



Photo Credit: Kalen Howse

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

KEY TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11

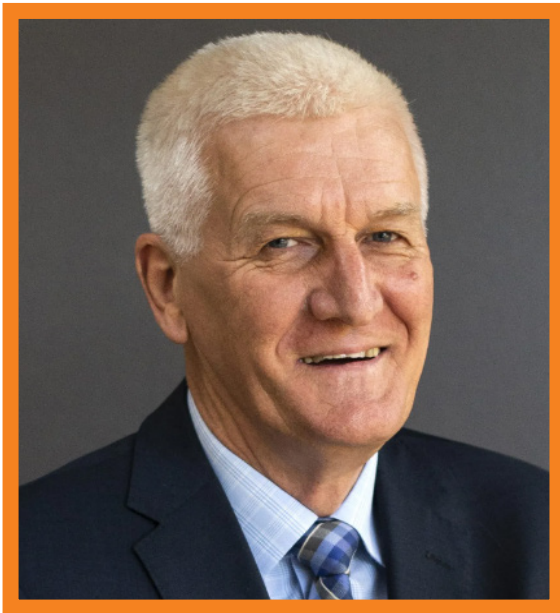
A Victorian Adventist Conference Magazine

INTRAVIC

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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

What did Solomon have in mind when he wrote Ecclesiastes Chapter 3? Time for everything?

A friend who'd been to a seminar on how to manage your time figured that time management experts are trying to squeeze more and more into an impossible overloaded schedule and increase expectations to a level that is humanly impossible. May I suggest that you can never manage time? Days come and go. Minutes tick by – 60 seconds in every one of them. Yes, we can choose what we do with the time we have – but that's more about managing ourselves.

Have you heard the story of the big rocks? The lecturer turned up one day with a large container and some big rocks. Students watched him put as many big rocks as possible into the container. He asked if the jar was full. The students said it was, but he poured gravel in, filling the gaps. He asked again if it was full. "Maybe not," some cautious students answered. Then he poured in sand; Yet again, he asked if it was full. "No," came the answer. They were fully expecting him to pour in water, which he did.

When asked what they learned, one commented, "No matter how full your schedule, there's always room for more."

However, that wasn't what the lecturer wanted the class to take away from his illustration. His point was that if you put in the Big Rocks first, other things can fit around them. If you put in the sand and gravel first, you'll never get the Big Rocks in at all. I guess it's another way to say, "First things first", because the Big Rocks represent what's most important in life.

What things are the most important for you? Well, for me, they're not even things. Here are a few examples, but I could easily give more. Relationships are really important for me – my relationship with God, relationships with family, friends and work colleagues. Health – now that's an interesting one. When everything is working well, health is often assumed and taken for granted. Do you know what I mean?

When Solomon said there is a time for everything, he was talking about the seasons of life. He wrote, "To everything, there is a season..." and he goes on to list a whole bunch of opposites: a time to be born – a time to die; a time to plant – a time to pluck up; a time to laugh – a time to cry. He also says, "God has made everything beautiful for its own time." He concluded, "There is nothing better for people than to be happy and to enjoy themselves as long as they can." That sounds good to me.

The Big Rocks story is about that, too. It's about effectiveness, priorities, a life well lived and the joy that comes as a result.

Now, I'm inviting you to take a few moments to reflect prayerfully. If you were allowed five Big Rocks (what's really important to you), what labels would you give them? I'm not saying you cannot have more – but not too many. What would God want your Big Rocks to be? I trust that your joy will be full as you seek God in whatever season of life you find yourself in.

Graeme Christian
Victorian Conference President

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Celebrate 100 years of Summer Camps in Victoria with the 2025 theme of 'Forever Young'!

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FOREVER YOUNG: CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SUMMER CAMPS

YET GOD HAS MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL FOR ITS OWN TIME. HE HAS PLANTED ETERNITY IN THE HUMAN HEART.

- ECCLESIASTES 3:11

In 2025, VicYouth saw record-breaking attendance at our Summer Camp programs. While we always aim to break records, this year was especially significant as it marked the 100th anniversary of Adventist Summer Camps in Victoria and worldwide!

The first Adventist Summer Camp was held in Victoria in 1925, with just 20 campers in attendance. Fast-forward a century, and the VicYouth Summer Camp program is thriving, with over 200 campers participating in three vibrant camp sessions across three weeks.

Each camp offers a dynamic mix of activities—ranging from water sports and mountain biking to cooking challenges and scavenger hunts. But it's not just about fun and adventure. Our daily worship sessions create an environment where spiritual growth is as central as the activities.

From learning about God's love for us to understanding that everyone has a special purpose, worship aims to plant the seed that everyone is valued no matter what happens in their lives. This year, our camps were blessed with encouraging messages from Michaela Truscott, Natasha Su'a, and Daniel Matteo—for their respective weeks, each of them shared a new perspective on what it means to be "Forever Young" and how God makes "everything beautiful in its time" (Ecc. 3:11).

Whether they've been part of the church community for years or are attending for the first time, Summer Camp has consistently proven to be a time of profound spiritual growth and connection.

"I first came to summer camp after a friend told me about it, and I loved it as a camper. The next year I came back as a staff member for Junior and Teen Camp; it was so much fun, and you really get to see God working!"

- Mia, 18

"My time at Summer Camp was truly a perspective-changing experience. As a camper, I enjoyed the exciting activities like water sports, and the supportive, Christ-centred staff helped foster an amazing atmosphere. Later, as a counsellor, I found joy in leading my cabin in nightly devotions, playing in the worship band, and creating a personal connection with each child that I interacted with."

- Amish, 17

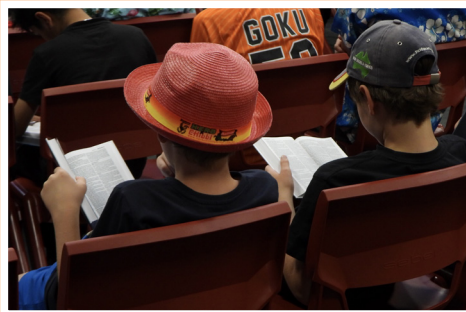
We can confidently say that these camps are transformative. They provide young people with the space to make life-changing decisions about their future and their faith. With the 2025 camps concluded, over 100 campers chose to further their commitment to God by declaring they wanted to get baptised!

It's inspiring to see the culture that has developed over the last century through the dedication of our staff, the strength of our programs, and the relationships built at camp. As we celebrate the impact of the past 100 years, we eagerly invite you to join us in praying for the memories, commitments, and adventures yet to come.

Here's to another 100 years of fun, faith, and transformation.

Naomi Janmaat
Communications Coordinator

Photo Credit: Kalan Howse and Naomi Janmaat





CONFERENCE NEWS

Victorian Conference Constituency Meeting

What is the purpose of the Victorian Conference Constituency Meeting?

Every four years (quadrennium), the Victorian Conference holds a Constituency Meeting to receive reports from elected officers and departmental leaders, to elect the leadership of the conference for the forthcoming quadrennium, and to discuss other agenda items that the Executive Committee put forward.

A Constituency Meeting is part of the organisation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The world-wide church is organised on various levels, with each level having a defined membership, also known as a constituency. The constituency-based levels are as follows: Local Church Conference, Union, General Conference (See image).

The Constituency Meeting of the Victorian Conference brings together delegates (voting members) who represent each of the local churches that are part of the Victorian Conference. Members of various standing committees are also delegates (voting members) at the Constituency Meeting.

The delegates at the Constituency Meeting are expected to vote to elect the three Officers (President, Secretary and Chief Financial Officer), Nominating and Executive Committee members; adopt or modify the constitution; appoint members to serve on various committees; organise or dissolve churches; and transact other business as required. One of the most important aspects is the election of the Executive Committee, whose role is to function on behalf of the constituents during the interim between constituency meetings.

Each organised church within the Victorian Conference is able to elect delegates for the Constituency Meeting. These delegates must be members of the church which they represent. The number of delegates from each church is dependent on the number of members in the church. Currently, "each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the church, and one additional delegate for each 40 members or major fraction thereof....". Delegates to represent a church are chosen at a duly called meeting of the local church.

One of the challenges we face as a Conference is to ensure that all delegates put forward by local churches do attend the Constituency Meeting to ensure that we have a quorum.

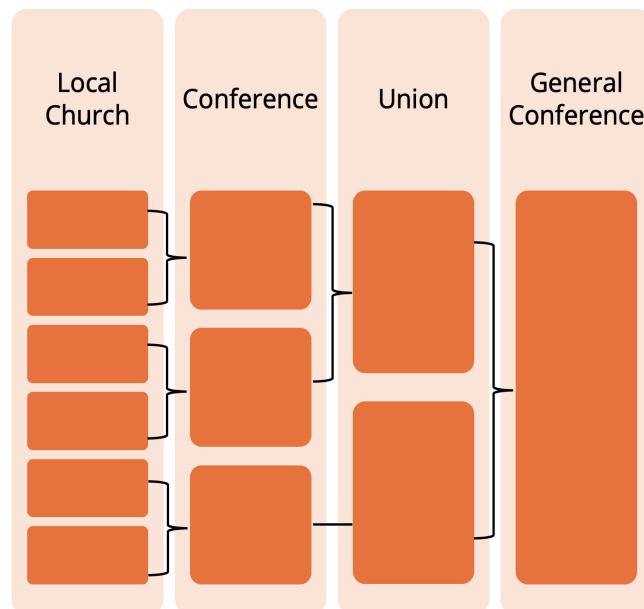
Our constitution defines a quorum (the minimum number of delegates needed to conduct business) as, "At least sixty percent of the total number of the regular delegates appointed by their churches and the delegates at large that have confirmed attendance... must be present..."

You may be able to think of times when your local church board may not have had a quorum, so was unable to conduct the meeting. This can also be a problem for a Constituency Meeting. We need all those appointed to be present to conduct God's business at local church and Conference Constituency meetings.

Conference Constituency Meetings are a spiritual time together as well. The vision of the entire Conference is set for the next four years – challenges are given, reports are heard, and God is praised and glorified for His mighty work in His leading of our churches and Conference.

The upcoming Victorian Conference Constituency Meeting will be held on 21 September 2025 at 141 Central Road Nunawading in the newly completed Multi-Purpose Centre. We look forward to hosting all those elected by their churches to be delegates, and to celebrate how God has led and blessed His Church in Victoria over the past four years.

Craig Gillis
Conference Secretary



Relocation of Victorian Conference Administration Office & Pavilions Stage 4

The Conference Administration office building, located at 141 Central Road, is no longer suitable for the needs of the Church Administration.

Built in the 1980's, the building is non-compliant with today's accessibility or energy efficiency requirements. The building is also not large enough to accommodate all the Church departments and we understand that the building cannot be expanded due to the sites' Neighbourhood Residential use zoning. We will continue discussions with Whitehorse City Council in this regard.

After much prayer and consideration, the Church Administration is proposing to relocate its administrative offices to an alternative location that is:

- Fit-for Purpose for the next generation of Church growth (Mission)
- Compliant with all current compliance and statutory regulatory requirements; suitable and supportive to Conference staff to empower their work in service of the Church in Victoria
- Accommodates co-location with the ABC
- Done in a way that places minimal financial burden on Conference finances, and supports the Mission of the Church

Tied to this question, is a need for a complementary land use solution for the current admin office site.

It is proposed that the conference admin office building site and remnant unused land along the creek embankment, be redeveloped into retirement village units in keeping with those recently built on the Nunawading Estate (Pavilions Stage 4).

This land usage proposal is in keeping with 2009 Session Action (Action 2009.27) and is a land use solution that seeks to build on the success of Pavilions and continue work that realises the full potential and equity from the Nunawading Estate, for Kingdom growth Mission use.

The Conference Administration believes it is important to take steps to position the Victorian Conference for

the next generation of Mission growth. We believe moving forward on both these initiatives will put the Church in Victoria in a better position to achieve this, than doing nothing or deferring this decision-making into the future.

The Conference Administration seeks feedback from Victorian Church members on these questions and has organised a series of 'townhall' meetings to provide an opportunity to share about the proposal, discuss and hear from members around the State. The proposed meetings are:

- **Wednesday 2 April at 10am (via Zoom)**
- **Wednesday 2 April at 7pm (via Zoom)**
- **Sunday 6 April at 7pm (via Zoom)**
- **Friday 19 April at 2pm (Elmore Big Camp – Encounter shed)**

Craig Gillis
Conference Secretary

Introducing the 7me App into Victoria

Information originally published in the Adventist Record

The 7me app is digital tool designed to enhance membership management, communication and member engagement. It is a companion to the Adventist Church Management System (ACMS), the membership platform used by most local church clerks in Australia and New Zealand since 2020. Originally developed by IATec, the technology institute of the South American Division, the app was launched in 2018 and has since expanded to more than 100 countries.

The app offers a range of features to keep members connected, including a news feed from Adventist Media with updates from across the Pacific, a calendar function that promotes conference and local church events directly to members' mobile devices, and an interactive prayer page where users can start or join a prayer group and send requests to the conference prayer coordinator.

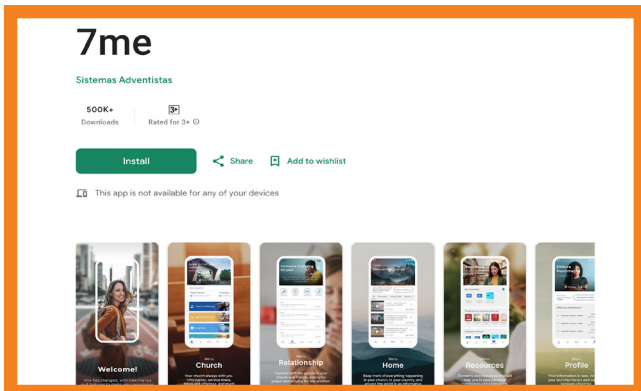
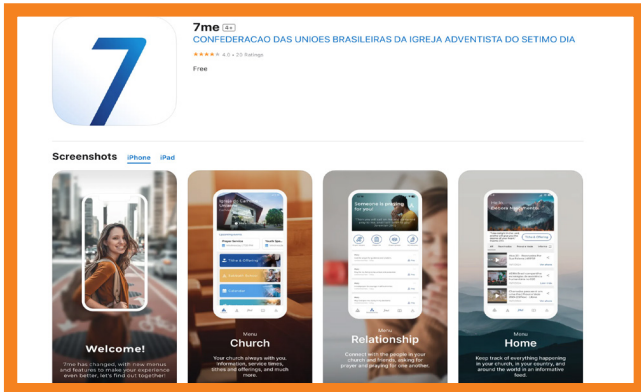
7me also serves as a centralised resource hub, providing access to Bible translations, Sabbath school guides, Ellen G White's writings, the Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, eGiving, and streaming options for Hope Channel and Faith FM radio. It also enables members to initiate membership transfers directly within the app.

ACMS project manager Pastor Adrian Raethel says, "The app has the potential to significantly enhance communication between the conference, local churches and individual members. We are encouraging all conferences to consider introducing and sponsoring the app for all congregations within their territory, at least for the first 12 months."

7me aligns with Australian Government privacy principles, allowing members to view, edit and update their personal information held by the Church, ensuring greater transparency and control over their data.

The 7me app is available for download on Google Play and the App Store.

Juliana Muniz
Adventist Record



Trust Services News

Anytime is a good time to make a Will and ensure your family's future is secure.

Have you ever considered what might happen should you pass away without having made a Will? Given more than 52% of Australians over 18 (according to a 2024 finder.com.au survey) don't currently have a Will the realities of such a scenario are all too common.

The term 'Intestate' can be defined as "when a person dies without a valid Will, or has a Will which does not distribute the estate in its entirety." In this scenario there is legislation that deals with the distribution of your Estate which may or may not be in line with your values, beliefs or desires.

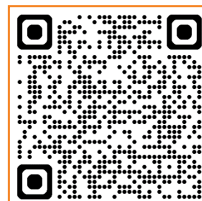
A common misconception in this regard is that if you die without a Will then the 'government will get all of your stuff.' Whilst this is a potential outcome, the laws of intestacy would only allow this if you had no living relative.

Regardless, the importance of having a Will cannot be understated and the ministry of the Trust Services Department assists church members (and those otherwise associated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church) in this Endeavour.

Throughout 2024 Trust Services has been working not only to produce Wills for our clients but also ensuring that the records we do hold are as accurate and up to date as possible. This is no easy feat and requires countless hours of work both with clients, their families and our supervising Solicitor. To assist with the delivery of this ministry in as timely a manner as possible, and to extend it more readily to our membership outside the greater-Melbourne region we also implemented an online booking system for an online appointment.

If you are uncertain of the need to have a Will, or whether your Will as prepared by Trust Services some years ago is even up to date, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Head to the Conference website or contact Josh Wood on (03) 9264 7777 or email JoshWood@adventist.org.au

Scan the QR Code to book a Trust Services appointment.



Josh Wood
Trust Services Director

2025 MINISTERS

AdventCare Whitehorse Chaplain

Pr Wendy Saluni

AdventCare Yarra Ranges Chaplain

Pr Moe Stiles

Agape Gospel Fellowship Group

Pr Terrance Sim

Alpine Valley Group

Pr Tharren Hutchinson; Mr Robert Pannekoek

Ararat

Mr John Gibson

Ascot Vale

Pr Chris Moses

Auburn

Pr Pawel Ustupski

Avenue Group

Mr Jeremy Choo

Bairnsdale

Mr Rian van Deventer

Ballarat

Pr John Smolka; Mr Jaiden Green

Bayles

Mr Eric Johnson

Benalla

Pr Tharren Hutchinson

Bendigo

Mr Daniel Mcleish

Bendigo Karen

Mr Eh Paung

Bendigo Karen Remnant Company

Pr Luis Bermudez

Berwick Company

Pr Aitui Fanene

Broadford Group

Pr Georges Latchman

Bundoora Company

Pr Daniel Berchie

Burwood

Pr Fraser Catton; Mr Matthew Verwey

Camperdown

Pr Landry Patii

Cann River Company

Mr Rian van Deventer

Carrum Downs Samoan

Pr Aitui Fanene

Casey

Pr Michael Mohanu; Pr Piroska Vranjakne Feith;
Mr Joshua Contaoi

Casey Cross Community Company (Samoan)

Pr Aitui Fanene

Castlemaine

Mr Daniel Mcleish

Clayton Cook Islands

Pr Russell Puna

Clyde Connect Company

Pr Jezreel Locop

Colac

Pr Jeremy Taituave

Craigieburn Multicultural Company

Pr Taua'e Poasa

Craigieburn Samoan Company

Pr Taua'e Poasa

Cranbourne

Pr Jezreel Locop

Croatian St Albans

Pr Manuel Tikulin

Cross-Centred

Mr Khai Zuisang

Crossroads 2421

Pr Laolagi Limu

Crosswalk Melbourne Group

Pr Moe Stiles

Dandenong Polish

Pr Vadim Butov; Pr Elena Butova;
Mr Josh Kross

Dareton

Pr Mladen Krklec; Miss Natasha Sua

Doncaster Hope Fellowship Group

Local Group Leader

Doveton Home Group

Pr Russell Puna

East Prahran

Pr Elena Butova

Echuca

Mr Jayden Croft

Emmanuel Community Fellowship Group

Pr Saifoloi Lafaele

Ferntree Gully

Pr Paul Kotanko

Fijian Group

Pr Chris Moses

Filipino Australian

Pr Mebzar Quinto

Frankston

Pr Jonathas Newlands

Gateway City

Pr Laien Hao

Gateway East Company

Pr Chris Guo

Gateway Lighthouse Company

Mr Steven Liu

Gateway West Company

Pr Chris Guo

Geelong

Pr Jeremy Taituave; Pr Hannah Andrykanus

Geelong Hungarian

Pr Jeremy Taituave

Gilson College Community

Pr Mau Tuaoi; Mr Denzil van Breda

Glen Huntly

Pr Paul Kotanko

Greenvale

Mr Luke Letele

Hamilton

Mr John Gibson

Healesville

Pr Pawel Ustupski

Heritage College Chaplain

Pr Laolagi Limu; Pr Josh Stadnik; Pr Luis Bermudez

Hillside Samoan Company

Mr Luke Letele

Home of Hope Group

Local Group Leader

Horsham

Pr Marius Jigau

Hughesdale

Pr Roy Kim

Keilor Group

Pr Manuel Tikulin

Leongatha

Mr Josh Kross

Lilydale

Pr Darren Croft; Pr Faye Stothers;
Mr Rahel Gungadoo

Living Faith Samoan Group

Mr Sosaiete Lautasi

Longwarry

Pr Jezreel Locop

Macedon Ranges Company

Mr Denzil van Breda

Macedonian

Pr Manuel Tikulin

Mansfield Group

Pr Adrian Peterson

Maryborough

Pr John Smolka; Mr Jaiden Green

Melbourne Asian (MASDAC)

Pr Terrance Sim; Mr Eric Johnson

Melbourne City

Pr Jinha Kim; Pr Roy Kim

Melbourne-Ghanian Group

Local Group Leader

2025 MINISTERS

Melbourne Vietnamese Group

Pr Georges Latchman

Melton Company

Pr Malcolm Reid

Melton Samoan

Pr Apelu Tanuvasa

Mernda Hills

Pr Trent Martin

Mildura

Pr Mladen Krklec; Miss Natasha Sua

Moe

Pr Russell Puna

Mont Albert

Pr Georges Latchman

Mornington Peninsula Fellowship Company

Mrs Tarnya Garner

Myanmar Melbourne Company

Pr Batu Johnson Ngohlu (Lay Pastoral Worker)

Nhill Company

Pr Marius Jigau

North Fitzroy

Mrs Tarnya Garner

North Melbourne Samoan

Pr Taua'e Poasa

Northern Geelong Group

Pr Jeremy Taituave

Northpoint

Pr Wendy Saluni

Nunawading

Pr Jared Smith; Mr Jeremy Choo;

Mr Davison Munhenga

Oakleigh Polish

Pr Jan Krysta

Oromo

Pr Malcolm Reid

Pakenham

Pr Ryan Vidot

Phillip Island Group

Mr Josh Kross

Plenty Valley

Pr Adrian Peterson

Point Cook

Mr Ezra Sauls

Portland

Pr Landry Patii

Preston

Pr Wayne Stanley; Mrs Sashka Tikulin

Ringwood

Pr Jorge Munoz-Larrondo; Mr Matthew Verwey

Robinvale

Pr Mladen Krklec

Romanian

Pr Paul Boeru

Rowville

Pr Steve Munsuang

Sale

Pr Ben Tavao

Samoan Endeavour Hills

Mr Sosaiete Lautasi

Seddon

Pr Miroslav Gagic

Shepparton

Mr Jayden Croft

South East (Oromo Service)

Mr Thang Guite

Southeast Melbourne Samoan

Mr Sosaiete Lautasi

Spotswood

Mr Denzil van Breda

Springvale

Pr Victor Acuna

Springvale Spanish

Pr Jonathas Newlands

Springvale Sudanese Group

Mr Gatkuoth Chol

Stawell

Pr Marius Jigau

Sunbury Vineyard Group

Local Group Leader

Sunshine Samoan Company

Pr Apelu Tanuvasa

Swan Hill

Mr Abel Tabinan (Lay Pastoral Worker)

The Harvest Company

Mr Sosaiete Lautasi

The Oasis

Pr Steve Munsuang

The Orchard City Cite Group

Pr Georges Latchman

Traralgon

Pr Ben Tavao

Tynong Group

Pr Luis Bermudez

University Chaplain

Pr Moe Stiles

Victorian Wantok Company

Pr Chris Moses

Wangaratta

Pr Tharren Hutchinson; Mr Robert Pannekoek

Wantirna

Pr Daniel Brunt; Pr Daniel Matteo

Wantirna Polish

Pr Pawel Ustupski; Mr Thang Guite

Warburton

Pr Peter Watts

Warragul

Pr Andrew Kapusi

Warrnambool

Pr Landry Patii

Werribee

Mr Ezra Sauls

Werribee Karen

Mr Saw Edward

Werribee Samoan Company

Pr Apelu Tanuvasa

Westall

Pr Miroslav Gagic

Western Spanish

Pr Victor Acuna

Westpoint

Mr Harby Baul

Yarra Valley

Pr Jared French

Zomi-Australian

Mr Thang Guite

A Church that became Family: Love in Action for a Student in Crisis

Originally published in the Adventist Record

When Mauricio Cando, an Ecuadorian exchange student, found himself alone and seriously ill, a group of strangers stepped in and became his family.

Members of the Western Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Croydon, Victoria, had never met Mauricio before, but when they heard about his situation, they rallied around him—visiting him in hospital, bringing meals, and offering both practical care and spiritual support.

For Mauricio, their kindness was life-changing. And for his family, still in Ecuador and struggling to get to Australia, the church's love and generosity strengthened their faith in God.

Mauricio's family had become concerned when his communication with them became infrequent. Days turned into weeks, and friends reported that he seemed deeply troubled—isolated, barely eating and staying in bed most of the time.

During brief video calls, Mauricio's speech made little sense; it was as though he was disconnected from reality. Alarmed, his family contacted authorities in Melbourne, who found Mauricio alone and disoriented in his share house, having not eaten for days. He was taken to St Vincent's Hospital, where doctors confirmed a devastating diagnosis: a 5cm brain tumour.

The situation quickly became overwhelming. With no family in Australia, Mauricio had no-one to care for him. Meanwhile, his loved ones in Ecuador faced financial and travel barriers that prevented them from reaching him.

In the midst of this crisis, the Western Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church became the unexpected lifeline Mauricio needed.

Church members began visiting Mauricio in hospital, ensuring he had companionship and emotional support. When his brother Marco and sister-in-law Gemma finally managed to travel to Australia, the church found them accommodation, provided meals

and helped them settle into an unfamiliar country.

More than just providing practical help, the church offered the family a sense of belonging and faith. Marco and Gemma, who had never had contact with Adventists before, soon found themselves drawn into Bible studies, prayer meetings and spiritual discussions.

"From Ecuador, when we most needed a light in the midst of uncertainty, a church member visited my brother in the hospital," Marco shared. "It was he who sent us the letter and offered us accommodation from Ecuador so we could travel to Australia. Thanks to that connection and the support of families, we not only found a place to stay, but we also learned about the church and, more importantly, deepened our relationship with God."

Their experience of being embraced by a church that expected nothing in return was so transformative that Marco and Gemma have recently committed their lives to Jesus and were baptised into the Adventist faith.

"In the church we find the support of a family," Marco said. "Not only were they people who prayed for us, but they truly became our family here. They were attentive to our needs and gave us their company in the most difficult moments."

"Additionally, through ADRA, we always received food, no matter where we moved. Every time we needed something, they were there. They showed us the love of God with actions, and that was something that marked our lives."

Recognising the financial struggles the family faced—with no income and rising medical expenses—the church held a fundraising event featuring Latin American cuisine on January 26. More than \$1000 was raised. A GoFundMe page was also created to provide additional support.

The Western Spanish Adventist Church is no stranger to community outreach. The church is involved in street ministry, nursing home visits and community prayer programs, always seeking to serve those in need.

For those who have been helping Mauricio and his family, the experience has been deeply meaningful.

“Supporting the family has shown us the power in prayer and how great our God is,” said church representative Kimberly Penate.

“Mauricio was given a 10 per cent chance at life and today he is walking and talking.”

Mauricio and his family are now preparing to return to Ecuador, though uncertainty remains about his continued treatment. While the road ahead is still unknown, they remain hopeful and trusting in God.

“Just as He has opened paths until now, we know He will also guide us in whatever comes,” Marco said. “We believe that He will continue to sustain and provide for us in this new stage.”

So far, Mauricio has undergone nine chemotherapy sessions and 25 radiation sessions. Thanks to the doctors’ efforts, the tumour has shrunk, but the road to recovery remains long.

“Knowing he’s battling such an aggressive cancer so far from home breaks our hearts and fuels our determination to do everything we can for him,” Marco said.

The family’s connection to the church remains strong. Every Wednesday night, they join the church’s prayer meetings over Zoom, sharing updates and expressing gratitude for the unwavering support they have received.

If you would like to assist the family, you can do so through the GoFundMe page:

www.gofundme.com/f/help-mauricio-brain-lymphoma



Tracey Bridcutt
Adventist Record

Melbourne City Adventist Church Gains Official Church Status

On 30 November 2024, Melbourne City Adventist Church became the newest formed church in Victoria as we celebrated the organisation of our church.

MCAC started Sabbath services in February 2014, launching from a small group of lay people who had been praying and discussing mission to the City of Melbourne.

Since then, MCAC has celebrated 14 baptisms & 3 professions of faith, as well as the privilege of reconnecting with many former Adventists.

Melbourne City Adventist Church currently has 50 adults on the membership roll and 20 children (14 of whom are under 5). We also serve 25 non-members who are integral to our faith community.

We value providing a safe space where everyone can explore a Christ-centred worldview, discover authentic community, and engage in discipleship.

We thank God for His providence in the past 10 years and look forward to serving Him better in the years ahead.

God bless!

Jinha Kim
Melbourne City Adventist Church

Meeting People Where They Are: Christmas Cheer in Cobblebank

In December, members of the Emmanuel Community Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church brought the spirit of Christmas to life with three evenings of carolling at Cobblebank Village Shopping Centre.

Whether it was 'Silent Night', 'Feliz Navidad', or 'Away in a Manger', the joyful melodies of traditional and contemporary carols filled the air, drawing smiles from shoppers and fostering a sense of community.

The story of Jesus' birth embodies love, humility, and the promise of new beginnings, which can inspire individuals. So, we are grateful for the range of volunteers who contributed to sharing the message of Christ's love through music and connection!

Alongside the carols, volunteers further connected with the community by gifting free copies of "Discover Jesus," providing a means to learn about our Saviour and His love beyond song.

The event was a resounding success, inspiring plans for more outreach activities in the coming year.

Saifoloi Lafaele
Emmanuel Community Fellowship



The Voice of Gladness presents Gisborne's Carols by Candlelight 2024

Gisborne's Carols by Candlelight 2024, presented by the Voice of Joy and Gladness, was a great success. Over 600 people attended the community event on the weekend of December 21-22. The theme was "The Light of the World," and for the fourth year in a row, the story of Jesus' birth was shared with the community.

Across the weekend, the atmosphere was a delightful mix of bubbles, brass ensembles, and beautiful music. Because it was a free event, many arrived early to get a good position in the lovely garden setting. Highlights include Jola lifting the audience's hearts heavenward with their rendition of 'O Holy Night', a Hallelujah Chorus performed by the string Quintet, and Leanne Wright singing 'Go Light Your Candle.'

While waiting for performances, there was something for everyone—children received beautifully designed colouring booklets and little gifts from the treasure hunt, a petting zoo for animal lovers, and food trucks alongside vegan ice cream were hits for the young and old! Additionally, we used this opportunity for literature evangelism, and 200 copies of 'The Great Controversy' were given to the adults over the weekend.

We want to thank all the wonderful singers, solo musicians, ensembles, choirs, actors, and all who worked diligently behind the scenes to make this event smooth and possible. Having you be a part of this community event was a blessing.

Louise van der Kraan
Macedon Ranges Company



Bringing Light to Bagasbas: Westpoint Women's Ministry's Powerful Outreach

When our team from West point Church set out on our mission to Bagasbas, a quiet coastal town in the Philippines, we knew we were about to embark on something life-changing. Little did I realise how deeply it would impact all of us...

From November 27 to December 7, 2024, our Women's Ministry answered a higher calling—to serve, spread the gospel, and offer practical help to a community in desperate need of hope.

As a mission leader, I was joined by our project coordinator, Melanie Pajares, a native of Bagasbas, Elizabeth Leaming and Lovelyn Pamplona. With the behind-the-scenes support of our incredible team of 21 dedicated members, we poured our hearts into making a real, lasting difference. We were bringing material support and the promise of spiritual encouragement.

Our goal was clear: We wanted to serve the people of Bagasbas in Daet, Philippines, and offer them more than just short-term help.

With the full backing of our community in Westpoint Church, Melbourne, we raised funds through a dinner event, receiving generous donations – school supplies, Bibles, clothes, Christian books, shoes, and so much more.

The scope of our outreach is extraordinary, touching lives across a broad spectrum of needs. Throughout the 10-day mission, we provided free medical, dental and surgical services to hundreds of people in Bagasbas.

Our team included seven doctors: two surgeons from the USA, two local dentists, general practitioners, a few nurses and pharmacists, and heaps of support from local volunteers.

For many in the area, this was the first time they had access to healthcare; this included minor and major surgeries, dental treatments, medical consultations, and free medicines.

Our mission was about more than just healthcare. Every evening, we hosted an Evangelism crusade through a "Happy Family" seminar, where we focused on biblical teachings on how to build stronger, more resilient families. For so many who attended, it was the first time they had encountered the Christian message in such a personal way.

Seeing people's hearts open to faith and the joy and hope in their eyes was nothing short of miraculous. We are so grateful to all the churches in the district of Daet, with the coordination of our very own Melanie Pajares, for making this crusade a success.

One of the most jubilant moments of the trip came on the last night when 21 people decided to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and profess that faith through water baptism. Seeing them take that step of faith and join the Bagasbas church was an unforgettable moment for all of us.

Our outreach didn't stop with adults—we also needed to support the younger generation. Our feeding program ensured that local children were nourished with free takeaway meals.

We also distributed much-needed school supplies to local schoolchildren, and the women of Bagasbas were given hygiene kits, clothes, shoes, and bags.

The outreach culminated in a special recognition event, honouring those who had contributed to the mission's success. Cash gifts were also presented to the 10 churches in the district to aid their ongoing work and future projects.

For our team, this trip was not just about giving—it was about creating lasting connections. Seeing the lives of the people of Bagasbas transformed and knowing that we had made a lasting impact was a privilege I will never forget.

This mission was made possible by the generous support of the Westpoint Church Community in Melbourne. It's a testament to what can happen when a group of people come together with one shared purpose—to serve others, to be the hands and feet of faith, and to make a difference no matter the distance.

The trip's success has left a lasting legacy of hope and unity in Bagasbas and serves as a powerful reminder of how even small acts of kindness can ripple out and change lives forever.

Evangeline Quinto Dimitrijevic
Westpoint Church

Baptism Testimony: Jembo Pacatang

I grew up in a rural area in the Philippines and come from a poor farming family. But even in that situation, we could see how God was good to people. Even if we did not have money to buy rice, there was always enough money to fuel our motorcycle to attend church.

Still, I wanted a successful life. By God's grace, I was allowed to work here in Australia. When I was packing my things, my father gave me a Bible. He said, "Son, wherever you are, always remember that God is with you. Always remember the Sabbath Day, and keep your faith."

While in Australia, I met a friend, Earl, and discovered he was also an Adventist. He asked me if I was baptised, and I answered, "No, I am a Seventh-day Adventist, but I am not baptised yet." So, Earl invited me to have Bible studies with Pastor Graham McNicol. Because I am not good at English, I doubted my ability to understand what Pastor Graham would be teaching me. Still, I believe that the Holy Spirit made my mouth say, "Yes."

After a few months of meeting with Pastor Graham for Bible studies, I realised that real success is accepting the assurance of being with the Lord at the time of His coming; I then got baptised at Castlemaine Church on July 20, 2024.

Jembo Benitez Pacatang
Castlemaine Church





**vic
kids**

SLOW DOWN!

HE SAID TO THEM, “COME WITH ME. WE WILL GO TO A QUIET PLACE TO BE ALONE. THERE WE WILL GET SOME REST.”

- MARK 6:31

(International Children's Bible)

The disciples were exhausted! For many days they had walked in twos from village to village, telling people about Jesus, and the wonderful story of God's love. They looked out for people who were sick and struggling. They listened to them, asked them what they needed, and did everything possible to be kind and helpful. The disciples wanted everyone to see and feel God's amazing love, and not just hear about it.

Now they were all together again, chattering excitedly to each other about all the things that had happened! Some people had been rude to them. But many people had welcomed them. Even though they had amazing stories to tell, Jesus could see that they were worn out, exhausted, and hungry. Before they could do anything else, He took them to a quiet place to be with Him, so they could rest, eat, sleep, and take care of themselves.

Tom and Sara found a special way to have their own peaceful time with Jesus. Every evening they each find a quiet space to sit. They read a Bible verse about God's love and imagine how much God loves them. They think about three things that went well during the day and thank God for helping them.

Tom writes the three things in his journal. If something didn't go as well as

they hoped, they ask God how to make it better, and to show them what they could do differently next time. Sara draws pictures of things that fill her with wonder, like a flower or a butterfly. Thinking about these lovely things in the evening, and talking to Jesus about them, helps them to go to sleep feeling loved, peaceful, and happy.

LET'S PRAY!

Dear Father God, I praise You for inviting me to have quiet times with You.

I thank You God for the different ways I can spend quiet time with You.

I am sorry God for the times when I have not put You first. Please help me to slow down, listen to You, and experience Your love for me.

I pray for all the people who feel tired because they are caring for others. Help them to slow down and rest, so that they can experience Your loving care for them.

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Source:
10 Days of Prayer 2024
Faith in Every Footstep



Heavenly Harvest Hunt

Word Search

Solve the puzzle with the word bank below. Puzzle based on Ecclesiastes 3:1

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

REAP HEAVEN TIME SEASON
PLANT EVERY PURPOSE EARTH

THE NOTICE BOARD



BIG CAMP 2025

APRIL 17-21

Elmore Events Centre

The theme for Big Camp 2025, Love – More than a Word is intended to help us focus on Christ, His sacrifice for us and how we can respond to such wonderful love.

Big Camp offers something for everyone. There are special programs for each age group, from Beginners to Youth. There are excellent speakers for each venue – and you won't want to miss that.

There'll be a variety of activities including worship, workshops, fun activities and much more. Each day provides so many opportunities. You'll be sure to create lasting memories.

Registrations Close April 7 at 5pm



WORLD ADVENTURER DAY

MAY 17-21

For years Adventurers and Adventurer leaders have been waiting for a special world event to celebrate what it means to be an Adventurer. We are proud and excited to announce that we now have a World Adventurer Day!

This event will take place every third Sabbath of May. It is a special day to let our Adventurers enjoy being Adventurers and to show others the blessing they are to our church and our community.

The theme for 2025 is 'Travel with Faith.'

Important Dates! More information to come...

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK.....MAY 27 - JUNE 3

WOMEN'S EMPHASIS DAY.....JUNE 14

HIGH SCHOOL RALLY.....JUNE 21

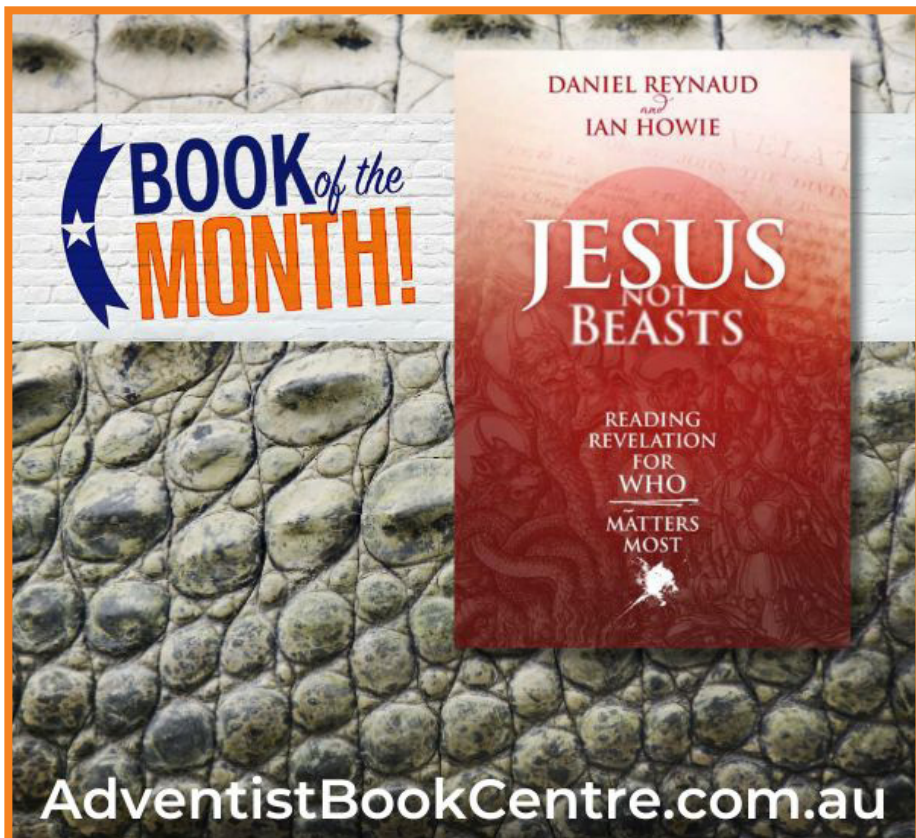
THINKING FAITH SUMMIT.....JUNE 27-29

FOR MORE EVENTS, VISIT VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU

Dates and events are subject to change and cancellation based on department or organiser's discretion. Thank you for understanding.

ABC BOOK OF THE MONTH

Jesus, Not Beasts - Reading Revelation for WHO matters most by Daniel Reynaud, Ian Howie



Jesus, Not Beasts is a thoughtful, Jesus-centred reading of the Bible's book of Revelation.

Rediscover "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"—as the book was originally titled—and the assurance, hope and insights into the true character of God that the sometimes-daunting book of Revelation offers.

"Daniel Reynaud and Ian Howie are to be commended for how they have shaped this devotional guide to see each chapter and judgement sequence in light of a gracious God and victorious Lamb." - Dr Kendra Haloviak Valentine, Professor of New Testament Studies, La Sierra University

Scan the QR code to order now!



THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!

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adventistemployment.org.au or vic.adventist.org.au**

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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Victorian Conference Big Camp 2025



LOVE

MORE THAN A WORD

Final Week to Apply! Registrations close April 7
April 17-21 | Elmore Events Centre