

CONNECT

PRAYING BIG
PRAYERS AT

Easter Camp

ISSUE 25
JUNE 2023
BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Western Australia

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CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL *Legends*
facebook.com/AdventistsWA



Adventists WA is at Carmel Adventist College Primary.

March 21 · Bickley, WA · 🌐

Melanie shares, "This is our school principal, Janine Taylor. Blower vacuuming. This woman deserves recognition. I love this school and so do my kids!"

Melanie Clark is a parent of students at Carmel Adventist College Primary. She also attends our Carmel Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Vani Chew, Michelle Steve Richardson and 105 others

7 comments



Narelle Duncan

She certainly does deserve the recognition as do all the awesome teachers at the Primary school that go above and beyond for the school.

Like Reply 5w



Marie Booth

Have known Jenny from a young girl. She has always been dedicated to whatever she does.

Like Reply 5w



Matthew Corker

The new Carmel Primary Groundsman?!
Go Jen 🙌👏

Like Reply 5w Edited



Julie Harrison

She's a treasure! I saw her sweeping up the mess made by the birds - keeping our kids safe.

Like Reply 5w



CONNECT is the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (Western Australian Conference) Ltd

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Thank you!

For all our contributors to this edition of Connect, we genuinely appreciate your support. We couldn't get this magazine out without you.

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Shelley, Natalie and Chloe

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An Awesome Easter!



After missing three Easter Camps as a result of Covid restrictions, there was an air of excitement on Thursday the 6th of April as we came together for Easter Camp 2023. There is nothing like being face to face, seeing old friends and making new ones. Easter Camp this year, as someone observed, had a tone that was friendly, organized, and enjoyable. People seemed to be open to grow and connect. While nothing this side of heaven is perfect, it was a really enjoyable event that had a good balance of meetings/worship and catching up.

To see families and young people enjoying time together was a real highlight for me. I loved seeing grandparents who brought grandchildren who had no idea about Easter Camp and they had a great time. Camp happens because of the hard work of our Conference team, pastors, teachers and also some very special people who volunteer. I want to say a huge thank you to these people who give of their time. It is not always easy for these folk who face busy schedules and the added pressure that seems to be the hallmark of life today. One of our teachers



spoke to me about her reluctance to be involved in camp, because of the pressure teaching staff are under (which I understand). She was able to work with a team that really worked well together, and she told me that seeing the impact on the children at Camp did bring a smile to her face. One of the challenges moving forward in our plans to continue to run Easter Camp is to involve more volunteers. I would love to hear your ideas on increasing volunteer participation.

When the church gathers for Easter Camp, it is about Jesus Christ renewing commitment to Him or making new decisions to following Him. We all come at different stages of spiritual journey. Some are

just starting, others may have sensed some separation from Jesus and His family, and others are fully on fire for Jesus. In listening to others and from my own observations, there was a sense

that the Holy Spirit was working on people's hearts and minds at Camp this year. Significant numbers of young people made decisions to follow Jesus across, Juniors, Teens, and Youth. There was full engagement in the Beginners, Kindy, Lower Primary and Upper Primary. Lives were touched in 25 Plus and the Big Tent.

I caught up with a young guy at the Junior shed named Josh (I did check if I could share his story). Josh attended Carmel Adventist College in the late 90's and early 2000's and I had the privilege of conducting Bible studies and baptising him back in 2001. To be honest, it had been a long time since I had seen him. Josh travelled all the way from the mining town of Paraburdoo, which is just over 1500 km from Perth. He had his wife and four children with him, and they had a fantastic time. The kids loved their programs and Josh and his wife Ronny said they will be back. This was the first time for many years they had

been to a church event and there is no church in Paraburdoo that they can attend. Josh told me he was moved emotionally as he attended the meetings and felt the leading of the Holy Spirit to make a fresh commitment to follow Jesus. For me, stories like this make Camp worthwhile - people connecting with Jesus.

Another highlight for me was "Family Worship" at 7:30 am in the Big Tent. Music led by the Gibson family, also known as "One Accord", was a great way to start the day. Then the Pratt family shared neat little thoughts on nature, brand names, and the mission pioneers of Australia. It was great to see young families, youth and more

senior folk come together - I love intergenerational events. It was a great reminder of the passion to share faith that the early Adventist Church had and this needs to be recaptured. In

the end, Easter Camp is not about us, but about the mission of Jesus Christ. As Pavel Goia said several times, if we go back to our churches and sit around singing Kum-ba-yah, then what is the point? Jesus is wanting us to be His people, making a difference in our neighborhoods, schools, and families.

Camp happens because of the hard work of our conference team, pastors and teachers and also some very special people who volunteer.

Pr Steve Goods
President, Public Affairs
and Religious Liberty







Camp Photos





Finance Update

A friend recently sent me one of those pithy sayings that went something like this, “When I was young, I was scared of the dark. Now when I see my electricity bill, I am scared of the lights!” The news has been full of cost of living increases, including rising interest rates, and wages not keeping pace with these cost increases. I have no doubt that our church members are beginning to feel the strain and have had to “tighten the belt”, so to speak, on the family finances.

I am pleased to report that \$9,955,000 total tithe was received in 2022. An increase of 3.7% on tithe received during 2021. The graph below shows total tithe received for the last ten years.

As we are reminded in 1 Chronicles 29:14, God continues to bless his faithful followers by providing them with the ability to give this much. We thank each of you for your faithfulness in returning to God the portion he asks for.

The additional tithe received will assist the Conference in employing two additional ministers from 2024 and allow us to increase the amount of tithe reversion available to each church.

It was exciting to see our annual Easter Camp return. Staff commented that they felt “out of rhythm” with all that was required to be done in preparation. Most campers I had the opportunity of speaking to commented that this was the most relaxed camp they recall attending, and how good it was to be back meeting again. Our Sabbath morning offering went to the Catalyst programme and we collected just over \$11,000. Again, a big thank you for your contribution to this important youth focused programme.

Much has been said about the extended dam at Camp Mornington. This work is all but complete and the dam is now waiting for the winter rains to fill up. The picture above shows the dam looking towards the front entrance to the property and the water level is nowhere near full. A huge thank you to the many volunteers who offered their time and expertise to get the job done. Our managers, Calvin and Jaclyn Shotter, have worked very hard to coordinate all this work while hosting various groups. Thank you Calvin and Jaclyn for the tireless efforts you put in each week, it is appreciated.



The new managers house is nearing completion and once the necessary approvals have been sought, work will begin on the new kitchen/ dining hall and dormitory upgrades.

Advent Park has just taken possession of a new office that will be used during the year to check campers in and out. The previous office was located in the managers house which was not ideal.

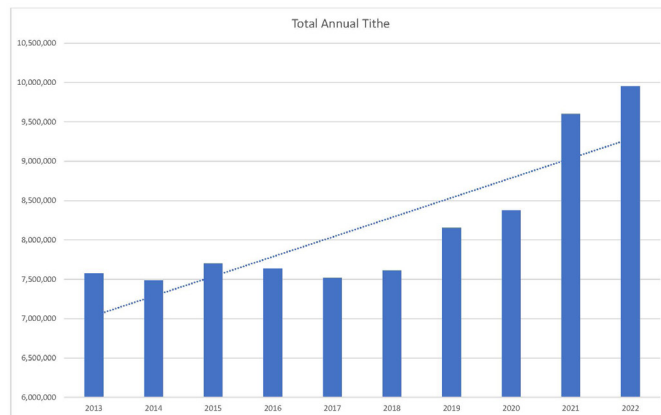
Renovations and the like have begun on the building purchased for the Karla Bidjar church in Midland. A new exterior fence is being installed which will assist with site security. We are grateful for the security funding provided by Risk Management Service to help offset the cost of the new fence.

Work continues apace with the new Early Learning Centre at Vic Park Christian School. Enrolments continue to grow at this school and the staff are eagerly waiting to gain access to the new classrooms. While we have experienced some minor delays waiting on building supplies,

we hope to receive practical completion of this building by mid-June.

By the time you read this, work will have begun on the new building at Rossmoyne Waters. While there have been some challenging delays, we believe we are now on track to deliver another high quality building for the over 55's and those

requiring residential aged care. This the biggest project to date in our Conference and we ask you to add this important project to your prayer lists that all will go smoothly and we can finish the building on time and on budget.



This report has been longer than intended. However, you will see there is much going on in and around our Conference. There is much to be thankful for and we are grateful for the continued leading of our Lord and Saviour.

Graeme Drinkall

Chief Financial Officer, Stewardship Specialist
 Campgrounds Specialist, Property Manager,
 Office Co-Manager

God Wants to Hear From You

For some people, praying is as natural as breathing. They easily converse with the King of the Universe as if He were casually sitting with them at the breakfast table. Others feel awkward talking to someone they can't see, touch, or hear. They fear that God is judging them on how eloquent their prayers are. Although they believe in God, they can't really visualize or feel connected to Him. Because they are not comfortable praying, soon they stop trying altogether and drift further and further away from God. But the truth is, there is no such thing as "a perfect prayer!" God is not checking your grammar or communication skills. He just wants you to talk to Him heart-to-heart, friend-to-friend, and He truly listens, hears and answers. Your prayers are not insignificant. Your voice matters in heaven.

The only way to get to know Jesus as your Best Friend, is to spend time with Him through prayer and study of His Word. Forming a close friendship

with anyone takes time and communication. Conversation between new friends tends to be guarded, but as you spend time together, it becomes easier and easier to open up and share your life. Before you realize it, the awkwardness is gone and in its place is a comfortable friendship where you feel loved, accepted and safe. So it is with God. The more time you spend talking to Him, the greater understanding you will have of His deep and abiding love for you, and the closer you become. Prayer time will feel as comfortable as talking to your best friend you've known for years.

You can communicate with God in many different ways: silently or out loud, written or memorized, publicly or privately. There are even prayers that you sing. Whichever way you choose to pray doesn't matter to God, He just wants you to talk to Him. And when you do, remember that prayer isn't only to ask God to give you things or help you when you're in trouble. God loves



to hear your praises and thank you prayers too. And don't forget to confess your sins and ask for forgiveness

Just like conversation between friends helps you get to know each other better, prayer helps you to get to know God better. When you pray, you're spending quality time with someone who loves you more than anyone else possibly could. He not only loves you but He has the power to answer each prayer and He does so according to what "He knows" is best for you. Through prayer you can also share your needs as well as the desires of your heart. And when you make your requests known, it's important to trust God completely and pray, "Thy will be done." If you could see the end from the beginning, you wouldn't want it any other way than God's way!

Jesus loves you with an everlasting love, and everything you say is important to Him. So, the next time you wonder if God even hears you or if your prayers go no higher than the ceiling – think again! Jesus cares about every aspect of your life – and He wants to hear from "You!"

"I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer" (Psalm 17:6).

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

Brenda Walsh

Brenda Walsh Ministries

Man of God Like Moses

Aguer Dut used to stutter. So, when his pastor told him at the end of Year 12, "You should study ministry at Avondale," he said, "How could I speak for God? I can't speak properly." Then he felt God speaking to him through friends who affirmed his spiritual gifts. And his call. Aguer first felt it on a STORM Co trip. "Speaking with the kids, working with the team, seeing God move. I thought, OK, perhaps ministry is for me."

Baptised in 2017, Aguer never thought he'd become a pastor. Now, with a Bachelor of Ministry and Theology, he's working as an intern at Geraldton Seventh-day Adventist Church in Western Australia. "If you're feeling God calling you, but you're confused or hesitant, I encourage you: take the first step. God understands. He's not expecting us to be perfect. He's not expecting us

to do things He hasn't already planned. When He calls, He'll provide what you need."

Brenton Stacey

Public Relations & Philanthropy Officer
Avondale University





Four of our people from WA were sponsored to attend: Noel Mondejar from Manjimup Seventh-day Adventist Church; Dr Rob Granger from Bunbury Seventh-day Adventist Church; Dr Solomon Kusangaya from Rockingham Seventh-day Adventist Church and myself from Maida Vale Seventh-day Adventist Church. The WA Conference paid half of the sponsorships, and some local church boards also gave toward this important health empowerment opportunity. Image courtesy: ELIA Wellness

Inspired by Wellness

When did you last visit your doctor—not because you were sick—but because you wished to thrive? Not for a drug prescription, but for lifestyle empowerment?

I was privileged to attend the ELIA Wellness¹ Summit, held 24–26 March 2023 at Sydney Adventist Hospital, with around 250 medical professionals and health enthusiasts from across our church’s South Pacific Division. We were encouraged to think of wellness—not just in terms of disease prevention—but to attain a positive health score; being better than ‘not sick’ by means of a whole-person approach to life.

We were treated to information sessions ranging from the evidence behind the 7 Dimensions of Wellness, the emerging success of 10,000 Toes for diabetes prevention in the Pacific, and ideas for implementing ELIA Wellness Hubs in our own communities. Presentations by Dr Geraldine Przybylko, Professor Darren Morton and others were interspersed with fun fitness

sessions led by Todd Brodie, and opportunities to meet like-minded people from Australia and the South Pacific region. Dr Peter Landless spoke powerfully about the benefits of a blended ministry combining health and spirituality. It was very evident that these leaders had both a heart for people and God.

A highlight for me was the official opening of the ELIA Lifestyle Medicine Centre at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Brett Goods, CEO for Adventist HealthCare (and brother of our President in WA, Pr Steve Goods), pointed out that it’s the first of its kind in Australia to be associated with an acute-care hospital. This will allow, for example, a surgeon who repairs a coronary occlusion to refer his patient to the ELIA Lifestyle Medicine Centre where he will be supported into health-changing habits to make him truly well. Or, perhaps, a pre-diabetic patient will seek lifestyle support to reverse her condition before she becomes another statistic in the non-



communicable diseases pandemic. The Member for Berowra, Julian Lesser, officiated in the opening and spoke touchingly of his appreciation for the San (the name locals give to Sydney Adventist Hospital). He committed to becoming one of the first patients in the ELIA Lifestyle Medicine Centre, where nutritionists, personal trainers, mental health practitioners and doctors work as a team to facilitate whole-person health.

I came away from the summit with a greater understanding of the mission of lifestyle medicine, a sense of pride in my church's cutting-edge health work, and a quiver full of resources to make my local church an asset to my community. The evidence-based resources and training opportunities provided by ELIA Wellness make it easy for you and I to support life changing health in our communities with a flexible program of clubs, knowledge sharing, and tools for culture change. You get to create a plan that will work best for your context, whether small or grand.

Dr Gae Ellison

PhD (Biomedical Science),
 Postgrad Dip (Biomed Sc), B.Ed.
 Gae also attends our Maida Vale Seventh-day
 Adventist Church

Footnote

¹ I evolved from hearing the name 'ELIA Wellness' for the first time, to a deep appreciation of the contribution this organisation makes to the spectrum of available medical services. Incidentally, 'ELIA' is an acronym for 'Empower Lifestyle Innovation Advocates', and is also a Hebrew name for God. The good news is that this immensely beneficial movement is not constrained to hospital corridors and medicos, but rather churches, community groups and individuals becoming part of the groundswell of culture change around lifestyle and whole-person health.



Unveiling of the plaque for the new ELIA Lifestyle Medicine Centre at Sydney Adventist Hospital. Left to right: Brett Goods, CEO of Adventist HealthCare Limited; Dr Geraldine Przybylko, Executive Director of ELIA Wellness and our South Pacific Division Health Strategy Leader; Dr Peter Landless, our General Conference Health Director; Mr Julian Lesser MP, Federal Member for Berowra; Dr Andrea Matthews, ELIA Lifestyle Medicine Centre Medical Director, and Pr Glenn Townend, our President in the South Pacific Division. Image courtesy: ELIA Wellness



Brett Goods, CEO for Adventist HealthCare (and brother of our President in WA, Pr Steve Goods) sharing about Sydney Adventist Hospital's enduring mission: 'Christianity in action'. Image courtesy: ELIA Wellness

BLT at Livingston Church

In 2023, the Livingston Church social committee has been renamed the BLT Team: Bringing Livo Together.

Livingston Church is an active church and has many programs for all ages, but there hasn't been many times during the past few years where we came together in a social way as a whole church, mostly due to Covid restrictions. The aim of the BLT Team this year is to provide social times when all the generations in our church come together and get to know each other better, bridging the gap between ages, caring for each other in valuing everyone.

The BLT Team is comprised of 11 energetic people ranging from teens through to those in their 60's who have this as their focus. Our first main social gathering happened in March with a sausage sizzle and Faction Games Night. With about 120 people attending, people were split into teams comprised of all age groups working together from 3 year olds to the elderly. There were good

old-fashioned games including a dress up relay, three-legged race, and a sack race.

There was lots of fun with people cheering for their team and from the sidelines. It was especially good to see Gerd Rosenbaum and Paddy McCourt, both in their 80s, join together very capably in the 3-legged race, everyone having a go at throwing bean bags into a hoola hoop, and Michelle Harders helping her team in the tug-o-war as she attached her wheelchair to the end of her teams rope and pulled them to victory!

The green team, headed by Mike Warchol, won the night after taking the lead in the final race.

We have more fun times planned for the rest of 2023 and pray our church will grow stronger together as we socialise together.

Shane Lambert

Livingston Seventh-day Adventist Church





Living God
THROUGH
DAILY
DEVOTIONS
2023

Focus on Prayer

How good is it when you know people are praying for you? It lifts me up and encourages me! There have been times when I've found it hard to pray for myself, and to have someone else step in and say, "I'm praying for you" was like an answer to a prayer I hadn't even prayed.

Ephesians 6:18 encourages us to pray for each other by saying, "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."

For all believers everywhere! Let's intentionally pray for each other.

During June we are inviting everyone across Western Australia to join together in prayer. The prayer focus for these 30 days will be on different people groups. People working in different industries, people facing different challenges, people living in different regions.

Each day has a prayer focus and Bible verse. Pray for the people you know who fall under that day's category and then pray for the entire group. You will find the June prayer calendar on the next page. Put it on your fridge or take a photo of it to keep in your phone, set a daily reminder to pray at the same time each day, and do whatever works for you. Please join us in this unique way of connecting to God and each other.

We will put videos on our social media platforms to help us feel that connection even more. You can find us under "Adventists WA". If you would like an electronic copy of the prayer calendar, please email us at wadiscipleship@adventist.org.au

Let's get praying!

Pr Jody Eddy

Team Leader
Discipleship Ministries Team



30 Days of Prayer for Western Australia

Praying for our people working in different industries, people facing different challenges

4. Sunday	5. Monday	6. Tuesday	7. Wednesday
Neighbours Galatians 5:14	Government leaders 1 Timothy 2:1-2	Those who need healing Psalms 103:2-4	Churches 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2
11. Sunday	12. Monday	13. Tuesday	14. Wednesday
Broken relationships Psalms 34:18	Tradies Colossians 3:23-24	Those dealing with infertility Isaiah 33:2	Gascoyne region 1 John 3:1-2
18. Sunday	19. Monday	20. Tuesday	21. Wednesday
Goldfields & Wheatbelt regions 1 Corinthians 15:58	Pastors & chaplains Acts 11:28	Those displaced or impacted by war Matthew 11:28	First responders Joshua 1:9
25. Sunday	26. Sunday	27. Sunday	28. Sunday
Farmers 1 Corinthians 3:8	Perth & Peel regions Exodus 15:2	Those struggling with addiction Luke 4:18	Building, construction and mining 1 Peter 2:12

ern Australia

ages and people in living in different regions

	1. Thursday	2. Friday	3. Saturday
	Church family Hebrews 10:24-25	Children & youth Matthew 19:14	Parents, grandparents & extended families Philippians 4:13
Wednesday	8. Thursday	9. Friday	10. Saturday
Church leaders 1 Timothy 5:12	People grieving Psalms 23:4	Health care professionals Hebrews 6:10	Kimberley & Pilbara regions Lamentations 3:22-23
Wednesday	15 Thursday	16. Friday	17. Saturday
North & Mid West regions John 4:7	Educators & students Psalms 32:8	Mental health issues Isaiah 41:10	Those seeking justice Psalms 9:7-9
Wednesday	22. Thursday	23. Friday	24. Friday
Responders 1 Thessalonians 1:9	South West & Great Southern regions Romans 15:13	Creative industries Ephesians 2:10	Unemployed Jeremiah 29:11
Sunday	29. Sunday	30. Sunday	
Construction & mining industries 1 Peter 4:10	Those who need forgiveness 1 John 1:7	The Holy Spirit would move across WA Acts 2:17-18	



ADRA Appreciation: Easter Camp

ADRA was fully involved at Easter Camp. Different ADRA officers held one-on-one engagements with several Easter Camp attendees. We also made presentations in the different tents to promote the role of faith communities and engagement.

There was an ADRA tent set up to display the various community activities that we are involved in. The ADRA tent was manned by the ADRA Cannington Community Gardens Team, who displayed several of the native plants that are propagated at the gardens. The team also educated and advised several visitors about permaculture. At the end of Camp, several attendees bought most of the plants. In addition, the ADRA Maida Vale op-shop was open to the public. Some attendees donated items to the op-shop.

ADRA wishes to thank all our volunteers for participating in these activities. Without you, we

would not have achieved all our goals for Camp. We also thank and appreciate all the attendees for purchasing from the op-shop and the products from the community gardens. In fact, ADRA Maida Vale op-shop had their biggest sales during each day that the op-shop was opened. Some of you have been major donors to the op-shop.

Your helpful, giving ways and your generous heart enables ADRA Maida Vale to achieve a lot for the community. The op-shop personnel wish to thank you for your kindness and will not soon forget it. They claim that the WA camp attendees are one of the nicest people to frequent the op-shop.

Dr Francis Ejones

Regional Manager
ADRA Australia





Thank You, Esther Robartson

Few contributors to Adventist Education, within Western Australia, stand out more radiantly than Miss Robartson. Over her long career, Esther served in many schools, both public and Christian, and she had a profound influence over thousands of lives. She will always be remembered as an amazing, positive contributor who made a real difference in the lives of others to whom she was teacher, dean, colleague or friend.

In her dealings with the young and old, Esther demonstrated the textbook standard for balancing fairness, firmness and friendliness. She knew how to effectively pull a lively, ten-year old boy into line while maintaining a friendly, personal and enduring relationship with him. She consistently displayed an authentic, personal interest in everyone around her and consequently developed a multitude of life-long friendships. Highly respected by her colleagues, Esther was always a valued team member for her wit and wisdom and contributed consistently well beyond the call to duty.

Following her 1956 graduation from Claremont Teachers' College, Esther's career commenced in the rural town of Salmon Gums, in the eastern wheatbelt of Western Australia. There she taught unassisted with 52 lower-primary aged students for two years. From there she returned to her hometown of Merredin where she completed her four-year bond with the State Education Department. Esther then joined the Adventist school system and served in Wiluna and Karalundi. In 1965 and 1966 Esther served in PNG as a teacher and as a dean to a dormitory of 100 girls at Kambubu. Esther then returned to Western Australia and taught for nine years in Adventist schools, including Victoria Park. After a few short years of leave of absence, Esther taught at the Bickley Adventist School where she also served as principal. Then,

after three years of serving at Carmel College as Dean of Women, Esther returned to Merredin to care for her elderly parents while she also taught locally. In 1994 Esther accepted the role of principal at the Esperance



Adventist School where she served until her retirement at the end of 2000. Not being one to sit idle, Esther then travelled to Galway, in the Republic of Ireland, where, for five further years she taught in that country's only protestant school and ended up serving there as headmistress. Upon returning to Merredin in 2005, Esther, in her eventual retirement, became heavily involved in her community with an unsurprising emphasis on service to others.

Throughout her life, Esther encouraged and demonstrated Christian values. Her faith was strong and her trust in her Saviour unwavering. She expressed openly an appreciation of having had such a wonderful life, and one that was filled with loving family and friends. Esther was indeed a lady of trust, faith and hope, and despite her passing, continues to serve as an encouragement and an inspiration to us all. Adventist Schools were greatly blessed by the immense contribution of Miss Robartson, and today continue to offer meaningful, values-based learning from Christian teachers who share Esther's passion.

Gary Blagden

Chief Executive Officer
Adventist Care Western Australia

New Pastors 2023

Wolfgang Jenke

Bindoon Company

My family and I arrived in WA in October 1988 and lived here until 2003. At that time we were called into full-time ministry and sent to Far North Queensland.

Beginning our ministry in Mt Isa and ending it on the Atherton Tablelands, our 19 years of ministry went ever so quickly. We are extremely thankful for the Lord opening and closing doors and returning us safely to the West.

The Lord has richly blessed our ministry and we look forward to renewing our acquaintances and friendships with you in the not too distant future.



John Gibson

Nullagine Group, Newman Group, Jigalong Compay

I was born in Chile, South America and grew up with a passion for music, church and soccer. When I was 6 years old, I gave my heart to Jesus and never looked back.

As a teenager, I studied piano and guitar. I used to dream of visiting the places I would hear about in the mission stories in church like New Guinea, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and never thought that one day I was going to be there singing and playing the keyboard to my brothers and sisters from these beautiful places.

In 1988, I came to Australia as a missionary volunteer to work in Moonee Ponds Spanish Church in Victoria as a youth pastor.

After that I joined Endless Praise full time for 4 years, ministering through music and singing in about 22 countries around the world. It was there that I met the most beautiful singer of the group, my wife Michelle and we got married in 1991.

A couple of years after that we started our own family music ministry called "One Accord". Singing and sharing the gospel for 3 years in the US, where I also worked as a music pastor for 2

years at Coral Spring SDA church in Florida.

After that we came back to Australia and visited many churches and schools from different denominations on the east coast of Australia. From Melbourne to Townsville, Adelaide and many more places for over 20 years.

Since Covid, the Lord has been opening doors for us that we thought would never open, and we thank the WA Conference for opening their arms to us. We are looking forward to working with them for the many years to come.

We have three daughters, Naomi (30), Selena (21) and Hadassah (13), an awesome son in law Kristofer (Naomi's husband) and two beautiful granddaughters.

I love Jesus, my family, my friends, music and a good laugh.





Meet Our New Dynamic Duo

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Western Australia) Ltd and Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Australia) Ltd have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share the services and expertise of the South Australian Director of Education, Steve Cowley.

This arrangement commenced on 1st March 2023, with the allocation of his time being 60% towards SA and 40% focused upon WA. With a schedule of ongoing reviews, the MoU of educational services will continue through to the end of 2025.

Steve has been the Education Director in South Australia since the beginning of 2019. Prior to that, he most recently worked in the South Queensland Conference for 16 years as a Principal

(Darling Downs Christian School, Toowoomba), Academic Dean (Brisbane Adventist College) and Project Officer (South Queensland Conference).



He has been married to Victoria for 11 years and between them they have 6 children and 6 grandchildren. Every four weeks, Steve travels to Perth to work out of the head office, spending time in each of the schools with school leaders and attending the Board of Directors meetings.

We ask that you bless this undertaking with your prayers and support this partnership as we work together to further Adventist education in Australia.

Steve Cowley
Director of Adventist Education

It has been wonderful to serve as an educator and school leader for the past 15 years in our Adventist schools. It brings me great joy to be able to serve our staff, students and their families as the Associate Director of Education for Western Australia.

We count it a privilege to nurture, guide, teach, and inspire all those in our care, and to reflect Christ's love to all. Our schools are a place where we can reveal Jesus each day to our students. It is our prayer that students will flourish, thrive and develop a relationship with Christ.



Our school leaders and staff work hard to create quality learning environments for all students. There is so much to be grateful for and our schools have been blessed over the years with amazing staff, wonderful students, new facilities, and many answers to prayer.

As we continue to educate and inspire the younger generations, keep our schools and staff in your prayers as we carry on being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Mark Foster
Associate Director of Education

Angela follows in the footsteps of Ben Carson

Angela Sitienei is on her way to becoming a doctor after being inspired by the story of Dr Ben Carson, a Seventh-day Adventist paediatric neurosurgeon from the United States.

Miss Sitienei, from Perth, Western Australia, could have pursued any career after graduating with outstanding results in 2022, including being ranked in the top 0.5 per cent in the state for English. But her heart was set on medicine after reading Dr Carson's book, "Gifted Hands", in primary school.

"The book details the story of Dr Carson's life where despite the odds he was born with, particularly being black in America and having a very turbulent family life, he was able to become the youngest chief of paediatric neurosurgery in the United States at the age of only 33," Miss Sitienei said.

"His success and steadfast faith really inspired me to the point where I also really wanted to be a paediatric neurosurgeon as well!"

"I found a lot of my own story mirroring his own. Facing a lot of racism amongst other forms of discrimination as a young African girl, it was very easy to become disheartened after a while. But I thank God that there were the right people at the right time along the way, such as my parents as well as my church family."

Miss Sitienei, 18, is a first-year student at Curtin Medical School. Born in Birmingham, England, she migrated to Australia with her family in 2008. For the past 10 years the family has attended Livingston Adventist church.

"[Starting medical studies] is honestly one of the most exciting things I've ever been a part of and a tremendous blessing and privilege," she said.

"All in all, I'm very glad to be here and am incredibly humbled by this opportunity."

Tracey Bridcutt

Communications, News & Editorial
South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists



School Community Fights for Down Syndrome Classmate

Students from Victoria Park Christian School in Perth are celebrating the news that two of their classmates will now be able to stay in Australia.

Aaryan Kollikkara, 10, his sister Aaryasree, 8, and their parents, Aneesh Kollikkara and Krishna Aneesh, were facing deportation to India after they were denied permanent residency visas. Immigration knocked back the visas because Aaryan lives with Down Syndrome, a condition deemed to be potentially costly for Australia's health system. However, on Wednesday (March 8), Immigration Minister Andrew Giles intervened in the case, confirming that the family would be granted permanent residency.

Aaryan is in Year 4 and Aaryasree in Year 3 at Victoria Park Christian School, an Adventist school in Perth's south-eastern suburbs. News of their imminent deportation saw their classmates spring into action. They wrote letters to the Immigration Minister, appealing to him to intervene and allow the family to remain in Australia.

School principal Felicity Drinkall is proud of the students' efforts.

"The children are so caring, very accepting and have beautiful kind hearts," Mrs Drinkall said. "The classes had also been praying for Mr Giles because they know he has a difficult job and it's hard to make these decisions."

Aaryan's mum Krishna said she is thankful for the love and care shown to her children by the school community.

"I'm proud to say that these are the values taught and spread by the teachers and school community at Victoria Park Christian School and really glad that we are part of such a great community," she said.

Tracey Bridcutt

Communications, News & Editorial
South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists





Teen Shed: Boldly Devoted

What an awesome weekend it was over Easter for the Teen shed. Teachers, volunteers and pastors served the young people by putting on an Easter Camp of fun and asking what it means to be Boldly devoted to God. Pr Ray Moaga, who came all the way from South QLD, shared about Joshua's life, his journey with God and what it means to say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

There were fun activities like laser tag, a talent night and amazing race, alongside evening worships and café hangouts. This all attributed to the build-up to decision night for the teens in which we had some awesome results:

- 144** Desiring to grow with God
- 72** Desiring Bible Studies
- 48** Wanting Baptisms
- 81** Wanting to recommit their lives to God and be Boldly Devoted

Every number represents a young person who is making a choice for God that will shape their lives, not only to be followers of Jesus, but sharers too. Please pray for our teens, that they may continue to be Boldly Devoted to our God.

Cameron Hooper

Children & Youth Ministries, Discipleship Ministries Team; Associate Pastor at North Perth Seventh-day Adventist Church



Lainy's Gingerbread

Over Christmas I was gifted a beautiful set of Christmas themed cookie cutters. It didn't take long for my daughter, Lainy to find them and excitedly asked me to try them out. I could not resist her eager pleas, so we found a recipe and the ingredients and diligently started following the directions.

But for some reason or another, the dough was too wet and not at all a good consistency. At this point, Lainy lost interest in the process and wanted to get to the fun part, fast! I took about 5 minutes adding the flour bit by bit while being told "it's taking too long." Finally we were ready and got rolling and cutting.

Lainy is only 4 years old so there were mistakes and some recutting that needed doing. After the first tray, Lainy decided that she needed to rest and I could do the rest by myself. There were at least another five trays of gingerbread to go, so I kept at it. When the first ones came out of the oven, she was back with excitement to see how they had turned out.

As the parent, I spent hours on the process of making ginger bread cookies and had the sore feet to prove it!

It was not until later that this experience highlighted something for me; we have plans for our lives, we follow the "right steps" as dictated by society, family and peers. However, it doesn't

always turn out the way we planned. There could be an "ingredient" we are missing, and for me, this missing ingredient was Jesus.

We might be impatiently waiting for God to finish adding to our lives and shaping us. We might lose interest and wander off. We might be present and show up only for the fun and exciting bits but drift off for the parts that are not working out or are too hard or boring.

Throughout the whole process, God is diligently working to knead us into shape, bake us in the oven, and then we come out just as He intended.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9)".

Amber Warren

Esperance Seventh-day Adventist Church



In the Picture from L – R Eden Tierney, Lainey and Ben Crowley and Amber Warren.

Sabbath School Leaders Quarterly Prayer

It is not unusual for any local church leader to feel isolated and alone as you seek to discharge your role.

The WA Conference Discipleship ministry team desires to invite all Sabbath School leaders in our local church to our once a quarter prayer time online. The prayer meeting will run no more than 1 hour long from 7:30 pm every first Tuesday of each quarter.

The next date will be July 4th at 7:30

The Zoom meeting ID is: 219
850 3516

Pr Obed Soire

Sabbath School and Natural Church Development, Discipleship Ministries Team; Pastor at North Perth Seventh-day Adventist Church





ADRA's evolving disaster response in the WA

Disasters are messy, painful and humbling even to the most experienced emergency planners. They have the potential to impact communities in devastating ways. ADRA, as the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, has been helping people in Western Australia (WA) during disasters for many years, relying heavily on the work of volunteers who graciously give their time and expertise to meet the needs of those impacted. As we recover from COVID-19 and prepare for the increasingly frequent and severe weather events associated with changing climate, there is a need to build our volunteer capacity in WA. What follows is an overview of how ADRA has worked in WA in the past, and what ADRA Australia is doing now to prepare for future needs when disasters strike.

Since 2007, ADRA has been responsible for managing the emergency accommodation needs of evacuees and emergency personnel during large scale disaster responses. This was through a memorandum of understanding with the WA Department of Emergency Relief and Support (previously the Department for Community Development). The local WA Conference ADRA Director, with the help of dedicated volunteers, participated in handling over six major disasters during that time. The two largest of these were cyclone Seroja in 2021, and the WA bushfires of 2014. There is no doubt that

this was important work, and ADRA wishes to sincerely thank both the volunteers and the WA Department of Emergency Relief and Support for the goodwill and opportunity to successfully execute this role so well!

After carefully considering the current volunteer capacity in WA, and consulting with ADRA Australia, the WA Conference recently made the decision to transition away from its current role in managing emergency accommodation. The reasoning behind this decision is essentially two-fold. Firstly, there is a need to grow and maintain the volunteer population in order to continue to meet the logistical demands of more frequent and severe natural disasters. Secondly, and most importantly, there is capacity to meet a broader range of needs through local Seventh-day Adventist Churches. Our churches are full of people who care deeply about their community and who have the capacity to help in ways they often haven't thought of – ways that meet not only the immediate needs of people impacted by disasters, but also their longer-term needs. This also creates an opportunity for local churches to connect with their local community in an ongoing way, and to show Jesus' love in tangible ways. ADRA remains committed to assisting our communities affected by disaster and is shifting its focus to support local churches as they build their capacity and prepare to respond.



Local people have a crucial role in times of disaster. It is local people who are likely to be the first on the scene, meeting needs until help arrives. Critical help from various government and non-government groups may last for a time, but it is the local people who will be there for the long haul. ADRA Australia, assisted by the local WA Conference ADRA Regional Manager, is partnering with local churches, and assisting them to be better prepared to help their community through a program called the Disaster Ready Church (DRC). As part of this program, ADRA Australia's Emergency Management Team is facilitating a series of two-day workshops for local church groups in disaster prone regions. Participants at these workshops will engage in meaningful conversations, identify vulnerabilities in their local context, and begin planning for disaster response activities.

Imagine if Seventh-day Adventist Churches everywhere were pre-prepared with disaster response plans? Considering our local context and working in consultation with local government and other groups is crucial to effective disaster planning. In the wake of recent disaster events such as the Fitzroy Crossing floods and Cyclone Ilsa this year, the Eastern states Black Summer bushfires of 2019-2020, the NSW Northern Rivers flood events of 2022, and the global COVID-19 pandemic, there is growing recognition across all levels of government that community centered disaster responses are more effective and produce better recovery outcomes. Local governments are keener than ever to partner with local entities and include them in disaster preparedness planning. ADRA's Disaster Ready Church workshops can help churches identify what their unique contribution could be to a community impacted by a disaster, allowing them to know what they have to offer when approaching their local council. Prior planning is the best way to reduce vulnerabilities, increase resilience, and streamline funding pathways for more effective disaster responses.

In February this year, volunteers from Bunbury, Manjimup, Busselton, Collie, Capel, and Maida

Vale churches attended a Disaster Ready Church Workshop at the Bunbury Seventh-day Adventist Church. The South West is particularly prone to bushfires and storms, but other hazards can also strike unexpectedly. Bunbury and Manjimup are now forming teams within their churches to guide on a preparedness journey with the support of ADRA Australia.

Pr Ross Craig from Manjimup Seventh-day Adventist Church commented, "The way the workshop was presented was inspiring. The focus was on the strengths our church already has. When I went back to Manjimup Church and shared with the congregation, it gave us all a lift. We are now making plans for how we could help our community when a disaster strikes using what we already have."

One of the most overlooked disaster resilience building activities is social connection. Building friendly connections within your neighbourhood before disasters will allow you to better identify those in need and support their recovery after a disaster. Are you making time to connect with your neighbours?

We don't know when the next disaster will strike. The time to prepare is now.

If you would like to learn more about ADRA and its activities more information can be found at www.adra.org.au.

If you're living in a disaster prone area and would like to host a Disaster Ready Church Workshop at your church, talk to your local WA Conference ADRA Regional Manager, Francis Ejones, or visit the following web page to express interest adra.org.au/disaster-ready-church/

Kelli-Jo Leslie

Disaster Ready Church Program Co-ordinator
ADRA Australia

Dr Francis Ejones

Regional Manager
ADRA Australia





Construction Underway at Mamarapha College

Mamarapha College has received support from churches across Australia to help fund new buildings for administration and staff.

In 2022, mission offerings were taken up to help fund the building of two general learning areas, a computer lab, a student area, as well as the refurbishment of the administration block at Mamarapha College.

Mamarapha College first opened its doors to Indigenous students in 1997 for those wanting to receive training in gospel ministry. Since then, more than 1500 students have graduated and are serving in remote areas as well as large urban cities.

The new General Learning Area (GLA) facilities are designed to cater for the growth trend in enrolments and provide additional spaces to deliver new vocational courses in the future.

The GLA was designed by specialised educational architects to provide a quality learning environment and delivery to a larger cohort of students compared to the old classroom capacity.

The administration building has now been fitted with much-needed storage space, additional offices, a staff workroom and a Faith FM studio. The new buildings and office have been in operation since early 2023, with the final addition of a radio tower which is yet to be completed.





According to Mamarapha principal, Pastor David Garrard, these new developments have created much excitement for students and staff.

“Many students have commented on the computer lab which is now three times larger compared to the previous one.” He continued, “Staff have expressed their gratitude for the extra room, new equipment, and furniture.”

Pastor Garrard said, “All staff and students consider it a great privilege to be part of this significant milestone in Mamarapha’s history. We are all praising God for making our dreams come true.”

Australian Union Conference (AUC) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) director pastor Darren Garlett said, “As a Church, we value the work of God in the lives of people who have made a commitment to Him.

Through Mamarapha College we witness this transformation happening in the lives of students each year as they embark on the study program.”

He continued, “Receiving financial support to enhance the facilities to make the Mamarapha experience even better is a real answer to prayer. We have a training centre where people can learn but it makes an impact as soon as they arrive on the campus”.

The official opening of the new buildings is planned for May 2023.

This article was originally published by Adventist Record, 18 April 2023.

KyMBERLEY McMURRAY
Communications Officer
Australian Union Conference

Proclaiming the Name of God

On Sabbath, 4 March 2023, Rossmoyne Seventh-day Adventist Church members and friends were blessed and inspired by the ministry of Proclaim a seven-member, all-male gospel-singing group.

They shared the power of the gospel through their singing and personal testimony. The Sabbath School lesson was led by Reg Smedley, and the church service by Igor Siemienowicz, who spoke on ‘The Name of the Lord’.

Since the time of Seth, men have called on the Name of the Lord. To Moses, He revealed Himself

as, “I AM WHO I AM”: the One who has always existed. After the healing of the lame man, Peter and John were asked, “By what name have you done this?” They responded, “By the name of Jesus Christ... there is no salvation in any other.”

God never ignores the call for salvation. The cry of faith in the name of Jesus is the vehicle to salvation.

Carol Millist

Rossmoyne Seventh-day Adventist Church





ATSIM Ministries enjoys Easter Camp and Elder Ordination



Easter Camp at Advent Park was a highlight for ATSIM Ministries for Western Australia. A good group of a Aboriginal families travelled to Advent park from as far as Broome, Nullagine, Karalundi and other areas around the state. Karalundi staff travelled down and made a large contribution to the ATSIM display tent, where it became a combined Karalundi, ATSIM and Mamarapha display area. Hot drinks and Sanitarium brekky foods were always available for visitors to the tent. A prayer section in the tent gave visitors the option to have some prayer time with a volunteer in the tent. Everyday worship services were held in the ATSIM worship tent and it was wonderful to worship together. Sabbath closing was a highlight with the ATSIM team sharing in the Big Tent. Sunday lunch was wonderful as the annual BBQ lunch brought many people together.



A week later on April 15, Tony Decinque was ordained at Karla Bidjar as an Elder by Pr Steve Goods. Tony has been at Karla Bidjar for quite some time and is very active in leading out at Karla Bidjar. His contribution is valued at the church.



Darren Peakall
 ATSIM Ministries
 Karla Bidjar Seventh-day Adventist Church



Youth Shed: Strong and Courageous

The Youth Shed was buzzing at Easter Camp. Having thirty young people each day get out of bed for 8 am devotions to having 300 worship together on Sabbath - a feast of friendship and worshipping. Mid-morning the crowd grew everyday to hear Kevin and his wife Elynn talk about some practical tips of what we can do to get ourselves ready for relationships (that might turn into lifelong commitments). The 'Chai Guy' (Kevin Wilson) brought a message of hope to our young people. He painted a picture of what it takes to be a disciple of Jesus in 2023. The most exciting bit - Young people responding to the call of the Holy Spirit on their lives. Kevin encouraged us to "Tune our hearts to the frequency of God's presence". When we are tuned in to God it's easier to "Love All People". As we love all people we recognise that "Empathy does not mean endorsement". The final challenge was to face our fears with FAITH.

Youth Shed activities saw people wakeboarding, skiing, kneeboarding, competing in a dodgeball tournament as well as ice-skating. Hanging out with friends and new friends - what could be better? Saturday night saw some outrageous 70's outfits on display. The bright colours, Bell Bottoms and wild hairstyles were worn with pride. A huge shout out to the Kulikup Crew (there's so many people we need to thank and this crew includes people not from Kulikup as well) who cooked up an absolute storm for us - the food was sensational. We want to thank all of the volunteers who were involved in the youth shed - from building the cafe furniture, making countless hot drinks, organising programming, technical genius, hosting the worship, creating the tunes, singing up a storm and so much more.... THANK YOU!!!

Andrew Olsen

Children & Youth Ministries
Discipleship Ministries Team



Loving God

THROUGH
DAILY
DEVOTIONS

2023

Read the

Bible

in a year

Read the Word Anew

Jump in at any time. July-September
cards coming soon

July-September



Western Australia

- 8: Ezek 38-39
- 9: Ezek 40-41
- 10: Ezek 42-43
- 11: Ezek 44-45
- 18: Ezra 1-3
- 19: Ezra 4-6; Ps 137
- 20: Haggai 1-2
- 21: Zech 1-7

- 22: Is 28-30
- 23: Is 31-34
- 24: Is 35-36
- 25: Is 37-39
- 26: Is 40-43
- 27: Is 44-48
- 28: 2King 18:9-19:37
- 29: Is 49-51
- 30: Is 54-55
- 31: Is 59-60

- 22: Jer 22
- 23: Jer 23
- 24: Jer 24
- 25: Lam 1-4
- 26: Lan 5:22
- 27: Ezr 7
- 28: Ezr 8
- 29: Ezr 9
- 30: Ezr 10
- 31: Ezr 11

- 22: Ezr 10
- 23: Ezr 11
- 24: Ezr 12
- 25: Ezr 13
- 26: Ezr 14
- 27: Ezr 15
- 28: Ezr 16
- 29: Ezr 17
- 30: Ezr 18
- 31: Ezr 19

THE
BIBLE