

INTRAVIC

May 21, 2022



STRENGTHEN OUR

04 Life Ready Kids

Chuck Hagele discusses the rise in technology addiction amongst teenagers and children.

06 (Little) Big Camp

Over 60 youth and young adults attended Camp Howqua for (Little) Big Camp this year.

08 Family Ministries

An update from Family Ministries Director Pastor Daniel Brunt.

10 Infrastructure Update

Infrastructure Coordinator Galen Gan shares updates on Pavillions stage 2.

12 Church News

The grand opening of Werribee Church, the grand opening of Soul+Food, 15 baptisms and 8 dedications from Werribee Karen Church and more.

14 Called to Ministry

Congratulations to our newest ordained/commissioned pastors! We share a small snapshot of their testimonies.





Editor's Note

Family....

Not sure what you're thinking when you see that word - 'Family'. Positive thoughts, challenging thoughts. Joy, sadness, sorrow, happiness, sheer delight. I'm not sure what family means to you.

I do know that relationships were God's idea – families too – and I value that highly. Yes, I'm very much aware that the very first family – with parents fresh from the hand of the creator – that family achieved less than the ideal. So while we aim for the stars, I guess I shouldn't be too bent out of shape if I discover humans beings in the family – with both strengths and challenge areas – and yes, I know that includes me. I'm very human.

There's so much to learn about how to be a positive part of the family. I'd say that includes the church family too. Wouldn't you? We all have the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the family of God.

This edition of IntraVic explores just some aspects of family. I trust that you'll pray for the families within our churches here in Victoria that we may be the people God wants us to be.

I'm so glad you're a part of the family of God.

Graeme Christie



LIFE READY™ KIDS

We relied on technology to help us during the COVID pandemic. Churches scrambled and soon were streaming services and doing their best to maintain community. Students attended school online. We relied on technology to keep connected and try to maintain friendships. Technology helped us survive the long days of isolation.

We relied on our phones and technology to keep us informed, distracted, and entertained. New habits and routines were formed that centered our lives around technology. While the extreme isolation and uncertainty of COVID fade, habits and coping methods we learned during COVID continue to impact our daily lives. Many are discovering their new technology habits are now harming their relationships, productivity, and Christian walk.

Paul wrote a letter to one of the most sophisticated audiences of his time. His audience lived on the front edge of science, technology, communication, and entertainment. The Romans weren't satisfied, and they craved personal and national power. To this audience, Paul writes in Romans 12:2 (NIV): "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Paul tells them to not follow the pattern of this world but instead begin a transformation, specifically in how to think and relate to the world.

Our brains like patterns. During school assemblies in Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, I shared a series of questions, images, and activities with teens that demonstrated how easily our brains could reach wrong conclusions. It's fun to get a big group to yell "carrot" simultaneously (it's hard to explain unless you were there). Yet, it's also alarming to realize we aren't as logical as we think. Multiple studies show that human beings are easily manipulated and predictably irrational.

The thought patterns used by the world are easy to observe. If it feels good, do it more. If it hurts, stop.

And always look out for yourself. Our brains are very complex. Functional MRI (fMRI) has allowed scientists to identify functions in different areas of our brain by observing changes in blood flow and oxygen activity in real-time. It is a glimpse into the human brain and its responses.

Our brains can quickly react to signals from within our bodies and our environment. We react to fear through our brain's threat responses: fight, flight, and freeze. The threat doesn't have to be real for our brain to respond. For example, if you are afraid of snakes and walking outside in the dark, simply stepping on a garden hose will send you into an adrenaline-fueled panic. When we aren't avoiding fear, we are seeking pleasure. We crave pleasure and aren't satisfied until we have more.

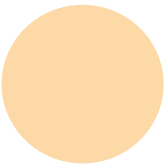
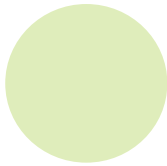
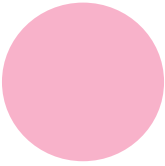
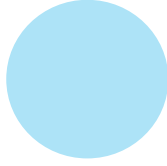
Patterns always produce the same result. If you follow a pattern while making a shirt, you'd expect a shirt, not a pair of pants. If you follow a recipe for cookies, you'd be stunned if you ended up with bread. The world's pattern of thinking produces the same result: brokenness. Our reactions hurt people. We damage ourselves. We miss out on God's grace and blessings with our relentless chase for self-sufficiency.

This isn't a new pattern, but we are living in an age where we can quickly pursue our worst cravings, many times using a device that's small enough to fit in our pocket but has immense power over our daily lives.

Beginning in 2011, studies show a steep increase in depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts for teens living in developed countries. This is the same timeframe when more than 50 percent of teens now own a smartphone.

Since 1984, Project Patch has been helping teens and families struggling with emotional and behavioral challenges. We've always been busy, even before the internet, mobile phones, or social media, which didn't exist when we started. Teens were struggling with depression, anxiety, and anger. They were chasing after alcohol, drugs, and sexualized relationships. It's never been easy to grow up, and it's never been easy to be a parent. Yet, in the past ten years, we've seen a massive spike in teen depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, self-harm, and addiction.





The teen mental health crisis has impacted churches, schools, and homes. Years of effectively helping teens gave us insight and tools that we are spreading to schools, churches, and communities in the United States and now Australia. We know teens struggle, and parents, teachers, and churches want to help, but many do not know how.

Technology addiction is a pervasive challenge. It can include unhealthy dependence on social media, compulsive video game use, and pornography addiction. These are behaviors that happen when we follow the pattern of this world.

The good news is that Paul also writes in Romans 12:2 about a “renewal” of the mind. The renewal process is at the heart of the ministry of Project Patch. Renewed minds can discern God’s perfect and pleasing will and navigate living in this world in a way that doesn’t harm ourselves or the people we care about.

During presentations at schools and Victorian Big Camp, the focus was on discovering how God wants to renew our brains. The heart of the message is the great commandment, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37–39 (NIV). This is the opposite of the pattern of this world. It’s easier said than done because our habits are powerful, and we are easily manipulated. It requires remaining connected to God, practising small acts of love and selflessness, and accepting His grace, love, and Holy Spirit.

God calls us to repentance, to stop our negative behaviors, turn to Him and begin the process of moving closer to Him. Rather than focus on abstinence, recovery is an active process of moving toward the abundant life God wants for us. We give up our control to allow Him to rule our lives and He “satisfies our desires with good things” (Psalm 103:5, NIV).

This is a critical time for us to rely on God to transform our minds and to respond in love to a world that is desperate for freedom and God’s faithful love.

Life Ready Kids and Project Patch is in alliance with the company Design By Nature Health Foods Pty Ltd, who are giving back to the community by sponsoring “Life Ready Kids,” a 12-part video series resource to support parents raising kids who own technology rather than being slaves to their devices. Parents interested in taking the next step can discover more at www.lifereadykidstv.com

A brand new series has been filmed for kids ages 8–12 called Life Ready Kids: Tough Topics. This web series includes topics such as anger, jealousy, loneliness, sadness, bad habits, and more. Kids learn to respond to their emotions appropriately, using tools to meet their threats. This series should be available on its website soon. If you would like to receive an e-newsletter for resources and tips write to info@lifereadykidstv.com

Chuck Hagele

Life Ready Kids



(Little) Big Camp

While our adults were meeting online for Big Camp this year, Camp Howqua opened its doors to over 60 youth from across Victoria and interstate once again, for (Little) Big Camp.

The theme for this year's camp was 'The Pressure Cooker'. While Union Conference President Pastor Terry Johnson was unable to attend to due being in isolation, we were blessed by messages from Natasha Su'a, Josh Newbegin and Pastor Moe Stiles.

The weekend started with Friday night dinner, followed by evening worship led by Natasha Su'a who encouraged us to draw our own pressure cookers in groups on the paper provided. Each pressure cooker looked different, emphasizing the idea that we all have different pressures in our lives.

On Sabbath morning, we started the day with breakfast at 8.30pm, with a number of young adults joining us for the day. Sabbath worship was led by Josh Newbegin focusing on the story of Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego and how we have a choice about how we react to the pressures that this life throws at us.

After lunch, a few of us attended the workshop on the topic of Creating Authentic Spiritual

Community Online led by Ruth Hodge, social media manager for the General Conference. While others spent their afternoon relaxing in fellowship with one another.

On Saturday evening, Pr Moe Stiles presented the message followed by trivia and marshmallows by the fire.

On Sunday morning, there was an easter egg hunt at sunrise followed by bootcamp. After breakfast, we had the choice of participating in watersports, 4WD or exploring Mansfield for the day. Each group went their separate ways and came back just in time for dinner and evening worship led by Pr Moe Stiles.

Sunday evening was filled with board games and a movie night.

Monday was the last day with bootcamp in the morning, followed by a morning devotional led by Yishan Neo and brunch. Thank you to VicYouth for hosting another (Little) Big Camp!

Kymerberley McMurray

Communications Coordinator for the Victorian Conference

Teens & Juniors Camp

Teen Easter camp, like many other VicYouth events this year had an anxious prelude, with last minute staffing changes and complications to overcome. But once again, God is good! At 6:00 pm on Good Friday teens from across the Victorian conference began to roll in to Oasis Camp in Mount Evelyn. Thank you to Pr Faye and Pr Wendy who made our camp run smoothly. The teens eagerly made their way to their rooms to set up their belongings and to introduce themselves to those in their cabin.

To officially kick off our weekend together the phenomenal chef at Oasis and her team of legends set up the most delicious agape spread I had ever seen (or tasted). As we shared our first meal together there was a real buzz in the room. As I scanned the room, the joy was palpable and I just knew we were in for an epic weekend. After our meal was finished, Pr Josh Stadnik and Pr Jayden Croft opened Sabbath for us with butchers-paper-lined tables and collaborative discussion. The atmosphere was incredible. Shout to my table – Nathan, Victoria, Jordan, Wolf and Adam; this was definitely a highlight from my time at camp.

On Sabbath morning we started the day at 8:30 am, many teens came as day visitors to share in the worship, food, community and fun. After a big cooked breakfast we made our way down to the oval at Oasis where there was a big tent set up with a stage and chairs (our very own little big camp). Jayden led us out in Sabbath School where we continued to explore God's calling and our individual capability to serve Him. To conclude part one of our morning program, Jayden and Josh facilitated an anonymous Q&A time where a phone number was presented on the screen for the teens to text in any questions that they had thus far. This was a really powerful time together as we pondered over questions such as "how do you know what God has called you to do?" and "does God call non-believers?"

After a short break, we came back to spend more time in worship, the music was great and spirits were high. Josh took the main sermon where he posed the question "who are you

following?" and shared about how Jesus chose the unassumed to be His disciples.

Sabbath afternoon was all about community, we were blessed to have a presentation by Chuck Hagele, followed by a series of workshops that the teens could choose between, such as face painting, conversationalist skills, team building, boys talk and girls talk. To top off an already incredible day we had some mouth-watering pizzas and an activity rotation between night flying fox, laser tag and wipe out. What a day!

Sunday brought us to the end of camp. Belongings were packed, cabins cleaned, and stomachs fed. We had a final message from Jayden and Josh before spending our last moments together playing a game on the oval. While our time together was short, it was so full. I pray that every teen who joined us this Easter left knowing the depth of God's love for them and I pray His Spirit will be with them as they continue to discover the calling He has placed on their lives.

Hayley Croft





Family

There are so many words to describe families in this day and age: large, blended, reserved, cohesive, complicated, small, close-knit.

Here's another: masterpiece.

God's masterpiece, in fact.

When we open the book of Genesis and read about when God created the world, we find WHAT was created and WHO created it. What God creates is simply astounding—light in an instant, oceans and sea creatures, trees and mountains, birds and animals. But it's only when we get to the last day of creation, the sixth day, that we truly get to see Who is behind the creating. It's not until God creates the first family—the only thing in His own image—that His true masterpiece is revealed, and in essence, God Himself is revealed.

In every single stage of life, family plays a vital role in connecting God with humanity. In fact, the fifth commandment—Honour your Mother and Father—can often be seen as the link between the first four commandments, which are about God, and the last five commandments, which are about man. We don't have to look very far into the Bible to see how important family is to God.

And it's within this family dynamic where God should be modelled first in the lives of people.

The biblical evidence for strong families is there, and there's scientific evidence, too. According to a 2018 study by the Barna Group, church leaders across Christian denominations overwhelmingly agree that parents are most responsible for a child's spiritual

formation and development. Regardless of their differences in theology, 99 percent of Protestant pastors and 96 percent of Catholic priests ranked families in first place.

As a pastor, psychology major and dad of two little ones, I can absorb all of this in theory. But what about practically? When it comes to taking on that responsibility, to raise my children to know and love God, what resources are available to empower parents like us?

This is why Family Ministries exists: to strengthen God's masterpiece, the family.

And in that sense, we have a very unique opportunity to serve that isn't just limited to one Sabbath a week, but rather seven days a week from the comfort of your home. Oftentimes we spend so much money and time on programs and services when the most important evangelism happens at home.

Our ultimate aim as a Family Ministries department is to help the families in our local churches become the best tool to disciple the next generation. And we do this in two ways: conference-led and local church-led.

The conference-led initiatives will be collaborative with other ministries within our conference. Family Ministries isn't a silo or a "stand-alone" ministry; we work in conjunction with other departments to strengthen them. We'll help to provide things like online safety workshops, podcasts, online resources, financial counselling, and special events—things you can individually access, attend, or participate in.

The local church-led initiatives, on the

other hand, are things such as marriage seminars and counselling, men's ministry support, and tailored support within your local church, helping your local pastor to build up and strengthen families in that local church setting.

As part of this initiative, our main focus as a department at the moment is on worship—more specifically, family worship.

Just like families, worship is a broad term. It can come in all shapes and sizes, and there is no one right way engage in worship. But I genuinely believe worship, and the time we devote to this, is one of the biggest keys to strengthening our families.

We are currently exploring simple, practical resources that we can share in order to help families worship together, but we would love your thoughts and input! At the bottom of the next page is a QR code to a survey we've created. It is easy to complete and will take no more than five minutes, but it will really help us get a feel for the needs of the families within our conference in order to further support and empower you.

This is still a relatively new department and space for our conference, and we would love your prayers as we continue to strengthen the families God has blessed us with. If you would like to know more about Family Ministries or would like to have our department support your local church, please contact me at danielbrunt@adventist.org.au

Pastor Daniel Brunt

Family Ministries Director





Pavilions Stage 2: Construction Commenced

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 40:21–31 that our God is an awesome God. This promise is demonstrated as we see the progress of the Pavilions Blackburn Lake Retirement Village project, built on the old Campground site in Nunawading.

Stage 1 containing 41 apartments was completed on the 16th December 2020 and I am pleased to inform it has been fully sold, fully settled, and fully paid off.

The impressive buildings, local community activity at Miss Lucy cafe and happy residents living their best lives is wonderful to see, and a realisation of everything we envisaged all those many years ago in 2009, when we embarked on the project.

Stage 2 continues the development program and with over 50 percent of apartments now committed, this next stage of Pavilions has seen significant market interest flowing from the success of Stage 1.

Containing 66 apartments over 3 buildings, Stage 2 will house a 'Wellness Zone' that will include a pool, spa, gym, Pilates studio, day spa treatment rooms for visiting consultants, and a beautiful fruit orchard and herb garden for residents with green thumbs.

Our approach has been for each development stage to offer something unique to our Village residents. In Stage 1 we delivered beautiful lounges, function rooms, cinema and communal areas. For Stage 2 we wanted to focus on one of our Church's key strengths being health and wellness. Adventists are known for our encouragement of a healthy lifestyle, so what better way to bring that message to the community than in a retirement village – helping our residents live longer, healthier, happier lives.

Stage 2 construction commenced on 11 April, with a steady build up of excavators and piling rigs now busily working away on the northern side (near the railway line) of the old campground site.

We are anticipating construction completion with our new residents moving in at the end of 2023.

We as a Church can be very proud of what we have done with Pavilions and it is wonderful to see the residents and local community embrace this project. There is still much work to do – please continue to pray for the continued success and smooth delivery of this project for the benefit and mission of the Church in Victoria.

There are still well priced, beautiful apartments for sale. Book a private viewing appointment by calling Mary on **0455 616 337** or email mary@pavilionsblackburnlake.com.au

Galen Gan

Victorian Conference Infrastructure Coordinator & Pavilions Project Lead





Werribee Church Grand Opening

On the 2nd of April, the new Werribee and Karen Church was consecrated: the fulfillment of our vision to build a lighthouse church, for the people of Werribee and beyond.

Pr Nikola Trajkov officiated the opening, while Pr Danijela Trajkov and Pr Nan Myat Kyaw gave opening and closing prayers. Conference Secretary Pr Craig Gillis cut the red ribbon and unveiled the plaques on behalf of Victorian Conference President Pr Graeme Christian.

Pr Graeme Christian, Galen Gan, Pr Brian Lawty, and Pr Gungadoo expressed their gratitude to everyone who has been involved in the project. They spoke about their history with Werribee Church and the impact it has had on the lives of the community.

Three councillors from Wyndham council were in attendance: Crs Hill, Marcus and Szatkowski. There were special items by the Karen church, the Talpan boys on violin, as well as the Vi family singers. Seddon Church received special mention for allowing Werribee to use their facilities for their fundraising event.

The day finished with a fellowship meal for an over capacity congregation, a congregation that recognises that, ultimately, Jesus is the Cornerstone of any church.

Robert Bryson

Werribee Church



Relationships Uncensored

My Edge Magazine hosted a Relationships Panel featuring Terry and Kimberly Johnson, Jayden and Hayley Croft, along with Marriage Counsellor Yvonne Kraemer from Crossway LifeCare with a masters in Marriage and Family Therapy. Kimberly and Terry were dating for four years before they were married and have been married for 29 years. Jayden and Hayley were dating for three years before they got married, just a year and half ago. While both couples are at different stages of their lives, they had so much good advice to share from topics such as dating, marriage, sex, and finances.

Yvonne Kraemer also shared advice about how to recognize red and green flags while dating and which characteristics suggest whether a relationship is healthy or unhealthy. Our couples emphasised the importance of communication and ensuring that God is the centre of their relationship. Thank you to the team at My Edge Magazine for hosting such a great panel. Relationships Uncensored was streamed live and recorded at Lilydale Adventist Church and is available to watch online.



Rejoicing Together

Werribee Karen SDA church (WKSDAC) celebrated 15 baptisms and 8 dedications on March 12, 2022.

There were about 200 people gathered from Bendigo, Geelong, and Ringwood to witness this special occasion. Pr. Justin Bone dedicated 8 children and baptized 10 candidates while Pr. Nan baptized 5 candidates.

We praise the Lord because among these candidates, there were three ladies from a Buddhist background, one woman and one young lady who are from Baptist families. The other ten children are from our church families who studied God's words continuously during this difficult time.

The pandemic has been a blessing in disguise, as it has allowed us to work more earnestly to bring people to God.

Mervin Myat Kyaw

Werribee Karen Church



Soul+Food Grand Opening

The Seventh Day Adventist Church launched its new food relief facility Soul+Food at Wendouree on the 5 April 2022. Attended by church and local community members as well as Pr Graeme Christian, Pr Justin Bone, Ms Kallista Kaval, representing Minister Anthony Carbines MP, local member Juliana Addison MP, Cr Amy Johnson, Deputy Mayor, City of Ballarat and Cr for Wendouree.

The food relief program was launched in response to an increase in demand for support in the wider Ballarat Community. With the help of a \$67,000 Victorian Government food relief grant, a new warehouse was constructed at the site. Run by volunteers, Soul+Food aims to be a center of influence by taking care of the physical, social, and spiritual needs of members of the community. While also creating new opportunities for local and regional suppliers to contribute to the program.

The new warehouse will hold fresh stock, frozen food, and other pantry staples. It will also be used as a space to run social programs and hold courses on cooking and nutrition.

You can visit Soul+Food on Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm.



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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IN CHURCHES

February 26
 May 21
 August 27
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Called to Ministry

Over the past few months, the Victorian Conference has been privileged to recognise God's calling to ministry over the lives of six of our church members. We're so excited to introduce to you our newest ordained/commissioned pastors. You can read more about their testimonies below.

Pastor Manuel Tilkulin was ordained on the 12 February at the St Albans Croatian Seventh-day Adventist Church in a service led by Victorian Conference President, Pastor Graeme Christian, Ministerial Secretary Pastor Justin Bone and Australian Union Conference Ministerial Secretary Pastor Brendan Pratt. Manuel accepted the call to ministry after God placed people into his life that suggested that he should think about becoming a minister. Recognising that this was God's voice, he applied to study theology at his local seminar and was accepted. Manuel described how he put God to the test, trying to determine whether he was following the right path. Doubting God's calling for his life, Manuel spent hours struggling with this decision in prayer. He compared his experience to Jacob wrestling with God in Genesis 32:22–32. After much prayer, Manuel decided to ask God to show him what He wanted to say to him. He opened the Bible and it fell to Jeremiah 3:33, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know". This was a sign for Manuel that God was leading in his life and that he needed to rely on Him. Manuel went on to



graduate at the top of his class at the Croatian Adventist Seminary and has been serving as the pastor at St Albans Croatian Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pastor Daniel Brunt was ordained on the 19 February at Wantirna Seventh-day Adventist Church in a service led by Victorian Conference, President Pastor Graeme Christian, Australian Union Conference Ministerial Secretary Pastor Brendan Pratt, and Ringwood Adventist Church Pastor Jorge Munoz. Daniel described how he previously rejected God's calling for his life, pursuing a psychology degree and working at Telstra in sales and marketing. In 2014, Daniel finally accepted the call to study theology at Avondale. Struggling with finances, Daniel was working and studying full time as well as doing placement. Throughout this time, Daniel described how he often felt like he was not good enough to be a pastor. However, God continued to lead the way. The Conference sponsored the final part of Daniel's study, and he began working under the supervision of Pastor Danny Milenkov in 2017 at

Kanwal and Bluehaven Churches. Daniel emphasised how God just wanted his faithfulness on this journey and he was able to overcome feelings of discouragement by remembering that our power comes from God, not from ourselves. Daniel is now serving as the Assistant Pastor at Wantirna Seventh-day Adventist Church and Director of Family Ministries at the Victorian Conference.

Pastor Rosemary Andrykanus was commissioned on the 26 February at Nunawading Seventh-day Adventist Church in a service led by Australian Union Conference President, Pastor Terry Johnson, Australian Union Conference Ministerial Secretaries Pastor Lyndelle Peterson and Pastor Brendan Pratt, and Victorian Conference President Pastor Graeme Christian. Rose described herself as a shy kid, who from the age of 14 years worked at Bakers Delight. During her time at Bakers Delight, Rose was forced to come out of her shell as she interacted with customers, and soon began training others. After completing a degree in science majoring in Physical Geography, Sustainability, and Geology at Monash University, Rose was offered a position in the research department of environmental science. Rose



described this role as versatile, and an essential part in preparing her for the role of Assistant Youth Director. After volunteering for ADRA in Laos for a year, Rose felt the call from God to go into ministry. Rose took a leap of faith and decided to go to Avondale to study a Graduate Diploma in Ministry and Theology. While there she received three awards in two years and was given scholarships which helped her financially. After graduating, Rose was called to pastor at Lilydale Church and spent two years under the mentorship of Pr. Rob Steed. In 2019, Rose was called to be the Assistant Youth Director of the Victorian Conference and still continues to serve in this role.

Pastor Daniel Maher was ordained on the 5 March at Bendigo Seventh-day Adventist Church in a service led by South New South Wales Conference President Pastor, Christian Copaceanu, Australian Union Conference Ministerial Secretary Pastor Brendan Pratt and Victorian Conference President Pastor Graeme Christian. From a young age, Daniel knew that he wanted to be a pastor. Growing up in a presbyterian family, he attributed this to helping build the foundation of his spiritual ministry. After taking a discipleship course by Bill Gothard, Daniel felt like he had more of an understanding of what it meant to be a disciple. Daniel was still searching for answers when a stranger handed him a book called *Disciple*. After reading the book and being blessed by it, Daniel promised God that he would accept the next book that was given to him. During his time at Monash University, Daniel stumbled across a Christian book stall. After talking to the girls at the stall, they prayed for him and gave him a book, *The Great Controversy*. Daniel felt impressed to attend a prophecy seminar, and later started attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Daniel was baptised in 2010, and just a year later began to be involved in Bible work. After graduating from Monash University, Daniel went to Avondale to study ministry. Daniel is now the Pastor at Bendigo, Bendigo Karen Remnant and Swan Hill Seventh-day Adventist Churches.

Pastor Jonathon Gillard was ordained on 25 March at Gilson College Community Church in a service led by Pastor Paul Klienmeulman, Australian Union Conference Ministerial Secretary Pastor Brendan Pratt and Victorian Conference President, Pastor Graeme Christian. Jonathon was born and raised in Christchurch, New Zealand, to an Adventist family. Jonathon described how he always enjoyed being involved in Adventurers, Pathfinders, Teen, and Big Camps. Recognising God's calling for his life from a young age, Jonathon was always involved in church and was passionate about telling others about Jesus. In 2005, Jonathon was baptized and after graduating in 2011, he deferred his studies for a year in order to find his identity and earn the money he needed to pay for



his degree. In 2013, Jonathon attended a youth congress in Brisbane and was inspired by Pastor Eddie Hypolite's sermon. No longer wanting to hold himself back from God's calling, Jonathon quit his job and reapplied to study a Bachelor of Ministry and Theology at Avondale. During his second year of study, Jonathon was facing financial difficulty. However, after praying to God, he was able to obtain the funds he needed to finish his degree. In 2017, Jonathon completed his internship in New Zealand and was relocated to Victoria where he served as chaplain at Gilson College from 2019 to 2021. Jonathon is now serving as Associate Pastor at Melbourne Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church and Upper Room.

Pastor Emanuel Millen was ordained on the 19 March at Warburton Seventh-day Adventist Church in a service led by Ministerial Association Secretary, Pastor Justin Bone, Victorian Conference President, Pastor Graeme Christian and Australian Union Conference Ministerial Secretary Pastor Brendan Pratt. Emanuel was born into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and was baptised into the Church by his older brother Samuel. After completing a commerce degree, Emanuel worked in finance but was drawn to being involved in ministry. His involvement in outreach and participation in a home group led him to the Seminary at Andrews University. During his time at Andrews, Emanuel was student chaplain, involved in local church and participated in many evangelistic trips to Central America. After completing his master degree, Emanuel went on to do a course in clinical pastoral education. This led him to working as a hospital chaplain for Florida Hospital while also being involved in pastoral ministry at Forest Lake Church. Emanuel has been the Pastor at Yarra Valley Church for the last four years and a Hebrew and Old Testament Lecturer at Avondale University.



Kymberley McMurray

Communications Coordinator for the Victorian Conference



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