about coming closer to Jesus. What may not be so obvious is that it is also about how we live our lives, the way we treat others and the way we serve. You may be aware that justice, mercy and faith were the 'big three' for Jesus. All flows out of who we are before God.

So, now is the time to plan to be at Big Camp at Elmore, Easter 2024 where we'll explore the theme, *Back to the Heart of Worship*. I think of Big Camp as a time for fellowship, inspiration and being together as we turn our minds heavenward.

Now that you know what our team are working on, please pray that God will lead and bless as plans are put into reality. See you there?

**Graeme Christian**  
Victorian Conference President

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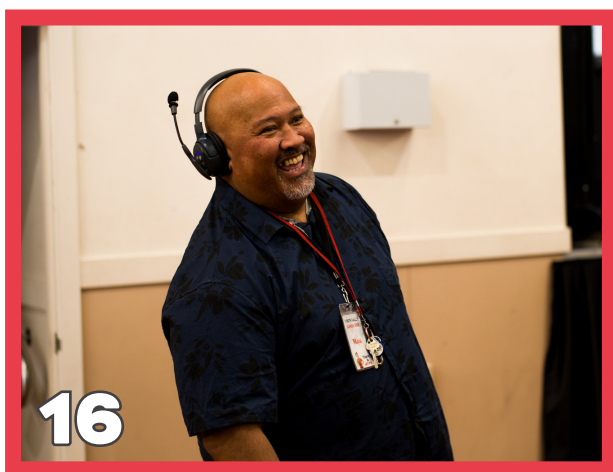
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# SERVICE SEPTEMBER

## ● ● ● ● ● AN UPDATE FROM ADRA

*“WHOEVER BRINGS BLESSING  
WILL BE ENRICHED, AND ONE  
WHO WATERS WILL HIMSELF BE  
WATERED.”*

**- PROVERBS 11:25**

Service September was a monthly theme initiated by the Victorian Conference to highlight how churches are serving their local communities. At the start of the month, the conference asked churches to share their community service projects to encourage and inspire churches to get involved in service on a community level.

This theme reflects the work that ADRA Australia is doing in partnership with Seventh-day Adventist Churches in Australia. ADRA Australia's purpose is 'To serve humanity so all may live as God intended', and Service September was an opportunity to share some of the incredible ways church members have been able to engage with their community through ADRA.

“Service is a daily commitment, a way to show people in need the heart of Jesus,” says Rebecca Auriant, the Conference ADRA Director in Victoria. “Service is what it looks like to be the church when the church service is over.”

ADRA runs 30 local programs within the Victorian Conference, and every program has a story of service to share. Janelle Bocola, the ADRA Dandenong Central manager, reflects on how their food relief program is serving the community and their volunteers.

“One special story that is continuing to unfold is about a father whose wife and son are regular members of our church,” Janelle says.

“Aaron\* rarely attended church, only on some special occasions. A few months ago, he was invited to help out at our feeding program. Since he began volunteering with ADRA he hasn't missed a Sabbath at church and he never

misses a Friday evening of volunteering. He is also happy to take the not-so-glorious responsibility of washing all the heavy dishes and packing up tables after the feeding program.

“He even spent his own money to buy plates and cutlery. We have seen such a wonderful spirit flow through our church since we started to serve our church community,” Janelle says.

In the Cardinia Shire Council, ADRA runs an outreach bus from the Library every Thursday night. The bus offers services ranging from food support to employment and housing support.

“There was a 45-year-old man I found out was sleeping on the ground,” says Sharon Stosic, a volunteer at ADRA Pakenham. “He was very hesitant to accept help and said he didn't like asking for help. I told him everything was donated, and that he didn't have to worry. I gave him the swag, and he broke down, crying and hugging me and crying on my shoulder.

“He told me he used to earn \$110,000 a year as a specialised mechanic. His older brother developed a brain tumour and he nursed him for two years until he died. He didn't handle things well and ended up on the streets. He lost everything. He told me, still crying, that he hadn't been shown much kindness in the four years he had been sleeping rough and was overwhelmed with all we gave him. We gave him food, blankets, and a swag, which he told me was like we had given him a house.”

Service September reminded ADRA volunteers and church members of their 'why'. The opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus is what drives them to turn out week after week and serve their community, oftentimes out of their church buildings.

**Rebecca Auriant**  
Director of ADRA Victoria

*\*name changed for privacy reasons*



and support referrals with these need help cards



## SHARING SERVICE SEPTEMBER ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Pictured above is a screenshot from one of the reels we posted on Instagram. Throughout the month we uploaded snapshots of the service we do at different locations - like the op-shop in Bunyip, or the food pantries in Rowville and Carrum Downs!

# Bairnsdale and Bendigo Blessed with Baptisms

On Sabbath of August 12, Bairnsdale was blessed to see another young person commit their life to the Lord in baptism.

Twelve-year-old Ariana Hamulczyk, daughter of Leo and Rose who leads the mission outreach group Reach Out For Christ International (ROFCI), was happy to openly show her family and friends her commitment to Jesus.

Ariana is already a “seasoned” missionary having taken an active part in several ROFCI missions to Asian and African countries.

There was music from the choir and an item from Leo and his sister Aldona. The congregation responded to Pastor Rian van Deventer’s invitation and pledged their support for Ariana as she continues her Christian journey.

**Judith Walker**  
Bairnsdale SDA Church



On the beautiful Sabbath morning of October 14, Bendigo Karen Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated the baptisms of 11 young people who committed to follow Jesus and surrender their lives to Him. This special day was witnessed by family, friends and church members.

During this occasion, we were also blessed with eight Profession of Faith candidates who decided to be part of our Bendigo Karen SDA church congregation.

Before these baptisms, we had an Evangelistic meeting for a week via Zoom with special guest speaker Pr Simeon Khin from Myanmar - he is the head departmental of Religion in Myanmar Union Mission’s Seminary.

During the Sabbath service, Pastor Graeme Christian told the candidates that they had made the right decision by accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour. He also appealed to those who had not accepted Jesus to evaluate their life and make the choice to start accepting Jesus as their Saviour.

After facilitating the baptisms, Pastor Christian encouraged the congregation to be faithful to the service of God and nurture these new members. We want to thank God for His blessing upon our church and we hope that He will continue leading us in the future as we faithfully serve Him in the City of Greater Bendigo.

**Michael Moowahshi**  
Bendigo SDA Church



# LOCAL NEWS PT.1

## Jesus in the Streets: A Western Spanish Outreach Initiative

On October 14, for the first time ever, the Western Spanish Church closed its doors on Sabbath morning and headed out to the streets of their community in Sunshine to be "Jesus in the Streets."

Their mission for the day was to foster a deeper connection with their community while imparting knowledge about health, overall well-being, and faith in Christ.

The church members worked together to bring these ideas to life by offering massages, conducting blood pressure checks, distributing health literature and signs magazines, and handing out water bottles and fruit juices (it was a warm day).

A dedicated group of church members also took on the important task of conducting home visitations to offer prayers, food parcels, and support to those facing difficulties or who had been absent from church.

In Acts 20:35, Paul quotes Jesus saying:

*"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

As they ventured out to bless and reconnect with their community on that warm, beautiful Sabbath day, the words of Jesus became a reality.

**Gustavo Recinos**  
Western Spanish SDA Church



# SERVICE AND SOUNDWAVES

## RADIO MINISTRY WITH FAITH FM

From their country home in Whittlesea, Arno and Janine Van Vuuren recently shared how God used Faith FM and people from the Nunawading and Bundoora churches to nurture their faith.

Born and raised in South Africa, the Van Vuurens moved to Western Australia almost 20 years ago, and began searching for answers to biblical questions they had, including the Sabbath. Stumbling across Faith FM one day, Janine realised the things she was listening to were straight from the Bible. It was an answer to prayer, and several weeks later, God answered their prayers again when the family moved to Melbourne.

As it happened, Arno, Janine and their boys ended up living right next door to the Nunawading Seventh-day Adventist Church, who happened to be running a Revelation Seminar at the time—answering a lot of their questions!

Finding community at Nunawading, six months later, Arno and Janine were baptised, and when the family moved to the Whittlesea region, they were able to continue growing their faith with the Bundoora Adventist Church.

Faith FM was the bridge that brought the van Vuurens into the arms of the Adventist church, and more importantly, into the embrace of God.

### SO WHAT IS FAITH FM?

Launched in Victoria in 2008, Faith FM is an Adventist-run Christian radio network that reaches communities around Australia. Through inspiring music, family insights, health advice, and uplifting spirituality, their goal is to make a positive difference in people's lives no matter where they are - from the cities to the Outback.

*"FAITH FM IS HAVING A HUGE IMPACT ALL AROUND AUSTRALIA: 7 OUT OF EVERY 100 AUSTRALIANS ARE NOW LISTENING ON A MONTHLY BASIS, AND OUR POTENTIAL REACH IS OVER 25% OF THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION."*

*- PR ROBBIE BERGHAN  
(FAITH FM CONTENT & PROMOTIONS MANAGER)*

Listener engagement exploded last year with a 200% increase in daily interactions and 6-7 times the number of evangelistic resources delivered every day by local church ambassadors.

"Our 'Meet the Presenter' community dinners are also proving a powerful way to connect listeners

with local church outreach initiatives, with SPD funding support for the next two years," says Pastor Robbie Berghan.

Being an outreach-focused radio channel, Faith FM not only supports communities, but communities also support them - this can be seen by many local groups and churches becoming broadcasting sites!

### A CALL TO CONNECT

By establishing a broadcast site, you are presenting the everlasting gospel to your community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. That works out to be 8,760 hours of community messaging per year - how amazing is that!

However, helping with broadcasting isn't just limited to becoming a broadcasting area; site scouting also plays a massive part. We need people who can find viable locations that amplify the station!

*"YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, OR YOUR FAMILY MAY BE LIVING IN ONE OF THESE LOCATIONS WHERE A SMALL ANTENNA COULD REACH YOUR COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST."*

*- PR. GRAEME CHRISTIAN,  
(VICTORIAN CONFERENCE PRESIDENT)*

If broadcasting isn't your speed, try running community programs to connect with listeners - these can be lunches or dinners! You could even share your 'Verse of the Day'. We've all been given gifts to serve, so every contribution counts - even if it's just a simple prayer!

Your willingness to help out can open the door for more families like the van Vuurens to not only find the answers to their questions but to also find a community where they can make lifelong friends and connections!

**Michael Engelbrecht**  
Faith FM Station Manager

**Naomi Janmaat**  
Communications Coordinator

**FAITH FM WEBSITE:**  
FAITHFM.COM.AU

### HAVE QUESTIONS?

**MARKO VRANCIC**  
FAITH FM BROADCAST SITES PROJECT MANAGER

markovrancic@adventist.org.au  
03 9871 7530

# VICTORIA NEEDS YOU!

With an untapped resource of over 30 existing radio licences, and all levels of the church are working together: For the next two years installation and equipment costs are fully subsidised by a funding grant from the Division.

The Union is providing technical support where there are willing volunteers on the ground, and the Victorian Conference is covering ongoing costs in communities lacking a local church presence.



## Willing to help?

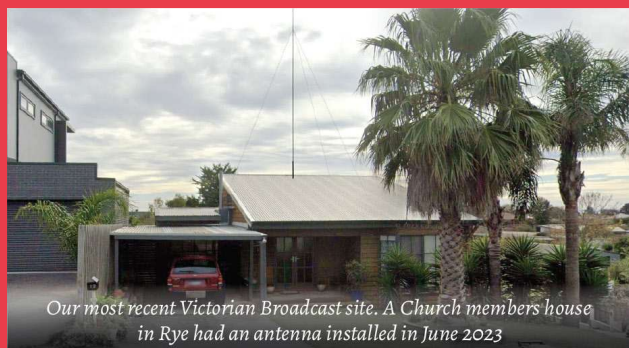
Volunteer your time in these Victorian towns to help find a home or business where radio can reach more people for Christ.

Marko is here to support you every step of the way.

Contact : 03 9871 7530

[markovrancic@adventist.org.au](mailto:markovrancic@adventist.org.au)

HELP share THE  
**GOSPEL**  
TO THESE TOWNS



# VICTORIAN WANTOK MINISTRY

## A REGIONAL WEEKEND IN SHEPPARTON

Over the weekend of October 20-22, the Victorian Adventist Wantok church met at the Shepparton Adventist Church for the Sabbath worship. The weekend was well attended by representatives of the seasonal workers who came from Mildura, Stawell, Castlemaine and Footscray.

The Cobram, Katanga and Barooga seasonal workers took the preliminaries for the Sabbath School program, and the afternoon program was a feast of music.

During a two-hour musical concert, various talents were showcased, including items from the Shepparton Adventist Church Choir and the Shepparton Fijian community.

On Saturday night, a church member from the Shepparton Adventist Church was able to organise the stadium at the Shepparton Baptist church for the Wantok community to be able to play indoor sports. It was a fun evening with the volleyball games.

The Victoria Park Lake at Shepparton became a hive of outdoor sporting activities on Sunday. The activities included a tug-of-war, touch footy, futsal and volleyball.

We felt the weekend was a success because we connected with the seasonal Wantoks through the four aspects/perspectives of a human being- Spiritual, Social, Mental (emotional) and Physical. We are looking forward to seeing the impact we as have as we continue holding these events.

### GET TO KNOW THE WANTOK CHURCH

The Victoria Adventist Wantok Church started mid-Covid. It is made of the three Melanesian Islands in the Pacific that speak Pidgin language, namely Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Using the Zoom platform, our group initially started as a way to communicate and connect with the Adventist Wantok Diaspora communities within Victoria because of the isolation during COVID-19. The Vision and the Mission of the VAWCC expanded and extended further when the seasonal worker (PALM) program was introduced into the country. As a church, we felt the need to reach out to them and provide them with some form of pastoral care.

The Pacific Island culture is predominantly based on the extended family system, so when they left their respective countries, they felt isolated from their immediate families. The Wantok church community sensed the need to fill that void by providing

that needed connection through our church-based community activities.

Our church meets each fortnight at a hired hall in Brunswick, Melbourne. Every other Sabbath we meet via Zoom. Each Sabbath, online and in-person, the worship programs are live-streamed via our church's Facebook page so we can reach out to our Adventist seasonal workers who can't attend church because they might be in areas that don't have access to a church or have transport issues.

Every quarter, we organise a weekend at various locations throughout Victoria, where the seasonal workers are situated. The weekend programs include Sabbath worship, Sabbath lunch with a Saturday night games night, or a Sunday sports day.

In the last three years, the Wantok church hosted the weekend programs all across regional Victoria. We have also been invited by Adventist Churches in the Melbourne region to run sabbath worship with them. We had been to Warburton church, Prahran Church, and Greenvale church. All our worship programs have been well attended by representatives of the Wantok seasonal workers.

**Kennedy Roga**  
Victoria Adventist Wantok Church



# TO HAVE A HEART OF SERVICE

There is a well-known English idiom that goes "Actions speak louder than words", and when I was younger, it didn't make that much sense - after all, how could actions talk? But as I got older, I began to understand its meaning: what someone does has more value than what someone says.

For example, a husband can say to his wife, "I love you," as many times as he wants, but if he never actively demonstrates his love for her, then his words become less meaningful. In the same way, if we say we love Christ and do not act accordingly, our words are empty.

So how are we supposed to act? Well let's turn to the words of Jesus himself:

**"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A TOWN BUILT ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN...IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."**

**- MATTHEW 5:14, 16**

Just as Christ is the Light of the World, we must 'let our light shine' for others; and in these trying and troubling times, any act of kindness can brighten someone's day. It can be offering to do the dishes, giving a compliment, or even just being a listening ear.

See there is a common misconception that acts of service are only valid if they are grand gestures, and it's these misconceptions that make us think that our smaller contributions don't matter. Thankfully, God doesn't think this way. Instead, He wants us to serve others in our own, individual way.

**"EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS."**

**- 1 PETER 4:10**

God has blessed each of us with unique gifts, and He intends for us to use these gifts to serve and uplift others. Serving with a genuine heart can be a way for us to acknowledge God's abundant blessings and pay it forward.

Moreover, when we serve others, we're ultimately serving God. Matthew 25:40 says, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' While attending Bible studies and listening to sermons doesn't take away from being a faithful follower of Christ, we should be enhancing our Christian journey by putting the theory into practice.

See, when we say we love God, we are saying that we will love as He loves. A heart of service means you understand that true love isn't just something you read in fairytales, it is something that is just spoken about. True love is shown in our actions, in our willingness to serve others in truth and sincerity. This is something that John emphasises in his letters:

**"DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR SPEECH BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH."**

**- 1 JOHN 3:18**

It is through actions that our love truly shines. While extravagant displays of affection are admirable, they are necessary. We just need to see a need and fulfil it. Someone is thirsty? Get them a glass of water. Someone needs company? Invite them to join you. There will always be someone in need of service and there will always be someone to serve.

So what does it mean to have a heart of service? It means you have a heart that understands that service breaks barriers and brings people together. It recognises that needs are reflected in different ways and that there are different ways to serve.

To have a heart of service means you have a heart that knows that we are the "light of the world" and that 'Actions speak louder than words'.

**Naomi Janmaat**  
Communications Co-ordinator

# UNITING AND UPLIFTING

## A WOMEN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

### **EMPOWERMENT AT EPPING: A SPECIAL SABBATH**

*"CHARM IS DECEPTIVE AND BEAUTY IS FLEETING, BUT A WOMAN WHO FEARS THE LORD IS TO BE PRAISED"*

- PROVERBS 31:30

Pacific Islander Women from the Southeast, North and West combined talents for their annual special Sabbath at Epping Memorial Hall. This year had the best turnout, with over 150 ladies (both Adventist and non-Adventist) attending across nine Women's Ministry groups.

Despite the event running in the northern suburbs, this year's event was hosted by the ladies from the West - specifically Sunshine, Melton and Werribee.

The morning started at 10am with a hymn and a prayer, which was followed by breakfast that was served till 10:45am.

Women from Sunshine Samoan welcomed people in and guided them into the hall. To make sure everyone got to mingle with each other, we encouraged women to sit outside of their church group. 13 tables were set up with 10 women per table. We also set 2 tables for our small children and had some of the youth do activities with them - we wanted to cater for all ages.

During the program, all nine groups prepared a song and a report of what they had done in the community.

The speaker, Elaine Tanuvasa, prepared a beautiful message about being 'Renewed' and becoming a vessel for our Lord's ministry. She shared the Good News with us, saying 'No matter what you look like or what worldly riches you have, a woman's commitment to the Lord is what truly matters in life.'

Thanks to the men from Melton Samoan church, who were in charge of the kitchen and the food, lunch was served at the end of our service and everyone enjoyed it.

These events aim to empower, encourage and equip our women and ladies in the end times. It was such a beautiful sight having the room full of women who came together to share their love for our Lord. The atmosphere was astonishing and everyone could feel it too. It was definitely filled with God's Holy Spirit.

### **DORCAS GROUP HOSTS A HIGH TEA**

*"HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT IT IS WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER IN UNITY!"*

- PSALM 133:1

On September 17 2023, The Dorcas Ladies had a High tea event at Lancemore Mansion in Werribee. We had 40 ladies in attendance. The focus of the event was sisterly love, and our major text was Psalm 133:1, which talks about how lovely and pleasing it is when brethren dwell together in unity.

We were also fortunate to have five non-Seventh-day Adventist women in attendance. Dorcas' leadership has taken steps to keep the five gorgeous women who graced us with their presence engaged and part of our future programs, some have shown an interest in Bible study. Some of them have stated that they would attend the upcoming Retreat 2024 in Geelong, which is wonderful and for which we thank God for the opportunity to minister.

This was a beautiful time for the ladies to forget about life's pressures and focus on themselves and each other and this was also in line with "R U OK day."

Life can be quite stressful, and it is our goal as Dorcas to be each other's keeper at these times, this is one of our goals for in-reach, to make sure our sisters are okay. We thank God for the time we had and the resources we were given to make this happen. We also would like to thank the church and women's ministries for their never-ending support.

**Tarnya Garner**  
Women's Ministries Director

**Naomi Janmaat**  
Communications Coordinator



*"All nine groups prepared a song and a report of what they had done in the community."*



*"It was such a beautiful sight having the room full of women who came together to share their love for our Lord."*



*"This was a beautiful time for the ladies to forget about life's pressures and focus on themselves and each other."*

# LOCAL NEWS PT.2

## MASDAC and The Upper Room Raise Money for Cancer

Melbourne Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church (MASDAC) and The Upper Room, the afternoon service at MASDAC, joined forces to organise two remarkable fundraising events across September and October. These events not only highlighted their dedication to helping those in need but also demonstrated their commitment to building a stronger, more loving community.

The first event, 'Tour de Kids,' featured church members taking to the streets by bicycle in support of the Starlight Foundation's mission to bring joy and respite to sick children. With participants ranging in age from 15 to 86, the team were able to reach an astounding distance of over 5,000km. Collectively, the team raised an impressive \$10,639, making them the third most successful team in terms of funds raised.

The second event, the 'Walk to Fight Cancer,' was a ten-day challenge to raise funds for vital cancer research conducted by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation. This cause holds a special place in the hearts of the church members, as many of them have known someone personally affected by cancer.

The team of eight participants covered over 470km across the ten-day challenge, raising \$2180. To celebrate the achievement, The Upper Room service joined the team for their final walk on Sabbath, followed by a picnic lunch and outdoor worship service with over 40 people participating.

Patrick Sin, event organiser and member of the Ministry Leadership Team for The Upper Room, highlighted the four motivating factors for participating in these events:

1. Caring for the needy by partnering with the Starlight and Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundations.

2. Reaching out to the community by demonstrating the love of God.

3. Inviting friends and colleagues to participate in the event and gradually introducing them to a caring church family.

4. Enhancing the bonding among church members as they spend time together having fun.

The fundraising events demonstrated that working together can make a significant impact, spread hope to others, and strengthen the community. It was an amazing opportunity to witness the immense impact that each small contribution can have when people work together as a team.

The team are already looking forward to finding more creative ways to connect with their community and share a positive experience of God's love.

**Jonathon Gillard**  
MASDAC / The Upper Room



# Road to Bethlehem: Amplifying the Message of Jesus

Road to Bethlehem is a gift from the collective to the collective. Hundreds of generous volunteers pulling together, with a united vision, to create moments for people to experience Jesus – last year we welcomed 9280 individuals on the ‘road’ to the manger.

Matthew 13 shows Jesus speaking to the multitudes. In verse 2, it states, ‘He got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore’. How could a ‘large multitude’ have heard Jesus, without any of our modern-day technology?

Archaeologist Cobbey Crisler, together with acoustic engineer Mark Myles conducted tests near Tell Hum, the site of ancient Capernaum. Together, they identified that due to the geographic characteristics and acoustic properties of the area, the lake acted like a natural amplifier, making it easier for Jesus to speak to the masses.

As we prepare for Road to Bethlehem 2023, December 4 – 7, I believe the four-day event acts as an amplifier to share the message of Jesus. Using friendly, welcoming faces at the ticket box, helpful parking attendants, authentic thespians despite rain, hail or shine, singing angels, a real baby in the manger, an unassuming invitation of prayer, the event creates a sum greater than the parts.

Road to Bethlehem leads individuals to the foot of the cross and creates space for each to experience Jesus.

**Alicia Ralph**  
Road to Bethlehem



# WITH GOD, THERE IS MORE

## ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● VICYOUTH RALLY 2023

*“THERE’S MORE TO COME: WE CONTINUE TO SHOUT OUR PRAISE EVEN WHEN WE’RE HEMMED IN WITH TROUBLES, BECAUSE WE KNOW HOW TROUBLES CAN DEVELOP PASSIONATE PATIENCE IN US, AND HOW THAT PATIENCE, IN TURN, FORGES THE TEMPERED STEEL OF VIRTUE, KEEPING US ALERT FOR WHATEVER GOD WILL DO NEXT.”*

*- ROMANS 5:3-4*

This year, the 2023 VicYouth Rally made history. For the first time ever, the rally left its usual location of Nunawading and was hosted in the western suburbs.

Across October 6-8, Gilson College Taylors Hill opened its doors and welcomed hundreds of youth to a weekend dedicated to learning how “There is More” to life with God. And so began three days full of more worship, more praise, and more community.

Starting off strong with Friday night Vespers, the Gilson Grace Cafe had the hot drinks flowing and kept the conversations going. After warming up with praise and worship, we got to know the speaker of the event, Cedric Peniata.

Cedric is the chaplain at Border Christian College in Albury, and is a big believer in empowering and mentoring youth. That night he shared with us the character of David, and how his faith helped him defeat Goliath.

Sabbath morning saw many lining up for a pancake breakfast, cooked by our own Youth Department. Then the gymnasium began to fill with people from all over Victoria eager to see what was in store for day two.

In the spirit of community, many churches played a role in creating a wonderful service. Key moments included passionate choir performances, entertaining icebreakers, and a heartfelt send-off for Kasia, VicYouth’s departmental assistant, who has been blessed with new opportunities at the SPD.

Cedric then talked Elijah at Mount Carmel, and how his actions were more than just a simple challenge. It was a display of faith, a display that proved that there is more to God than we think. He is a God that brings fire from the heavens, a God that stays by our side when we are facing challenges that seem too big for us.

With that encouraging message echoing in our minds, we then switched gears and put our game faces on because Saturday night was the beginning of the Volleyball tournament.

It was so fun getting to see how everyone got involved in creating such a memorable Youth Rally! All glory to God for the blessed weekend!

**Naomi Janmaat**  
Communications Co-ordinator

**Youth Rally 2023 was time, well and purposefully spent!**

**Together we were able to foster a sense of community over the course of 3 days.**

**As we worshipped relentlessly, refined deep connections, became spiritually empowered and generated raw & authentic conversations, at the end of the weekend it was enough for us to confidently say with God,**

**“THERE IS MORE”.**

**Rachel Tuaoi**  
**Gilson College Community Church**



**FRIDAY NIGHT FUN:** Gilson's Grace Cafe provided the hot drinks, while La Quest provided the music!



**THE PREACHER AND THE PERFORMERS:** Cedric shares a powerful message and the Melton Samoan Choir singing a special item!



**GOOD VIBES AND GOODBYES:** While the weekend was full of fun moments and new faces, we said a sincere goodbye to Kasia, and wished her well on her new adventure.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**DECEMBER 15, 6 - 10PM**

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT  
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

JOHN AITKEN RESERVE, GISBORNE

Join us for a night family-friendly fun filled with live entertainment. Carols by Candlelight is a free community event held at John Aitken Reserve.

BYO Picnic Dinner

For more information, please call **0425 781 581**



**JANUARY 16-18 2024**

**VICYOUTH SUMMER CAMPS  
"LIVE THE LIFE"**

CAMP HOWQUA

**JUNIOR CAMP IS SELLING OUT FAST - DON'T MISS OUT.** From breakfast chats to late night sing-a-longs & laughter, and exciting all-day activities to an energized worship and message every evening, from making new friends to hanging out with old ones – is there any better way to spend a week of your holidays?

**VISIT:** [www.vicyouth.com.au](http://www.vicyouth.com.au)



**FEBRUARY 9-12 2024**

**CONVERGE**

STUARTS POINT CONVENTION  
CENTRE

Are you a young adult seeking a deeper connection with your faith while building lasting friendships? Converge 2024 is the place to be! Join us on an encouraging journey of spiritual growth and opportunities to meet young adults from all across Australia.

**VISIT:** [www.vicyouth.com.au](http://www.vicyouth.com.au)

# UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## SPONSOR A SUMMER CAMPER

Each year the youth department receives many requests for donors to support children with special needs, and from financially-burdened or disadvantaged families to attend Summer Camps.

If you have been blessed and have a heart for youth ministry, this is an opportunity to assist a family with the cost of attending Summer Camps.

**To make a donation of any amount, you can contact us via email or phone**

**EMAIL:** [vicyouth@adventist.org.au](mailto:vicyouth@adventist.org.au)

**PHONE:** (03) 9264 7777.

## ASV HAS MOVED TO BURWOOD

The office for Adventist Schools Victoria has moved to the following address:

**Building 9, 162 Highbury Road Burwood Victoria 3125**

**PHONE:** (03) 9264 7730

## ABC 'BOOK OF THE MONTH'



**The Green Dress  
and Other Parables From My Life  
by Danijela Schubert**

The 52 devotional readings in this book are true stories from Danijela Schubert's eventful life.

They are stories of struggle and victory, pain and healing, loss and gain. Some are sad, and some are funny. All are parables from which lessons can be learned.

**ORDER NOW:** [adventistbookcentre.com.au](http://adventistbookcentre.com.au)

## THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!

**FOR CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE GO TO:**  
[vic.adventist.org.au/adventist-employment/](http://vic.adventist.org.au/adventist-employment/)

**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**

Send in your stories and we'll share them with everyone in one of our upcoming issues!

Here's our email:

[victorianadventistcommunications@adventist.org.au](mailto:victorianadventistcommunications@adventist.org.au)

## WHERE TO FIND US:

**Facebook & Instagram**  
[@Victorian Adventists](#)

**Website:**  
[vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au)  
Victorian Adventist.TV

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BACK TO THE  **HEART** OF **W**  **ORSHIP** **BIG CAMP 2024**

**MARCH 28 - APRIL 1**

**ELMORE EVENTS CENTRE**  
**48 ROSAIA RD, BURNEWANG VIC 3558**

# **SAVE THE DATE**

# **BIG CAMP 2024**

**We're looking forward to spending the Easter weekend with everyone at Elmore!**

**Registrations will be available soon.**  
**(Keep an eye on our website and social media!)**