

Photo Credit: Naomi Janmaat

A MESSAGE THAT RESONATES

KEY TEXT: JOHN 14:6

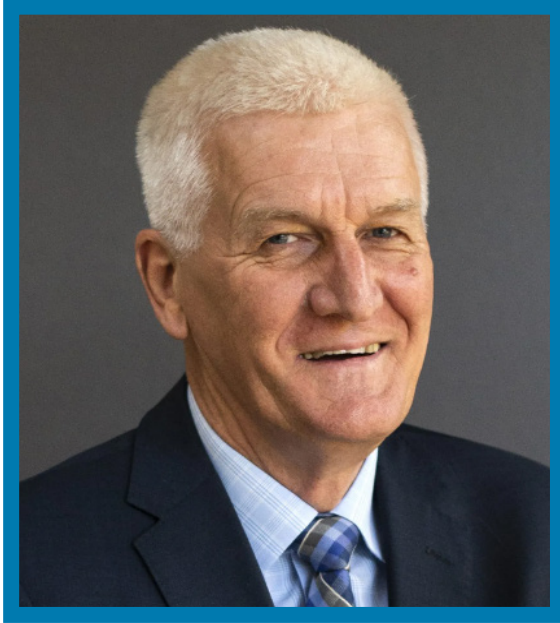
A Victorian Adventist Conference Magazine

INTRAVIC

DECEMBER 2024



A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



RESONATE WISELY

As a little boy, I was fascinated by the piano.

The piano has amazing abilities. If you hold down the pedal on the right and then make a loud noise, like a loud chord on a guitar, the piano will softly resonate with that sound. You may have to listen carefully, but it's like the piano quietly copies what it "hears" even though none of the notes on the piano have been played. Truly amazing.

On the odd occasion, I got to see inside the piano – strings, hammers, dampers, and the soundboard. I've always liked to know how things work. Back then, I hadn't understood the function of the soundboard. Now I know the soundboard is a large, thin piece of wood behind the strings. It acts as an amplifier of the sound produced by the strings because of its capacity to resonate. The string makes a sound, the soundboard resonates, and the volume of the sound is increased. A crowd of people in a concert hall can hear the sound made by piano strings because of the resonance of the soundboard.

What do you resonate with? Have you ever heard a great sermon and gone home feeling like you really resonated with what you'd heard?

It can lift you up spiritually. Beautiful music played and sung with excellence can do the same and point my mind towards God. After an experience like that, I'll easily tell others about how wonderful it was. It reminds me of the hymn, *"I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love...."*

Now, here's the challenging part. In a piano, the soundboard can resonate with any sound. It doesn't get to choose – it just resonates. But we can be discerning. We can resonate with that which builds or with that which tears down. Some love to tell a negative, critical, accusing story, and I ask: why? The Bible tells us of a time when the power of Christ has come, and the accuser of the brethren is cast down.

The apostle Paul gave us some guidelines: whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely and of good report – if there is any virtue and if anything is praiseworthy – think on these things. That shapes thought processes. It helps me choose what I'll listen to and where I'll go. There are so many things to be positive about.

So, what resonates with you? Let me encourage you to be a positive influence for good as you let the story of Jesus and His love resonate through you.

Graeme Christian
Victorian Conference President

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A MESSAGE THAT RESONATES

A REGIONAL DAY RECAP

JESUS ANSWERED, 'I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME'.

- JOHN 14:6

October 26 saw Adventists from around Victoria gathered at Gilson College for the Victorian Conference's Annual Regional Day. It was a delight to see our community congregate and worship together on this special Sabbath.

Once the greetings between old friends, and introductions to new ones, subsided, Russell Bryan (Sabbath School Director) led us through a live demonstration of 'Sabbath School for Life' – a format that encourages small group discussion. For 30 minutes, Gilson's gymnasium hummed with conversation and prayer as many answered questions about the week's lesson.

For our Main Prayer segment, Tarnya Garner (Women's Ministries Director) showed us that prayer is as simple as A.C.T.S. Expanding upon the structure of the Lord's Prayer, the A.C.T.S. model is an acronym for praying through Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication – a humble guide we can rely on when we feel a bit scatterbrained during prayer.

Sashka Tikulin then shared a powerful testimony about how God provided for her in a time of financial stress and worry. Her offering message focused on Luke 6:38, "Give and it will be given to you," as she boldly proclaimed how God "made free nappies arrive at her doorstep" because she trusted He would provide.

Throughout the service, we were blessed with special performances from Dandenong-Filipino Church, Westpoint Youth, Gilson College Community Church, and a combined choir of St Albans and Seddon. It was a glorious showcase of the musical gifts bestowed upon our churches.

Our keynote speaker, Steve Cowley, C.E.O. of Adventist Schools Victoria, gave us insight into the wonderful new developments happening in our Adventist schools, from the positive classroom atmosphere to the construction of new buildings. Then, he dove headfirst into the main message.

Drawing from his experience as a teacher, Steve effortlessly explained how "Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus is claiming His identity. He is revealing who He is," and who He is can be connected to the initial "I AM" found in Exodus.

God said to Moses, "I AM who I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you. (Exodus 3:14)

By referring to Himself as "I AM", Jesus was "declaring a message about restoration and reconciliation with the God who walked with Adam and Eve" – a message that, to this day, still brings hope and encouragement to those who hear it.

THE "I AM" STATEMENTS OF JESUS:

I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:35)

I AM the Light of The World (John 8:12)

I AM the Gate of the Sheepfold (John 10:9)

I AM the Good Shepard (John 10:11).

I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

I AM the Way, Truth, and Life (John 14:6)

I AM the True Vine (John 15:5)

With these defining characteristics, Jesus refused to be put inside a box. Instead, He was His true self. Jesus met people where they were and told them the truths they needed to hear. He knew each statement resonated with someone. Whether you hunger for something more or need someone to guide you, Steve reminded us that Jesus is always there for us; we only need to seek Him with all our heart, and he "will be found by us" (Jer. 29:13-14).

The service ended with a picnic lunch, a fitting conclusion after receiving a bountiful helping of spiritual nourishment.

To the team, thank you to everyone involved in our Regional Day. Each of you played an integral role in creating a Sabbath that glorified God and showcased our talented community!

To our attendees, thank you for spending the Sabbath with us. We hope you were uplifted and inspired by the service, whether it was the songs, the sermon, or the whole thing!

If you missed Regional Day, you can watch the recording on our YouTube channel: Victorian Adventist Communications. May God bless you all, and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Naomi Janmaat
Communications Coordinator



LOCAL NEWS PT.1

Samoan Churches Embrace the Journey of Mission

Our F5 Samoan churches (Craigieburn, Melton, North Melbourne, Sunshine & Werribee) embarked on an inspiring journey entitled 2024 'Mission in Motion'. The event was a multi-phase initiative to revitalise our connections and commitment to outreach. With a focus on reaching out to those who have distanced themselves from the church, our mission unfolded in four impactful phases: Reach, Responsibility, Respond, and Revive.

The first phase, Reach, was designed to extend our hands and hearts to individuals who have left the church. We aimed to reconnect with them through targeted outreach efforts, emphasising the importance of community and belonging. This phase involved various activities such as personal invitations to church events, engaging social media campaigns, and heartfelt conversations. Our goal was to show that everyone has a place within our congregation, regardless of their past experiences.

Building on this foundation, we entered the second phase: Responsibility. This phase challenged us to recognise our duty as stewards of the gospel. We hosted a special Sabbath service featuring guest speaker Pr. Graeme Christian, who inspired us to take an active role in mentoring others. His message resonated deeply, reminding us that it is our responsibility not only to invite others to church but also to walk alongside them in their spiritual journeys.

The third phase, Respond, provided an exciting opportunity for growth and encouragement. We were privileged to have Pr. Rome Ulia and Pr. Nemaia Faletogo from the U.S. lead workshops that enriched our understanding of mission work. Their teachings emphasised the importance of responding to God's call in our lives and the impact we can have on those around us. Throughout these phases, we organised vespers, Bible studies, games, fundraisers, and prayer sessions that brought our community together, creating a unified effort towards our mission.

At our final phase, Revive, we witnessed a beautiful expression of faith during the long weekend in September when the F5 Samoan churches gathered for a camping retreat at Lardner Park.

This retreat allowed us to bond as a community and set the stage for an extraordinary spiritual milestone: baptising 25 young souls, including three at the start of the year. Each baptism was a testament to the power of the Holy Spirit working within our youth, fulfilling the very aim of the Mission in Motion program.

Throughout the year, we have seen firsthand how God's love and grace can transform lives and build lasting connections. Whether it is reaching out to those on the fringes, taking responsibility for one another's spiritual growth, or ultimately responding to God's call, our collective efforts have strengthened our church community.

As we reflect on this journey, we celebrate the impact of the Mission in Motion program, thanking God for His guidance and the vibrant energy of our young people. We would also like to thank our F5 Committee, guest speakers and church members for all their efforts in helping with the program. May we continue to carry the lessons learned and the friendships forged into the future, nurturing a community where everyone feels welcomed and loved. Praise God for His work in our lives and the transformative power of faith!

Apelu Tanuvasa

Melton Samoan Church
Sunshine and Werribee Samoan Companies

Tau Poasa

North Melbourne Samoan Church
Craigieburn Multicultural and Samoan Companies



Victorian Samoan Women Gather for Annual Ministry Event

On Sabbath, August 3rd, the Victorian Samoan Women's Ministry hosted an inspiring and impactful annual event themed 'Heart of Mission'.

The event was full of warm fellowship and featured three key speakers—Mauana Fepulea'i, Carrun Squires, and Anne-Marie Frater—who brought their unique perspectives and experiences to the forefront.

Each message resonated deeply with the audience, touching on the importance of having a 'Heart of Mission' within their families, communities, themselves (body and mind), and throughout the world.

The success of the Victorian Samoan Women's Ministry annual event was evident not only in the enthusiasm of its participants but also in its tangible impact on fostering a renewed sense of purpose and unity among attendees.

As they departed, inspired and invigorated, the ladies looked forward to continuing their journey with a more profound commitment to embodying the 'Heart of Mission' in their everyday lives.

The Victorian Samoan Women's Ministry continues to be a beacon of empowerment and solidarity, guiding its members towards a brighter future filled with compassion and purpose.

Mauana Fepulea'i is a Youth/Social worker with Melton City Council.

Carrun Squires is a naturopath and the Australian ambassador for 10,000 Toes.

Anne-Marie Frater has been teaching for over 15 years and is currently a Secondary Teacher at Gilson College.



Tau Poasa

North Melbourne Samoan Church
Craigieburn Multicultural and Samoan Companies

BOLD Conference and VicYouth combine for Youth Rally 2024

On the weekend of Oct 11-13, the Youth Rally/Bold Conference occurred at La Trobe University, Bundoora and Gilson College, Taylors Hill. The theme for this year was I'm Possible - Impossible lives made possible by God.

We had the pleasure of hearing from great speakers such as Dr Terry Johnsson, Dr Kara Johnsson, Michaela Jones and Julian Archer. It was valuable to hear Kara's story about how the Lord helped her in dire circumstances when it looked like she was about to die after a car crash. The Lord gave her peace and enabled her to escape the situation calmly. It's a timely reminder that God loves us and can deliver us in times of need.

Michaela's daunting but immeasurably rewarding work with Destiny Rescue ultimately revealed that God can take your dreams from childhood and make them into a reality in a way that not even you could imagine, as He did for her in this line of work. Emphasis on the true value of every soul horribly overlooked in the sex trafficking industry was also a highlight, as was how God is saving trafficked individuals from their seemingly impossible situations through Destiny Rescue.

Julian spoke on the importance of using our resources and blessings for God and not letting worldly goods distract us from having a deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus. He showed statistics—the more accomplished and rich people are, the less Jesus is needed in their lives. He proposed a different way of life: when "blessings go up, our knees must come down," to say we should constantly praise God and hold our blessings lightly.

Last but not least, our main speaker, Dr. Terry Johnsson. Wow! I'm not usually lost for words, but this weekend, I was so speechless. I cried, I laughed, and I cried again. His testimony is definitely an example of impossible lives made possible by God.

Young boy Terry, together with his praying mother and grandmother, didn't let dyslexia limit what God had planned for him. God took him from a schoolroom failure to become the long-serving Honor Guard in the White House. He emphasised the power of words and the power of a praying mother: *"You are here because someone prayed for you. It is not a coincidence that you are here. Whether you are 9 or 90 years old, as long as you have air in your lungs, God is still not done with you."*

This is a great reminder that God is still working in us and through us.

We also had the privilege of having The Commissioners lead worship throughout the weekend. On Sabbath afternoon, after an amazing plate or two of haystacks for lunch (You can't go wrong with haystacks!), different singing groups, MAYC, The Katas, and Ongengu Ndubi, together with The Commissioners, delivered a fantastic mini-concert.

Many prayers and preparations went into this Youth Rally/Bold Conference, and it would not have been possible without God and the small BOLD team comprised of a handful of members from Bundoora church group and Broadford church plant in partnership with VicYouth. The goal for this weekend was for people to be revived and recharged and remember that God can use anyone despite their intellectual, mental, and physical challenges. No matter the seemingly insurmountable setbacks life throws, God is still greater.

For me and many others, it was a success on all fronts. I came in anxious but excited. I left revived, recharged, and encouraged to grow deeper in my relationship with God. I was so blessed to hear the many testimonies and stories and the angelic sounds of The Commissioners and all the singers.

I will always remember Dr. Terry Johnsson's words: *"If God can work through Terry Johnsson, He can work through anyone,"* including me and the person reading this right now. God bless!

Opal Sibanda
Bundoora Church



Photo Credit: Kalen Howse

Highlights from Pathfinder and Adventurer Rally Day

Over 350 Pathfinders gathered for the annual Pathfinder Rally Day at Gilson College.

The Rally Day is a special event to honour, congratulate, and recognise the achievements of Pathfinders, Leaders and Clubs throughout 2024.

A huge congratulations to all of our Pathfinders that received special awards and accolades on the day. Including Master Guides, Pathfinder Awards of Excellence and the Pathfinder Leadership Award.

A special congratulations as well to the Casey Pathfinder Club, for receiving the Dave Sheppard Award in 2024 for excellence in Pathfinding.

Thank you to all the clubs that helped make the day a success, especially for the fantastic music from the Lilydale and Clayton Cook Island clubs, along with a special performance from the Gilson College Pathfinder Club!

We also want to express our gratitude to all the Pathfinder clubs across Victoria. Your hard work made 2024 an incredible year for Pathfinders, and we can't wait to see what the future holds!

Darcy Holman
VicYouth Assistant

Adventurers Family Rally Day was a special day celebrating our Adventurers from across our 17 clubs in Victoria and acknowledging our leaders/teams. They commit much time, effort, and energy to this special ministry. Over 200 Adventurers filed into the NCC assembly hall, with over 100 parents and caregivers supporting them.

For the first time in a long time, our Nhill club joined us! They had travelled five hours to be part of the day—a big thank you to Karen for making the trip with her club.

Our rally theme was based around the Olympics with the catchphrase “Champions for God,” which our speaker, Pr Pirooska, explored very well with an exciting story that had our Adventurers engaged and involved and sitting on the edge of their seats.

After worshipping together, the rest of our time was filled with fun activities run by our Casey, Gilson, Carrum Downs, Lilydale, Wantirna and North Melbourne clubs. The kids had a great time rotating through the different stations. Therefore, we want to express our gratitude to all our Adventurer Clubs across Victoria, mainly our leaders and the many volunteers. Your hard work made Adventurers in 2024 an incredible year. Thank you for the year that was, and we look forward to the coming year.

Our theme for 2025 will be “Love more than a word.” Have a great festive season, and stay safe.

VicKids Team

Photo Credit: Kalen Howse and VicKids



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Renew Women's Retreat 2024: "Jesus is my Livesaver"

It was a privilege to attend this year's Renew Women's Retreat at Phillip Island in early spring with 327 women and young ladies.

The weekend of September 6-8 was one of awesome company, music and teaching by our guest Brenda Walsh from USA. Yes, she has an American accent, has been our guest previously and there are cultural differences, but one thing shone through - she has a heart to trust God against all odds. She was willing to share with us all the amazing answers to prayer she has seen in her own life.

Not all the ladies who attended were Adventist women and many were blessed. One didn't even know who Brenda Walsh was before coming to Renew at the invitation of an Adventist friend but she gave her heart to Jesus on Friday evening. This is precious!

Another lady, also not a church member who has attended more than one Renew, came to Tarnya and a committee member and asked for prayer for excruciating pain on Saturday evening. She was so excited to report at breakfast Sunday morning that the pain had more than halved, and she had slept. We trust her healing has continued.

A personal highlight for me was the last meeting ending with the hymn All To Jesus I Surrender. Brenda requested that we not just stand and sing as we always do, but to only stand and sing if it was our heart's prayer.

Lorinda Buckman
Horsham Church



A Vision for Discipleship: Highlights from Victoria's Discipleship Hackathon

Organised by the Victorian Conference Church Planting Department, the Discipleship Hackathon gathered 56 attendees from 14 church planting teams together.

The event took place on October 6, at the Australian Union Conference in Ringwood. This hands-on event equipped church planters with essential discipleship skills, focusing on both theoretical learning and practical strategy development.

Presenters Wayne Krause, Brendan Pratt, and Roy Kim shared core discipleship principles, practical insights, and strategies for overcoming common church planting challenges.

Through breakout sessions, attendees worked in teams to draft customised discipleship plans tailored for their churches, with actionable steps to initiate and sustain mission and discipleship.

The hackathon highlighted the Victorian Conference's commitment to supporting church planters through continuous training and coaching.

By providing a platform for shared learning and active planning, the event empowered church planters to return to their communities with a vision for developing a vibrant disciple making movement across Victoria.

Roy Kim
Director of Church Planting



Alice Springs Mission guided by the Light: Nuer South Sudanese SDA Fellowship Conference 2024

The South Sudanese SDA (Nuer Fellowship) met in the heart of Australia amidst the stunning landscape of Alice Springs on the weekend of 27-29 September 2024.

Organised by Nuer Seventh-Day Adventist Fellowship in Australia, this annual event drew believers from all corners of the country with a united vision through their shared devotion and love for Christ's mission.

The journey of the Nuer SDA Fellowship began in December 2004 at Springvale Sudanese SDA Group with just five faithful members. Through perseverance, prayers, and a strong sense of commitment, this small group was blessed by God and grew year by year.

By 2024, the fellowship had blossomed into a vibrant community of faith with nearly 200 members, reflecting similar growth across other states in Australia. Their faith journey has been inspiring as they continue spreading hope and salvation through preaching and gospel songs.

The symphony of conference participation comprised 31 dedicated members from Melbourne, nine from Perth, more than ten people from local members or organisers, and other members from various denominations in Alice Springs who joined hands with us in spiritual unity.

The three-day conference provided spiritual nourishment. Attendees were immersed in sermons that touched their hearts and reminded them of Jesus's imminent return. The Second Coming of Jesus was the central theme, echoing an urgent call and eternal hope (Revelation 22:12).

On the other hand, the Nuer Adventist Youths, with their contagious energy, had added a lively touch to the gathering. The performances of Nuer SDA Youth at the picturesque Tjoritja/ West MacDonnell National Park, set against the majestic red mountains, were truly inspiring. Their heartfelt songs of praise uplifted the spirit and unified the hearts of all present with heaven hosts.

The journey of faith or pilgrimage to Alice Springs testified to the group's strong faith and commitment. The 21 Springvale Sudanese SDA members travelled by bus from Melbourne to Alice Springs, covering a distance of more than 2300km and spending more than 24 hours on the bus ride.

The bus journey, filled with songs of worship and prayer, showcased their collective dedication. Upon arrival, they were warmly welcomed by the Alice Springs SDA members, who had thoughtfully organised lodging and meals, ensuring everyone felt at home.

Unity was evident not just within the Adventist community but also among different faith groups. The participation of non-Adventist members highlighted a beautiful interdenominational harmony, reflecting the essence of Christian love and fellowship.

After three days of fellowship, seven non-members showed interest in Bible study. God has blessed the group through their continuous spiritual growth, and we look forward to sharing the everlasting blessings from the Lord (Ephesians 4:3- 6).

The annual conference plays a crucial role in nurturing our faith and spreading the message of Christ. Every year, more individuals receive Christ's message, strengthened by their community and the support they offer one another.

As the conference ended, anticipation filled the air. The announcement that the 2025 conference will be held in Geelong, Victoria, was met with excitement and renewed commitment.

I want to extend my sincere heartfelt thanks to all church members who attended the program from Melbourne, Perth, and Alice Springs for their dedication to serving the Lord.

Your presence and participation created a strong fellowship connection with the attendees and a spiritual connection with the Heavenly Father.

I also have no words to describe the participation and contributions of Pastor Thok Pal from Perth, Elder Tethloach Ruey in Alice Springs, Elder Pal Deng from Melbourne, and many others who were present at the conference.

The Nuer SDA Fellowship's journey is far from over. It is illuminated by a deep relationship with God, faith, hope, and love. May we all continue to support each other in faith and reflect God's love in all our endeavours.

Gatkuoth Majiok Chol
Springvale Sudansese Group



Concert Raises Funds for Mission Trip to Nicaragua

A concert at the Oakleigh Polish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Melbourne raised more than \$5000 on August 3. The funds will support a mission trip to Nicaragua in January 2025.

Around 10 volunteers from the Moe Seventh-day Adventist Church in Melbourne have responded to a call from the Monimbó Adventist Church in Nicaragua for funds and assistance to build their new church and hall.

Organised by some of the volunteers from Melbourne, the concert raised funds to purchase materials and supplies to support the building process.

Musicians and singers from across Victoria performed at the event, including the Melbourne Adventist Youth Choir, The Solomon Island Boys, Le Quest and more.

“Attendance at the concert was beyond our expectations—having to add chairs in the foyer and the hall of the church,” said Alicia Bermudez, one of the volunteers who was at the event. “All seats downstairs and upstairs were filled!”

“We had a very generous amount donated on the night, and we still have donations coming in this week. We are very grateful for the support to the cause. We have a Facebook page where we are continually looking for ways to fundraise and would love any support in meeting the goal of \$200,000,” said Ms Bermudez.

With more than \$44,000 raised, the group has approximately \$156,000 left to reach their fundraising goal.’

To support the Nicaragua mission trip, please visit their Facebook page (Nicaragua Mission Trip 2024) for more details.



Kymerley McMurray
Originally published in the Adventist Record

Photo Credit: Adventist Record

Tynong SDA Church Plant's First Community Event

On Sabbath, October 12th, the Tynong SDA Church Plant held its first community outreach event by hosting The Story of the Book Exhibition by the Australian Bible Museum.

Two sessions were held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to give people the option of attending either session. The exhibition showcased a rare private collection of historical treasures ranging from 900AD handwritten manuscripts to printed books of the 15th century and onwards. The exhibition really makes one appreciate their Bible.

The day was well attended, with over 30 people attending each session. It was a great success. Pastor Luis shared the amazing wonders of the Bibles and their history, followed by people walking around and having a closer look at the Bibles and artefacts with the opportunity to ask questions. The event also included light refreshments, which allowed people to mingle with one another.

After the exhibition, the attendees were offered a free copy of "The Great Controversy" and the opportunity to complete a contact card for a follow-up visit. The cards were well received, and Pastor and the team made several contacts on the day for follow-up.

In conclusion, well done to the Tynong SDA Church Plant team for successfully running their first community event and promoting it through mailouts, word of mouth, networking, door-knocking, and social media.

If you have not had the privilege of seeing this exhibition, it is strongly encouraged that you contact Pastor Luis and find out when and where the next one is being held, or even better, if you or your local church can have such an event, to book it in.

Email: luisbermudez@adventist.org.au

Rob Scali
Tynong Church Plant





**vic
kids**

DON'T GIVE UP!

WE MUST NOT BECOME TIRED OF DOING GOOD. WE WILL RECEIVE OUR HARVEST OF ETERNAL LIFE AT THE RIGHT TIME. WE MUST NOT GIVE UP!

- GALATIANS 6:9
(International Children's Bible)

Life had been tough for Joseph. His mother had died when his little brother was born. His big brothers knew that he was their father's favorite son, and that made them jealous. They were so angry they nearly killed Joseph, but they decided to sell him as a slave instead.

When he arrived at Potiphar's house, Joseph was sad, lonely, and afraid. But every day Joseph asked God to help him be a blessing. He worked hard. He tried to keep a smile on his face and to be kind to everyone he met.

One day Potiphar's wife asked Joseph to do something wrong. He refused to do such a terrible thing, so she told lies about him, and Potiphar sent him to prison. But Joseph still tried to be a blessing to others. He helped the prison guards, and he listened to people who were sad and confused.

One day Pharaoh needed help to understand some strange dreams. One of Pharaoh's servants had met Joseph in prison. He suddenly remembered how Joseph had explained one of his dreams! So Joseph was brought to Pharaoh, and God helped him to explain Pharaoh's dream. He was so delighted with Joseph's explanation, and his plans to prepare for a future famine, that he made him a great ruler!

Joseph persevered. He kept choosing to trust God and bless others even when his life was very sad and difficult. Finally, he understood that God had been working out an amazing plan in his life to help him save the people of Egypt, and his entire family.

LET'S PRAY!

Dear Father God, I praise You for being with me in difficult times and in happy times.

Thank You God for turning my sad and tough experiences into something beautiful and wonderful at just the right time!

I am sorry God for the times when I have given up too easily, and when I forgot to trust You when my life was difficult.

Please help me to trust You and bless others, no matter what is happening in my life. I pray for the people who are facing big challenges. May they feel Your love and encouragement. Help me to love and encourage them too.

Content Originally published by:
Adventist Children's Ministries

Source:
10 Days of Prayer 2024
Faith in Every Footstep



Joseph and His Brothers

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph – a beautiful robe. Genesis 37:3 (NLT)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



Genesis 37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	E	N	G	Q	O	M	S	K	V	P	I	U	W	J	A	D	R	X	Y	Z	T	B	C	L	H

- 8-6-25-17 _____
- 17-18-2-16-7-2-18 _____
- 9-12-25-25 _____
- 18-6-23-2 _____
- 25-6-10-2-17 _____
- 8-12-25-10-2-18 _____
- 15-6-8-2-11-26 _____
- 23-18-6-22-26-2-18-8 _____
- 15-16-24-6-23 _____
- 8-22-18-12-11-11-2-17 _____

DREAMER	LOVED	SILVER	STRIPPED	KILL
BROTHERS	SOLD	JACOB	JOSEPH	ROBE

UPCOMING EVENTS

GISBORNE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT - DECEMBER 21-22

John Aitken Reserve, 6-9pm | Contact: Louise via 0425 781 581

Presented by The Voice of Gladness. Join us for a lovely evening of singing carols together and celebrating the birth of Jesus through drama and song. There will be a treasure hunt and nativity play on Saturday, and Sunday will have a variety of food trucks and a free petting zoo. Both nights will feature a string quartet, live music, and carol singing. Come along with your family and friends, everyone is welcome!



SAVE THE DATE: BIG CAMP 2025

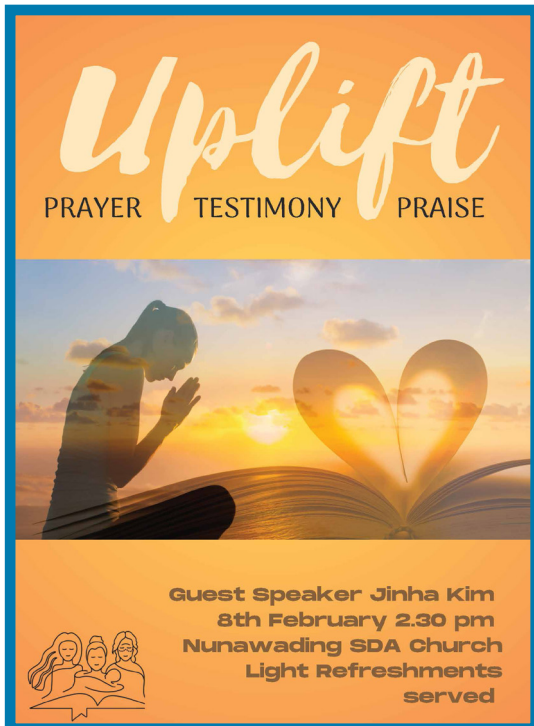
APRIL 17-21 2025

Elmore Events Centre

Mark you calendars, and get excited...Big Camp is happening again in 2025!

We loved camping with you this year and we can't wait to see you in April next year.

More information will be on it's way, so look out for updates.



UPLIFT: PRAYER. TESTIMONY. PRAISE.

FEBRUARY 8 2025, 2:30pm

Nunawading SDA Church

Get ready for an amazing Sabbath afternoon filled with praise, testimony, and prayer! Bring your mum, daughter, sister, and friends to connect with other women across Victoria, as Jinha Kim leads us in uplifting each other.

Light Refreshments will be provided.

FOR MORE EVENTS, PLEASE GO TO: VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU

UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

ABC BOOK OF THE MONTH

Christmas Gifts - True stories to celebrate the season.



In this storybook, Helen Heavirland captures the beauty and meaning of Christmas. Although the season brings wonder to our senses, it is also true that life remains stubbornly unpredictable. Hardships and trials are ever present, even at Christmas. If you have encountered difficulties in life, then you will find hints of your own story in these pages.

Each account is true and tells how ordinary people rose above their trials to experience the joy of God's love. Some stories are new, some are old, and some are heartrending, but all are heartwarming.

When the 1930s depression deepens, how can enemies find Christmas healing?

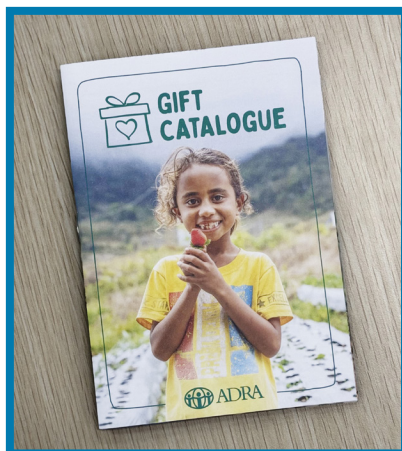
With finances near zero, a baby due, belongings packed to move, and Cheerios the only food, can the young couple's Christmas be anything but miserable?

It's hard to imagine anything good coming from these situations, but the amazing Child of Bethlehem turns every challenge into something beautiful. And that's why Christmas Gifts will leave you smiling and inspired.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ORDER FROM THE ABC WEBSITE!



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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!

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