

MARCH 2026

INTRAVIC

A Magazine of the Victorian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church



**FIXED EYES.
FOCUSED FAITH.**

Front Cover Photo Credit: VicYouth Australia





FOCUS ON JESUS

Have you ever been distracted by odd theories or conspiracies? A geopolitical analyst recently observed that the media, once committed to uncovering the truth, now pursues opinion and engagement at any cost. As a result, many of us no longer trust what we see or hear. Instead, we follow personalities or voices we find believable and trust them. It's no surprise that this has opened the door to all kinds of strange and misleading ideas!

As a church, we are not immune to being drawn into weird and bizarre theories. I don't need to list them because you've probably encountered some of them. What's the answer?

We are all called by Jesus. First, we are called to follow, and then we are called to share Jesus with others. When I was a boy, I was going to be a missionary-doctor-pilot! As I got older, the time arrived when I knew I had been called to ministry. That was my calling. What is yours? Regardless of what God asks of you, he asks all of us to share Jesus with others – with words and actions, in our homes, workplaces, school, or wherever we go.

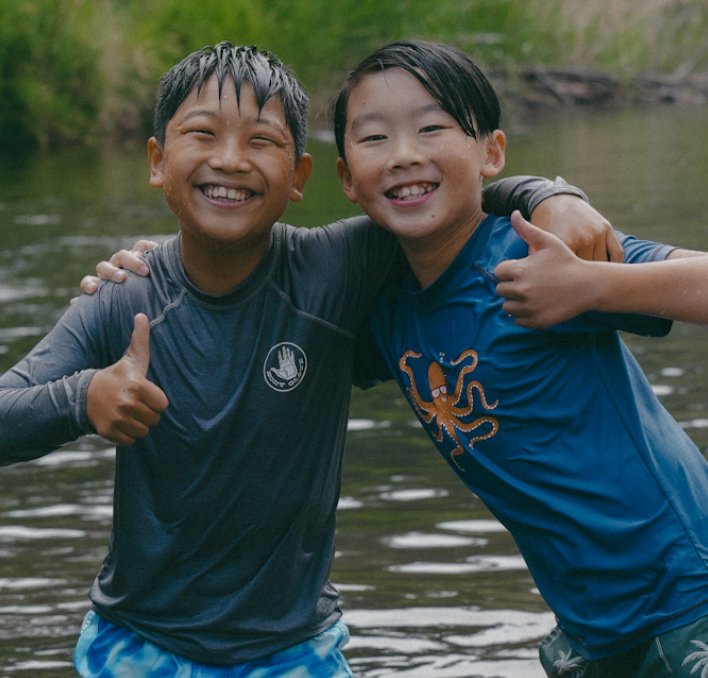
It was a special morning in early February when our teams from the Conference, Aged Care, and Education, along with several pastors, joined together for a dedication service. We dedicated ourselves to God's service in response to his call.

Today, I invite you to once again dedicate yourself to sharing Jesus wherever he calls you. Remember, one of the biggest mission fields in this country is Melbourne!

Here's the hope I want to leave with you: We don't walk this calling alone. As we follow Jesus together, He empowers us to be people of discernment who can be a light in Melbourne and beyond. Every small act of faithfulness—yours and mine—becomes part of a much bigger story of hope. God is already at work ahead of us. As we keep our eyes on Jesus, He will work in us and ensure we don't grow weary or distracted. Instead, he will take what we offer him and multiply beyond what we can imagine.

Pr Darren Croft
Victorian Conference President





INSIDE INTRAVIC

4 - ADRA UPDATE

ADRA Activates Emergency Relief Plan in Response to the Victorian Bushfires.

6 - CONFERENCE NEWS

Meet the Victorian Conference Departmental Ministry Leaders for the new Quadrennium.

9 - WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Wendy Jorquera shares how UPLIFT 2026 was full of precious moments to remember.

10 - LOCAL NEWS

Hear how a support worker used social media to share her faith at work; Bendigo kick-starts their health with a community program.

12 - INTRAVIC FEATURE: 'LOCKED IN' ON JESUS

VicYouth encourages everyone to fix their eyes on what matters during their 2026 Summer Camps.

14 - VICKIDS CORNER

Pr Uili prays over the future generation, and invites you to join in.

16 - ADVENTCARE UPDATE

CEO, David Reece, introduces a plan for new retirement units, and Karen Horsley reminds us about the importance of Chaplaincy.

18 - PASTORAL LIST 2026

22 - THE NOTICE BOARD



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ADRA Activates Emergency Plan in Response to Bushfires

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia activated its National Emergency Management Plan in response to the Victorian bushfires in January.

One person died, over 700 structures, including 228 homes, were damaged or lost, and an estimated 15,000 livestock have died in fires that have burned 404,000 hectares of the state.

ADRA partnered with local Seventh-day Adventist churches and community members to respond to the crisis. The response included providing financial assistance to 113 households, emergency evacuation kits, and psychosocial support, as well as providing sports drinks and on-the-go snacks for responding Country Fire Authority (CFA) crews.

As of January 13, 650 emergency evacuation kits were prepared and distributed across the state: 450 from Wangaratta Seventh-day Adventist Church, 100 from the ADRA Op Shop Albury, and 100 from ADRA Ferntree Gully. The kits, which contain hygiene items such as towels, body wash, and toothbrushes, are being delivered to Wangaratta Seventh-day Adventist Church for distribution to those who have been evacuated.

"We have been so blessed by the way our ADRA projects have stepped up to help respond to this disaster," says Naomi Vaotuuu, ADRA's Emergency Response Coordinator for the Victorian bushfires. "So many of these projects are supported and run by a local Seventh-day Adventist Church. These churches are connected to their community in such a beautiful way that in times of disaster, not only does the community band around these churches to support their response, but it also means we can see to people's physical and emotional needs."

"The bushfires were challenging, says Rebecca Auriant, ADRA's Victorian director. "I met with farmers who had lost everything, were in shock with tears in their eyes. Nothing really prepares you when you hear their stories.

"Our team, who dedicated days and nights (and are still going) were trained in Psychological First Aid to assist farmers with financial grants and emergency relief. Our churches were right there as well - offering support of essential items requested by the relief centres.

"I remember thinking, God is opening doors for people to see our church in action. To show people that we really care. As my Grandad, Pastor Bill Otto, would say - 'Christianity with its sleeves rolled up.'"

In the weeks that followed, ADRA volunteers made day trips to affected areas in Longwood, Yarck, Ruffy, and Alexandra to register impacted individuals for financial assistance and to provide Psychological First Aid (person-to-person support).

The psychological impacts of fires on communities can be just as severe as the physical losses, and having emotional support during those times can be critical.

"ADRA's respectful and supportive approach helped build trust with community leaders, opening doors to communities in hard-to-reach areas," says Vaotuuu. "Strong prior relationships with local councils also led to requests for ADRA to provide psychological first aid and assist with cash registrations at official relief centres."

John Smilek was part of the ADRA team sent to Alexandra and Yarck.

"We quickly connected with several families, registered those who needed help, and listened to their stories," says Smilek. "Some had lost everything. I am grateful for the small chance to show up and support in any way we could."

ADRA's response was supported by Bunnings Nunawading, Follow Bless Collective, Feed One Feed All, Sanitarium, and Share the Dignity.

In late 2025, ADRA conducted National Emergency Response Team (NERT) training for volunteers in disaster-prone areas. Conducting training before a disaster strikes means that volunteers and staff on the ground feel equipped to respond in times of disaster. The Victorian NERT leadership has been involved in coordinating the response.

If your church wants to be involved in future emergencies, please to speak to Rebecca Auriant - ra@adra.org.au - about establishing 'peace' time activity, so that your church can be 'Always Ready and Always There' when needed.

To support ADRA's response in times of disaster, please donate at adra.org.au/disaster

Written by: ADRA Victoria Team





Victorian Conference Departmental Ministry Leaders for new Quadrennium

It is my pleasure to introduce our new team for Departmental Ministries in the Victorian Conference. These Departmental Leaders are appointed for the next four years – or the quadrennium. We have followed the lead of the Australian Union Conference and grouped ministries into clusters to help facilitate our mission to take the gospel to our part of the world – i.e. the Victorian Conference. The Departmental Team will continue to work together as a whole departmental team, while also having the opportunity to work together in their clusters to:

- Provide support, training and resources for the local church.
- Facilitate collaboration between departments for ministry.
- Align more clearly with the broader church, where Adventist Mission has grouped those Departments that focus on Pastors and churches for our mission as Adventists. Personal Ministries has disappeared as a title from the AUC, SPD/GC. While we have retained the title for now, we recognise that it fits within a bigger picture of Discipleship as part of our Adventist Mission.

ADVENTIST MISSION

Ministerial Association Secretary: Pr Fraser Catton. Fraser has most recently served as the

Pastor of Burwood Church and has pastored several churches, including Lilydale, Casey, and Bayles. He also assisted with Harvest Victoria. Fraser brings broad ministry experience to the ministerial role, supporting the pastors in Victoria.

Associate Ministerial Secretary: Pr Piroska Vranjakne-Feith. Piroska's early ministry was in Victoria before moving to Western Australia, where she served in pastoral and departmental roles. She recently returned to Victoria, where she has pastored at Nunawading and Casey churches, and will continue in the Associate Ministerial role supporting pastors.

Personal Ministries/Discipleship: Pr Michael Mohanu. Michael has been Senior Pastor at Casey Church for 13 years and pastored other churches before that, including the Romanian Church. Michael brings a strong commitment to ministry and significant experience in the local church to this role, where he will bless others in the Conference.

Health Ministry: Libby Hergenhan. Libby is new to Victoria and recently moved from Tasmania. Libby comes with a teaching background as well as having a long-term interest and involvement in Health Ministry. Most recently, she has served in Health Ministry in Tasmania, and she is looking forward to taking on a new challenge in Victoria.

Church Planting: Pr Uili Mauga and Pr Piroska Vranjakne-Feith. Uili and Piroska understand that planting new churches is embedded in the DNA of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As we aim to reach new people groups, communities or geographic

areas, church planting seeks to intentionally create healthy communities of faith that spread the good news of Jesus in Victoria. Together they will strategise, advise, and provide support for new church plants. Uili and Piroska look forward to working with groups eager to learn more about church planting.

CHURCH FAMILY

Youth Director: Pr Jonathon Gillard. Jono is well-known to our Youth in Victoria as the Associate Youth Director for the past two years. Jono has served in both chaplaincy and church pastoral roles, including serving as the pastor of the Upper Room, as a school chaplain at Gilson, and previously pastoring in New Zealand.

Associate Youth Director – Natasha Su’a. Tash is a new addition to the Youth Department. She has a history of involvement in Pathfinders and VicYouth summer camps. Tash will bring energy and enthusiasm as she learns the role. She has recently been part of the Pastoral Team in Mildura, contributing to both Mildura Church and Henderson College.

Children’s and Family: Pr Uili Mauga. Uili has very ably filled this role over the last term. He has a passion for training and equipping children and families, and will continue to do so.

Sabbath School: Pr Piroska Vranskyne-Feith: Using her pastoral experience, Piroska will also be taking on the role of Sabbath School leader.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM): Pr Wendy Saluni. Wendy has extensive experience working across cultures, as well as in and with Aboriginal communities in Victoria and other parts of Australia. She has pastored across Victoria in both city and country regions, including her current role as pastor at Northpoint Church, and brings teaching and pastoral experience to her ministry.

Women’s Ministry: Pr Tarnya Garner. Tarnya stepped into the Women’s Ministry role while serving in Pastoral Ministry in Victoria. She has pastored at Nunawading Church and is the current pastor of North Fitzroy Church and the Mornington Peninsula Fellowship. Tarnya continues to use her life experience to support Women’s Ministry in Victoria.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Adventist Disaster and Relief Agency (ADRA): Rebecca Auriant. Bec has been involved with ADRA for many years. She started in a part-time role before transitioning to a full-time role (partly funded by ADRA Australia) in recognition of the role's importance. Bec brings a passion for serving those in need and

is committed to continuing to support and resource local ADRA leaders.

ASV Education Director: Steve Cowley. Steve has served as Education Director for Victoria for two years and brings a strong Christ-centred focus and professional practice to the role. Before coming to Victoria, he had many years of experience in education, most recently serving as Education Director in SA and WA Conferences.

ASV Associate Education Director - Betty Lakovic. Betty brings a wealth of experience in Education in Victoria and is continuing in the Associate Education Director role. Her caring approach and commitment to the ministry of Education and the Church are clearly evident in her work.

Adventist Schools Victoria (ASV) comprises of seven campuses, over 3,500 students, and more than 1,000 employees. Many teachers and ASV staff members actively contribute to local churches, and our schools play a significant role in our church's work in Victoria.

Communication: The Conference President. Communication has traditionally been carried by the President in Victoria, and this will continue for the time being. Achieving effective communication is crucial and a significant challenge in today's social media age.

GOVERNANCE

Trust Services : Pr Josh Wood. Josh brings a caring pastoral approach to the Trust Services role, along with attention to detail. He brings previous professional and pastoral experience to the role, including pastoring at Nunawading Church and the Upper Room. He is appreciated by those who have accessed the Church's will provision service.

Religious Liberty: The Conference Secretary. This role is one of many that the Conference Secretary carries, yet it remains a space in Victoria we need to monitor actively. We are fortunate to have a full-time Religious Liberty Director at the Australian Union Conference who provides support in this area.

Stewardship: The Conference CFO. Oversight for this role will initially rest with the CFO while changes are underway at the Australian and South Pacific arms of the Church regarding stewardship. As with Religious Liberty, we are fortunate to gain support from a Stewardship Director at the Australian Union Conference.

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Please pray for our new Conference Team as we work together with our Churches and Institutions in Victoria to work with purpose and focus. Together, we face a real challenge to be faithful to Jesus, and to think creatively as we seek to share the good news of Jesus.

SAYING FAREWELL

Finally, we pay a special tribute and say a big thank you to those who have served and will be moving on to a new chapter in their ministry.

Phil Hyland: Associate Youth Director; Youth Director. Phil has served with distinction, energy, and commitment. As a leader, he has been synonymous with Youth ministry in Victoria. Thank you, Phil for your hard work and your love for our young people. We know you will continue to contribute in new ways in the future.

Pr Andrew Jasper: Health and Personal Ministries. On the Health front, Andrew has worked tirelessly to support the establishment

of Cedarvale and leaves a significant legacy due to his commitment to a holistic approach to Health. Personal Ministries includes Andrew's important contribution to the Harvest Victoria evangelistic focus prior to 2020.

Pr Justin Bone: Ministerial Association Secretary. Justin's caring and pastoral approach has been gratefully received and appreciated by many pastors in Victoria. His thoughtful wisdom and writing ability will continue to impact many in Victoria as he looks forward to returning to local church ministry in 2026.

Pr Roy Kim: Church Planting Director. Roy pioneered the church planting role in Victoria with his highly organised and strategic thinking. He takes the skills he developed in Victoria to a wider field as he moves to the Associate Ministerial and Church Planting role at the AUC, where he will support our Church Planting Directors.

Pr Darren Croft
Victorian Conference President

Adventist Mission

Ministerial Association
Secretary

Associate Ministerial
Secretary

Church Planting

Personal
Ministries/Discipleship

Health Ministries

Church Family

Youth Director

Associate Youth Director

Children and Family

Sabbath School

Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Ministries
(ATSIM)

Women's Ministry

Community Engagement

ADRA Director

ASV Education Director

ASV Associate Education
Director

Communication

Governance

Trust Services

Religious Liberty

Finance
Stewardship



Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

Victorian Conference



UPLIFT 2026: Precious Moments to Remember

UPLIFT, held on February 7, 2026, was truly an event to remember. It was a day filled with prayer, testimony, praise, and fellowship—an opportunity to make new friends and come together as one family in Christ. It was a sacred moment to connect, reflect, and grow.

UPLIFT is an annual event organised by Women's Ministries of the Victorian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This year, the program was held at Haskell Hall Pavilions, where the venue was filled with women eager to connect, sing praises to God, and hear His Word through our guest speaker, Charisa Fong Torossian.

One of the most beautiful sights was seeing women praising God together—some holding hands in prayer, others sharing heartfelt personal testimonies of gratitude. These precious moments will remain with me for a long time. I can confidently say that the presence of the Holy Spirit was deeply felt throughout the day.

UPLIFT is more than a gathering; it is a time for women to recharge spiritually, reflect on God's goodness, and encourage one another. It is a space to share both our joys and challenges, to pray for one another, and most importantly, to strengthen our personal relationship with God. In coming together as one, we are reminded that we do not walk this journey of faith alone.

The promise of Scripture was beautifully reflected in this experience:

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." - Jeremiah 29:13

This is exactly what I witnessed and felt at UPLIFT. Praise be to God for His faithfulness and for the blessing of Christian fellowship.

Wendy Jorquera
Women's Ministries Committee
Western Spanish Adventist Church



Support Worker uses Church Social Media to Share Her Faith in the Workplace.

'I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.' – John 10:16

Springvale South Sudanese Group held a connecting outreach conference in Geelong on September 26-28, 2025. Many church members took time off from work to attend the outreach, including Nyachan Kuoth, a dedicated disability support worker who took four days of leave to be part of the event. Upon her return to work, her clients often inquired about the program she attended. Nyachan shared her faith with two wheelchair-bound clients, who then watched the church's worship services on Facebook and YouTube. They were deeply moved, breaking down in tears not only during the worship service but also at the sight of their dedicated support carer singing with the group. When they approached Nyachan with a heartfelt request, saying, "We'd love to visit your church if your members are willing to welcome us," her response came without hesitation: "Absolutely!"

Then on Sabbath, November 1, 2025, both clients made a remarkable decision to attend the worship service in person at Springvale church. That inspiring Sabbath afternoon, their electric

wheelchairs rolled through the church doors, accompanied by two staff members and their care manager, Julia Rologas, who wholeheartedly supported their choice to participate. Julia, the Manager of Nurses Care Collective PTY LTD, when she was given a chance to speak, took a moment to thank the church members for their love and kindness, especially for welcoming her clients, who had faithfully watched the church videos each week, and for seeing Nyachan, their support carer, singing on the stage.

With tears in her eyes, she continued, "I feel truly humbled by this moment, and I apologise for my emotions; my soul is singing." Julia expressed her gratitude to everyone present for their support and expressed a hopeful intention to return in the future. She addressed Tina and Angela (both wheelchair-bound), saying, "Thank you both for making the long journey here today; I know it can be a challenge, and your presence brings so much joy."

Julia reflected on their bond with Nyachan Kuoth, saying, "It's been six wonderful years working together, and we truly are like family. Thank you all for your kindness; this welcome means a lot to us."

When Nyachan was asked about her experience, she joyfully responded, "Upon my return to work, my clients asked me about the joy I felt at the conference." Rather than giving them the Bible, I just shared the worship videos on Facebook and YouTube. I just did my job with love, like Jesus, and I never imagined that sharing the videos would bring them to the church. Now I understand that my clients saw something in me that I was not aware was visible: Jesus. But God had a greater plan than mine. Now, they are more than my clients; they are

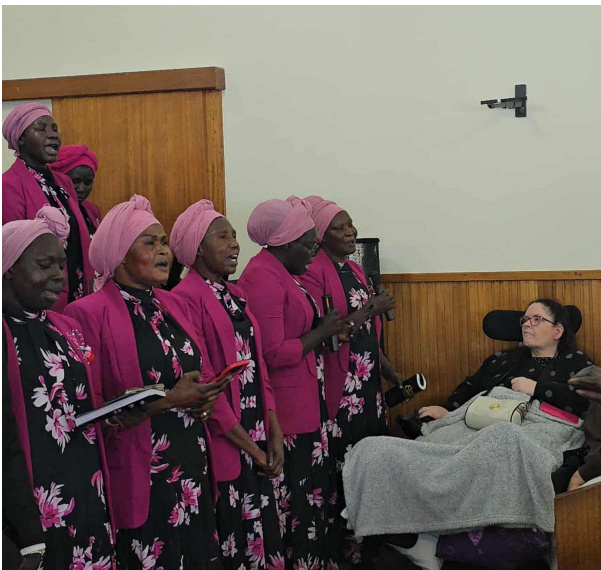
my sisters in Christ, and this new relationship changes everything.”

In John 10:16, Jesus proclaims, 'I have other sheep, not different sheep, not lesser sheep, but equal sheep, that must be brought into one flock.' This verse best illustrates that Christ's flock is vast and inclusive, reaching far beyond any divisions of race, culture, nationality, language, or ability. It serves as an important reminder that God's love has no barriers for every person, regardless of their disabilities or circumstances. God's presence is limitless; it breaks down the physical barriers and unites us in the richness of our diverse cultures. While languages may differ, the shared experience of praising God provides common ground and brings us together to share his amazing grace as one family. Each person is unique and is valued in this divine love, showing that everyone is welcome in God's loving presence.

Nyachan's unique commitment has truly gone above and beyond her responsibilities, serving as a bridge of blessing, and her compassionate heart and faith reflect the love of Christ in action. Nyachan's role was not just to provide physical care but also to offer spiritual support. This beautiful testimony highlights the powerful potential of combining digital ministry with personal care, demonstrating how one person's faith can bring hope and change to others' lives.

Gatkuoth Chol

South Sudanese Adventist Group



Bendigo Kick-starts their Heart Health with Community Program

The challenge of relevance in your immediate community is one that every church battles against. Bendigo Adventist Church is taking a hands-on approach to this issue through the avenue of healthy living. On December 7, we held our first community health event. The program titled “Kick-start to Health – Heart Health” was the first of several community health programs where a healthcare professional is invited to present a short presentation on their particular speciality.

This first program was presented to about 50 people, the majority of whom were invited to attend by members of our church community. The program included a three-course vegetarian meal, which was catered in-house by the deaconess team, and a 35-minute presentation followed by a Q&A session. Each attendee received a gift bag containing the meal's recipes and a modernised copy of Steps to Christ.

The evening turned out to be a great success, with invited guests consisting of a wide cross-section of the community. We are looking forward to continuing in the new year, with the potential to grow the size of the program and its influence in our community. Thank you to everyone who helped make this evening so successful.

Pr Daniel McLeish
Bendigo Adventist Church



'LOCKED IN' ON JESUS: SUMMER CAMPS 2026

'AND LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE PIONEER AND PERFECTER OF FAITH.' - HEBREWS 12:1-2



VICYOUTH had an intense start to the year. Our Summer Camps program is always full of excitement and adventure, and 2026 was no different. We had to make the very difficult decision to cancel GAP Camp this year, due to the bushfires that broke out across Victoria in early January.

Earlier that day, during our staff prayer walk around the camp, we prayed specifically for God to work despite the extreme weather. Little did we know how literal that prayer would turn out to be. With conditions changing dramatically in a short time. We had only a short time to assess the situation and decide our response; thankfully, our prayers were answered.

Howqua provided meals for our campers, cabin leaders helped the kids pack their freshly unpacked bags, auxiliary staff kept the kids entertained while our admin team coordinated transport, and of course, our bus drivers planned safe routes for the long trip back to Melbourne! Within just a few hours of the decision being made, every single one of our GAP Campers and staff had arrived home safely.

Throughout it all, we kept our eyes on Jesus, trusting that God was guiding and protecting the situation.

JUNIOR CAMP started with a flurry when the decision was made to proceed with the event, much to our campers' relief! Due to road closures, our campers arrived later than expected. This meant that when they arrived at Howqua by the busload, they were eager and ready to be involved in everything Summer Camps has to offer.

For some, it was their first time ever experiencing camp life. Being sorted into cabin groups, having meals together and meeting new people can sometimes be intimidating. But our cabin counsellors did an incredible job of making everyone comfortable, and by the time we were ready for worship, everyone was fed, unpacked and settled into their cabins.

The following days were spent rotating around activities. Water sports, Horse Riding, Flying Fox and Cooking, just to name a few. These kept the kids busy and entertained,



but they still brought an amazing energy to evening worship. Pastor Josh Contaoi, our speaker for Junior Camp, presented an amazing message around the theme of being 'locked in' to Jesus.

Another highlight from the camp was the commitment night. Each camper had an opportunity to respond to the messages they had heard throughout the week, and 'lock in' to Jesus. Over 70 campers requested to be baptised at camp, and 60 requested to become involved in Bible studies! God truly blessed us at Junior Camp, and it was well worth running for the sake of the campers whose lives were changed as a result.

TEEN CAMP has a very unique energy, and it was great to see everyone ready and raring to go right from their arrival.

This year, in addition to activities chosen by the campers, we also ran a team-building obstacle course and puzzle challenge. Built off Howqua's 'Survivor' activity, where campers help each other get through an obstacle course and work as a team to complete a challenge. We added to the difficulty by having the campers find pieces of a puzzle and unlock a treasure chest belonging to Desmond Doss! Campers also enjoyed using the water slide at night, which was surprisingly warm and serene with the glow of fairy lights. It was a great atmosphere to witness and enjoy.

During the 'Champions Dinner' banquet night, everyone got to embody their favourite athlete, emphasising how they are focused on running the race set before them. At the end of the festivities, our campers were reminded of how they are already champions in God's eyes.

Our speaker, Kaylee Smith, challenged us throughout the week to apply our theme of 'locking in' to Jesus in our own lives. Regardless of our situation. This message really resonated with our young people, with over 70 requesting baptism, bible studies, or both!

We're most thankful to God for keeping everyone at Teen Camp safe. Despite continued road closures and bushfires, camp was able to go ahead safely. It made a real difference to those who attended!

Written by: VicYouth Team

For more photos and videos from Summer Camp, check out VicYouth's social media pages:
Facebook: VicYouth Australia | Instagram: @vicyouthaustralia





A Generation Covered: Launching the Year on Our Knees

"How can we best support our children as they transition from the holidays back into the classroom?" This was the big question the VicKids team sought to answer. We wrestled with various approaches until God provided a clear and powerful direction: to saturate the start of the school year in prayer.

As the holidays drew to a close, our children headed back to school—some beginning their very first schooling journey, while others returned to brand-new classes, teachers, and classmates. Whether they are stepping onto campus for the first time or returning to a new grade, we want them to go forward backed by a spiritual community that has already paved their way in prayer.

To make this vision a reality, we changed the traditional dates for our 10 Days of Prayer for Kids. Originally scheduled for early January, we moved the program to begin on January 28th – February 6th to coincide directly with the start of the school term. This shift and realignment allowed us to introduce a new initiative: an online prayer vigil held on January 27th at 7:00 PM.

We were thrilled to see parents, grandparents, Children's Ministries leaders, and pastors unite to launch these 10 days of prayer. The entire week served as a profound call for every family and church to spend dedicated time praying for and over our children as they headed back into the classroom.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR INTERCESSION

Our vision was simple but powerful—to stand together for our children. During our time together, we focused our prayers on four critical areas:

- 1. Protection and Safety:** Praying for God's physical and emotional hedge around every student.
- 2. Learning and Growth:** Asking for wisdom,

clarity, and academic and spiritual flourishing throughout the year.

- 3. Friendship and Belonging:** Praying that every child finds a supportive community and a true sense of belonging.

- 4. Purpose and Identity:** Asking that they discover their God-given calling and remain strong in their identity in Christ without losing their way.

By starting the year on our knees, we ensure that as our children walk through school gates, they do so covered by a church family that cares deeply for their future.

AN INVITATION TO PARTNER

Now, imagine a church where the echoes of prayer for our children never cease. There is an old truth that remains our greatest hope: when we work, we work; but when we pray, God works. This year, we are not just asking for a moment of your time—we are inviting a movement. Whether you are a parent, a grandparent, a church leader, or a family, we invite you to partner with us. Let us commit to a year of relentless intercession, ensuring that every child is anchored in the power of God's work rather than our own human effort.

Pr Uili Mauga

Children's Ministry Director



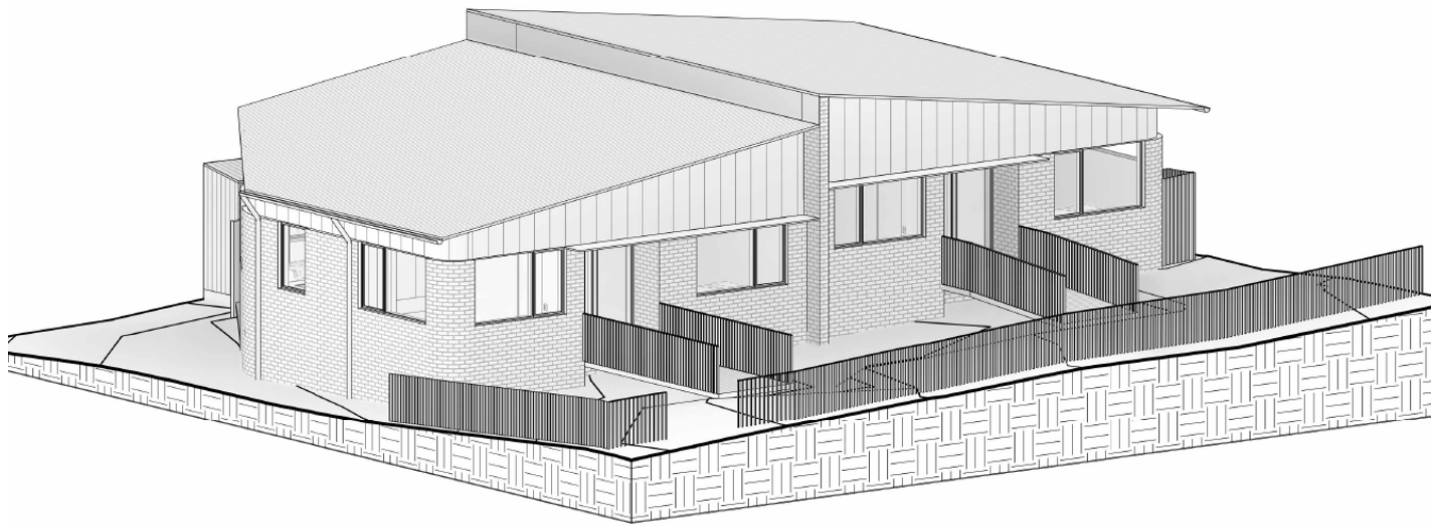
Discovering Divine Words

Word Search

Solve the puzzle with the word bank below. Puzzle based on *Matthew 7:7-11*

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

FIND GIVE ASK SEEK KNOCK
LOVE OPEN PRAY



CEO Update: Retirement Units and Respite Care

TWO NEW RETIREMENT UNITS

You may have noticed that the former Corporate Office at AdventCare on Central Road has been demolished after many years of providing a venue for our Corporate and Admin staff. With the new Corporate Office as part of the Whitehorse Redevelopment, this was no longer needed.

We have successfully obtained a planning permit to construct two modern two-bedroom retirement units on the site. We have put the project out to tender to building firms and anticipate commencing construction in the middle of the year. The units should be finished early next year and will be a wonderful retirement home for more people from our community.

Enquiries about the units can be made to our Units Manager Keith King on 9259 2106 or keith.king@adventcare.org.au.

RESPITE CARE AT YARRA RANGES

Respite care in residential aged care is a Commonwealth initiative that provides support to people and their carers, enabling a period of relief. Each person is entitled to 63 days of respite per year. Where necessary, this can be extended to suit individual circumstances.

Respite care is often arranged in advance

if your carer is going on a trip or needs a break. However, it is also available in emergencies or unexpected situations.

AdventCare Yarra Ranges can offer you respite to support the Church community when they need care.

One thing to remember is that you will need to be approved for respite care (and, if necessary, permanent care), which you can obtain by contacting your general practitioner.

If you wish to find out more, please contact the Facility on 5966 4400.

David Reece
AdventCare CEO





Chaplaincy: To Be an Unhurried Presence

Past Vice-President of the USA, Hubert H. Humphrey, is quoted as saying, “the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

Mr Humphrey is just echoing the instructions of scripture, which teaches us to honour our parents (Ex. 20:12), honour the presence of our elders (Lev. 19:32), and treat the vulnerable with dignified care and respect (Matt. 25:35-36).

AdventCare was established to meet this mandate, with a vision and mission to enrich the lives of the elderly through Christ-centred, excellent care. The Adventist Church has put money where its mouth is and committed funding and support to providing chaplains at each of our facilities.

Unlike nurses or carers who are busy and task-focused, my role as Chaplain enables me to be an unhurried presence, able to stop and focus on the person in front of me for however long is necessary in that moment. Having worked as a school chaplain for 17 years, moving to the aged-care sector was a leap of faith that has been full of unexpected blessings in my life. I have found that I enjoy being the person who has the time to sit with these very experienced people, listen to their life stories, and provide a safe place where they can share and be seen.

Chaplaincy is important because it provides spiritual and emotional support to residents, staff, and families and brings hope in difficult times. To listen well, to really hear them and witness their struggles, is a duty and a privilege. Support offered to families at the end of life is the Chaplain's fundamental responsibility. To be allowed and even invited into that sacred space by family is a true honour. Honest conversations about faith and belief are open, and the hope of the Gospel is shared.

Because of this, I must also know my limitations, be willing to learn from others, and be led by the Holy Spirit. As I minister to people of all cultures and religious backgrounds, I am aware of my need for the wisdom that only God can give.

We provide four weekly worship services and coordinate the Sabbath Church service, which averages 30-45 residents and families. They often express their gratitude for these services, which offer spiritual encouragement.

One of the highlights of my first year in this role was the sacred Christmas concert we held in the Nunawading Adventist Church. More than 200 residents and their families attended. Our Resident Choir led the carol singing, and many talented staff provided special items, and the story of Jesus' birth was shared.

For anyone considering work in the aged care sector, I encourage you to do so. While it can be challenging, it is immensely rewarding. Serving at AdventCare is a practical avenue to share the love of God, for we embody Christ's love by caring as Jesus did.

Karen Horsley
AdventCare Whitehorse Chaplain

Adventist Agape Gospel Fellowship Group

Pr Terrance Sim

Adventist Doncaster Hope Fellowship Group

Local Lay Leader

Alpine Valley Group

Pr Tharren Hutchinson

Ararat

Mr John Gibson

Ascot Vale

Pr Chris Moses

Auburn

Pr Pawel Ustupski

Avenue Church Group

Mr Jeremy Choo

Bairnsdale

Mr Rian van Deventer

Ballarat

Pr John Smolka

Mr Jaiden Green

Bayles

Pr Eric Johnson

Benalla

Pr Tharren Hutchinson

Bendigo

Mr Daniel McLeish

Bendigo Karen

Pr Eh Paung

Bendigo Karen Remnant Company

Pr Luis Bermudez

Berwick Company

Pr Joseph Afoa

Broadford Group

Pr Saifoloi Lafaele

Bundoora Company

Pr Daniel Berchie

Burwood

Pr Ryan Vidot

Mr Matthew Verwey

Camperdown

Pastor-at-large

Cann River Company

Mr Rian van Deventer

Casey

Pr Craig Gillis

Pr Michael Mohanu

Mr Joshua Contaoi

Casey Cross Community Company (Samoan)

Pr Aitui (Tui) Fanene

Castlemaine Company

Mr Daniel McLeish

Clayton Cook Islands

Pr Russell Puna

Clyde Connect Company

Pr Jezreel Locop

Colac

Pr Hannah Andrykanus

Pr Landry Patii

Corowa Group

Pr Tharren Hutchinson

Craigieburn Multicultural Company

Pr Taua'e Poasa

Cranbourne

Pr Jezreel Locop

Croatian St Albans

Mr Denzil van Breda

Cross-Centred

Mr Khai Zuisang

Crossroads2421

Mr Josh Kross

Crosswalk Melbourne Group

Pr Moe Stiles

Dandenong Polish

Pr Vadim Butov

Dr Elena (Helen) Butova

Dareton

Pr Mladen Krklec

Mr Mikael Falculan

Doncaster Hope Fellowship Group

Local Lay Leader

Doveton Home Group

Pr Russell Puna

East Prahran

Dr Elena (Helen) 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 Hannah Andrykanus

Pr Landry Patii

Geelong Hungarian

Pr Landry Patii

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

Home Of Hope Church Group

Pastor-at-large

Horsham

Mr Jaiden Green

Hughesdale

Pr Daniel Berchie

Keilor Company

Pr Manuel Tikulin

Leongatha

Mr Josh Kross

Lilydale

TBA

Pr Faye Stothers-Khan

Mr Rahel Gungadoo

Living Faith Samoan Group

Mr Sosaiete Lautasi

Longwarry

Pr Jezreel Locop

Macedon Ranges Company

Mr Luke Letele

Macedonian

Pr Manuel Tikulin

Mansfield Group

Pr Ben Townson

Maryborough

Pr John Smolka

Mr Jaiden Green

Melbourne Asian (MASDAC)

Pr Terrance Sim

Melbourne City

Pr Moses Depaz

Melbourne Tongan Group

Local Lay Leader

Melbourne Vietnamese Group

Pr Ben Townson

Melbourne-Ghanaian Group Fellowship

Local Lay Leader

Melton Company

Pr Malcolm Reid

Melton Samoan

Pr Apelu Tanuvasa

Mernda Hills Adventist

Pr Trent Martin

Mildura

Pr Mladen Krklec

Mr Mikael Falculan

Moe

Pr Russell Puna

Mont Albert

Local Lay Leader

Mornington Peninsula Fellowship Company

Pr Tarnya Garner

Myanmar Melbourne Company

Pr Batu Johnson Ngo Hlu

Nhill Company

Mr Jaiden Green

North Fitzroy

Pr Tarnya Garner

Northern Geelong Group

Local Lay Leader

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 Justin Bone

Phillip Island Group

Mr Josh Kross

Plenty Valley

Pr Ben Townson

Point Cook

Mr Ezra Sauls

Portland

Pastor-at-large

Preston

Pr Manuel Tikulin

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 Carrum Downs

Pr Aitui (Tui) Fanene

Samoan Craigieburn Company

Pr Taua'e Poasa

Samoan Endeavour Hills

Mr Sosaiete Lautasi

Samoan Hillside Company

Pr Aitui (Tui) Fanene

Samoan North Melbourne

Pr Taua'e Poasa

Samoan Sunshine Company

Pr Apelu Tanuvasa

Seddon

Pr Miroslav Gagic

Shepparton

Mr Jayden Croft

South East (Oromo Service) Company

Pr Thang (Mark) Guite

South Sudanese Group

Mr Gatkuoth Chol

Southeast Melbourne Samoan

Mr Sosaiete Lautasi

Spotswood

Mr Harby Baul

Springvale

Pr Victor Acuna

Springvale Spanish

Pr Jonathas Newlands

Stawell

Mr Jaiden Green

Sunbury Vineyard Group

Local Lay Leader

Swan Hill

Mr Abel Tabianan

The Harvest Company

Mr Sosaiete Lautasi

The Oasis

Pr Steve Munsuang

The Orchard City Cite Group

Pastor-At-Large

The Table

Pr Hannah Andrykanus

The Upper Room Group

Pr Eric Johnson

Traralgon

Pr Ben Tavao

Tynong Group

Pr Luis Bermudez

Victorian Wantok Company

Pr Chris Moses

Wangaratta

Pr Tharren Hutchinson

Wantirna

Pr Daniel Brunt

Pr Daniel Matteo

Wantirna Polish

Pr Thang (Mark) Guite

Pr Pawel Ustupski

Warburton

Pr Peter Watts

Warragul

Pr Joseph Afoa

Warrnambool

Pastor-at-large

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

Pr Thang (Mark) Guite

CHAPLAINS* AND OTHERS

AdventCare Whitehorse Chaplain

Pr Wendy Saluni

Edinburgh College Chaplain

Pr Adrian Peterson

Gilson College Chaplain

Pr Trent Martin

Mrs Sashka Tikulin

Heritage College Chaplain

Pr Laolagi Limu

Pr Josh Stadnik

Hospital Chaplain

Pr Malcolm Reid

University Chaplain

Pr Moe Stiles

Pastor-at-large

Pr Andrew Kapusi

Bible Museum

Pr Luis Bermudez

Bible Worker Trainer

Mrs Sashka Tikulin

*Other individuals serve as chaplains in the six Adventist schools and two aged care facilities in Victoria. This directory includes only ministers appointed through the Church company.



Communion in action

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY 2026

MARCH 21ST, 2026



GLOBAL YOUTH DAY AND YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER

GYD: MARCH 21

YWOP: MARCH 21-28

In Acts 4:31, we read that when the early believers prayed together, their meeting place shook, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke God's word boldly. This powerful depiction of unity and divine empowerment inspires the theme for Global Youth Day 2026: "Communion In Action." This theme emphasizes the transformative power of collective prayer and action, encouraging young people worldwide to unite in faith and boldly share God's love through service. By coming together in purpose and mission, we can create a ripple effect of positive change, embodying the spirit of the early church in our communities today.

ABC BOOK OF THE MONTH

It's Hard to Say Goodbye: A children's book about death, loss and hope

by Tara J VinCross

We all need space to grieve. Navigating the grief journey can be challenging, especially for children. In the loss of a family member, friend, or special pet, children need safe spaces to feel the emotions that accompany death.

Comforting and hope-filled, *It's Hard to Say Goodbye* will help children and adults talk about death and loss together.

Pastor Tara VinCross walks children and their loving grown-up through the grief process in a way that is easy to understand, empathetic, and biblical.



Scan to order ABC's BOTM or visit their website adventistbookcentre.com.au



Written by
TARA J. VINCROSS

Illustrated by
KAREN J. FINDLEY

SEE WHAT'S ON WITH VIC-ON!



Subscribing to VIC-ON is simple, just scan this QR Code to get weekly updates!

Our Conference eNewsletter keeps you updated with bulletin information, conference announcements, and upcoming local events.

VIC-ON is sent to email subscribers every Tuesday, and a link is posted to our social media for casual viewers.

Do you have a local church event coming up? We can help you invite the rest of Victoria!

Visit vic.adventist.org.au/promote-an-event/ for more information.

ADVENTIST EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Looking for work in an Adventist environment? Here are some websites that can aid your search:

Victorian Conference: <https://vic.adventist.org.au/employment/>

Adventist Schools Victoria: <https://asv.vic.edu.au/careers>

Australian Union Conference: <https://adventist.org.au/auc/careers/>

South Pacific Division: <https://adventistemployment.org.au/>

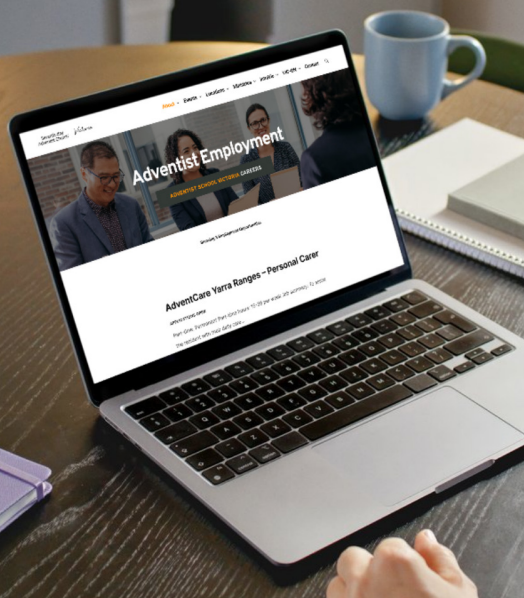
SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH INTRAVIC

Whether it's a successful event or an encouraging testimony, we would love to share your story through our quarterly conference magazine!

Visit <https://vic.adventist.org.au/submit-a-story/> for more information and submission guides.

IntraVic Team: Naomi Janmaat, Darren Croft

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BIG CAMP 2026

Together in



**2 – 6
APRIL
2026**

Elmore Events Centre 48 Rosaia Rd, Elmore

**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER
BEFORE MARCH 16!**

vic.adventist.org.au/bigcamp