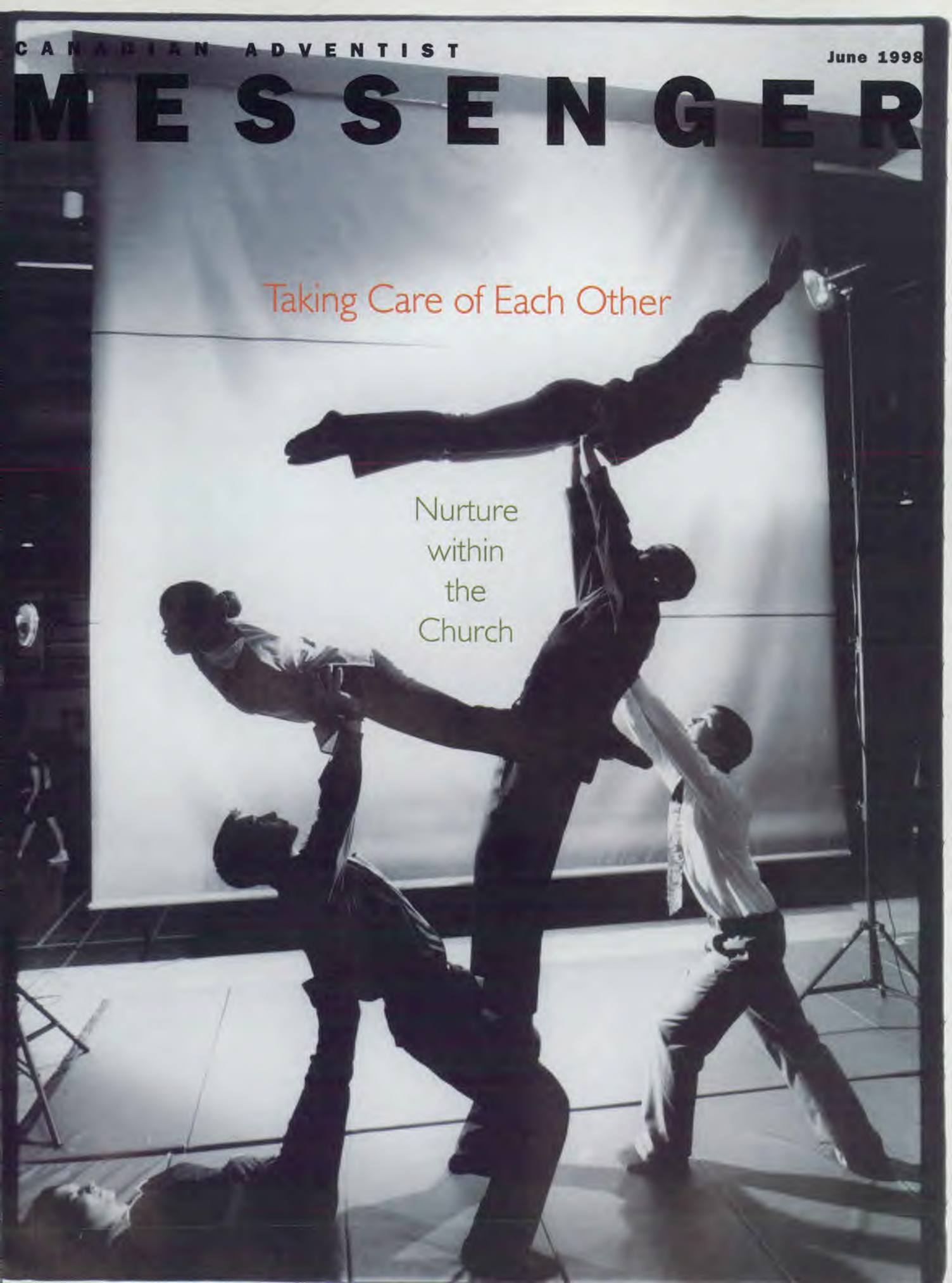


# MESSENGER

Taking Care of Each Other

Nurture  
within  
the  
Church





## The Importance of Nurture



by Derrick Nichols,  
President of the  
Ontario Conference

I am impressed and challenged when I read in John 21:15 and 16 “feed my lambs” and “feed my sheep.” (See also *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 154.) Here Jesus is speaking to the apostle Peter, but is also speaking to us. He commands us to provide spiritual nourishment for the young and old who are placed in our care by God.

It is significant to note that before we can do this, we must first love God (verses 15 to 17). It is only when the love of God is in our hearts that we have a love for the young and the old in the church. This then motivates us in how we care about fellow church members and what needs to be done to nurture others in God’s love.

But what is nurture? Simply put, to nurture is to nourish, to provide nourishment, and to train.

In other words, nurture is the sum of all experiences and opportunities involved in growing as a spiritual person.

Notice this challenging gem: “In like manner those who are just converted to Christ are, as newborn babes, to grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. Or like the good seed sown in the field, they are to grow up and bring forth fruit.” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 67)

This prompts me to ask the question: who needs nurture? All of us do. Not just the newly baptized, not just the children or youth, but all of us do, for “Let any one who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” (1 Corinthians 10:12, Revised Standard Version; see also *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 155)

All too often, we hear of a faithful church member or church leader “falling” because of some great sin, be it child molesting, sexual impropriety, dishonesty, stealing, or some financial misappropriation. It happens and can happen to any of us, be it a “big sin” or the sins of Laodicea.

This is where nurture comes in. Nurture is important for church employees. Nurture is important for church members. Nurture helps

us to become established in the faith and to become effective laborers for God.

While one might think of nurturing as being a spiritual maintenance program, I see nurturing as being evangelistic as well. I am reminded of an expert in witnessing who said, “After individuals have been converted to the truth, they need to be looked after . . . They need watchful attention, help, and encouragement.” (*Evangelism*, p. 351) and “Those who take their stand for the truth are to be organized and taught how to labor successfully to win souls for Christ.” (Ibid., p. 353-4)

In my ministry, I have witnessed true nurturing when the nurturing activities and programs of the church not only strengthen and encourage members, but also produce spirit-filled zeal and commitment that reaches out to others, resulting both in more members and in a continuation of the cycle.

In that context, be it Pathfinders, Adventurers, Sabbath School, women’s or men’s ministries, children’s ministries, youth activities, health classes, or Bible seminars, they all need to have the dual purpose of strengthening those in the church and doing evangelism to those not yet in the church. Both are vital to a growing congregation.

For further reading, I recommend two classics. One is “Growing Up into Christ” on pages 67 to 75 in the book *Steps to Christ*, and the other is “Establishing and Holding New Converts” on pages 334 to 379 in the book *Evangelism*.

As we embrace the ministry of nurturing, I am reminded of Paul’s instruction and promise to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12, 13). Nurturing is a faith partnership with God, keeping in mind that Christ has prayed that “your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again (i.e. grown spiritually) strengthen your brethren” (Luke 22:32).

I believe Christ prayed for Simon to be a faithful leader. Christ does the same for us today. What a wonderful promise! ■



# Church Members: God's Police, or His Instruments?

I just read the April issue [on hospitality], and I thought of an experience I had in Salzburg, Austria, in 1946.

Our church was rather small, 45 to 50 members. Thus, it was easy for the pastor to see at a glance who was absent. However, at a church board meeting we decided to involve the deacons and deaconesses in the general welfare of the church members, with emphasis on the spiritual aspect. Each deacon and deaconess was given a list of members he/she was to visit now and then, particularly when some of them were absent on Sabbath.

No, the idea was not to "police" one another!

One Sabbath after lunch, Grandma said to me, "Let us go for a walk and see how Sister Grabner is doing. She was not at church today, and, who knows, she may be sick."

So we did.

Sister Grabner was a widow. She had a son of 15, and she had a hard time making both ends meet. It so happened that when we neared the house, she came out, and we stopped for a casual chat.

It turned out that she was rather discouraged that day. We knew that she had problems bringing up her boy, and after a prayer right on the front lawn, we assured her of our continual interest in our prayers on her behalf. When we parted, she said, "You know, you came at the right time. God bless you! I needed encouragement."

No, this was not a policing job! It was what Jesus wants us to do: to take care of one another. Now that the church of God is going through great trials, we need to love one another more than ever before. ■

*Boris Pache  
Lacombe, Alberta*

I asked God once, twice, three times — and then I asked Him again. The answer was yes, a strong yes, all four times. Packing my belongings into my truck, I said good-bye to family and friends, and started the long drive from Alberta to Ontario. A new Christian, I was starting a new life, in a new place. I was optimistic and full of confidence, assured that God was with me.

It was late on a Friday afternoon in February when I arrived in Toronto. After paying for one night's accommodation and for a few groceries, all I had left was forty dollars — a costly breakdown on the road had taken the rest. Tomorrow night I would have to sleep in my truck.

As I stood in my hotel room preparing a sandwich for my evening meal, I no longer felt optimistic, nor confident — rather, alone and scared. The stress and turmoil of the past few years of my life and the uncertainty of the future hit me all at once. What had I done? I wept uncontrollably.

Sabbath morning I dressed for church, then asked directions to the Willowdale SDA Church. My pastor in Alberta had recommended that particular church to me.

Upon arriving, I was welcomed and directed to the pastor's Sabbath School class. At the end of the class, the pastor asked for someone to offer the closing prayer. "No, not me," I thought, "I'm new here," but as we bowed our heads, to my own surprise, it was I who prayed. I do not remember all that I said, only that I thanked God for a safe journey.

Following the prayer, a church member approached me asking where I was from and where I was staying. He and his wife invited me home for Sabbath dinner. They also generously offered to let me stay in their home until I could find work and another place to stay. This church member told me that he too had been in need at one time and someone had taken him in. He was happy to be able to return that kindness.

By Wednesday, I had found work. I stayed with the Willowdale couple for another week or so until I found a place to rent with yet another Willowdale church member. I was not alone. Most Sabbaths I was invited to someone's home for dinner.

God was with me and had cared for me, and He had done it through His church. ■

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Photo: J. Ivany



# The Gift of Affirmation



**Being human means** that we crave affirmation. We welcome the encouragement we receive. It gives us a sense of belonging and a sense of identity.

The word affirm means to “make firm” or “to give strength to another.” When we encourage someone or build them up with positive comments, we give them the strength to acknowledge their own giftedness and the contribution they make to our lives.

We gain strength from the encouragement and the affirmation that others give. We find it hard to survive in community without encouragement. If we’re cut off from a warm, caring community, we become alienated and alone.

## “She Had Come to Love Me”

Helen Keller’s story illustrates well the power of affirmation. Born blind and deaf, she began at a very early age to terrorize her family. She would kick and bite if she didn’t get her own way. One writer described her as being like “an uncontrollable wild animal.”

At the age of six, she was introduced to her teacher, Ann Sullivan. Sullivan sought to show her tender care and concern by providing discipline and direction.

Every time Keller kicked or bit, Sullivan would give her a gentle slap to let her know her behavior was unacceptable. While some may feel this was cruel, and others may see it as some early form of behavior modification, Keller saw it as motherly affection and concern.

## The Christian church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, indeed, the whole community needs to rediscover affirmation

Years later Helen Keller wrote about that first meeting in her memoirs. An affectionate bond had obviously formed between them, and she had apparently forgotten about the slaps that Sullivan had given her in the early days.

Recalling their first meeting, she said, “I felt approaching footsteps and I stretched out my hand, as I supposed,

to my mother. Someone took it, and I was caught up into her arms and held close to her. She had come to reveal all things to me and more than everything else, to love me.”

Ann Sullivan was an affirmer, and through her encouragement she helped to create a new life for Helen Keller

## The Key to Personal Growth

Affirming another person suggests the most tender healing touch of one human to another. It’s a touch encouraging you to realize your true God-given potential.

In my years as a counselor I’ve come to realize that affirmation is the key to personal growth and development. In fact, I believe there is no personal growth without affirmation. As someone has said, “The greatest good that we do to others is not to give them our wealth, but to show them their own wealth.”

Solomon said, “Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act” (Proverbs 3:27, NIV). And, “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:25, NIV).

## Without Affirmation

If we don’t receive encouragement and affirmation, we begin to feel a sense of insecurity and inadequacy. When that happens, we often end up doing strange things in an attempt to gain acceptance,

approval, and appreciation from others. Frequently we seek to affirm our own worth by adopting behaviors to generate a response from others.

Some become people pleasers and hope others will affirm them for the good they do. They might even allow people to walk all over them to receive affirmation for being “nice” or “helpful.”



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Others become workaholics, hoping their performance will dazzle and attract the affirmation from others that they feel they deserve. Others may become perfectionists, striving hard to do their work perfectly, or insisting on always having

Jesus was quick to affirm their faith and trust. "Let them come to me," He said. "Don't stop them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them."

He affirmed the widow who cast her two coins into the temple treasury.

### As someone has said, "The greatest good that we do to others is not to give them our wealth, but to show them their own wealth."

right answers. All this perfectionistic behavior is driven by the hope that "if I do it right" or "if I have the right answer," I'll gain respect and appreciation.

Still others take on the role of a martyr, hoping that by their suffering they will be appreciated as a saint; and others adopt controlling behaviors in the hope that, as they control situations and people, they'll be valued for their skill and respected for their ability.

#### Jesus' Example

Jesus' ministry demonstrates that He knew the value of affirmation. Everything that Jesus said and did was designed to encourage and build others up. There was great healing power in the words He spoke to individuals.

By his gentle, affirming touch He healed the wounded and broken-hearted and brought comfort to the anxious and frustrated. His affirmation encouraged individuals to rise above their poverty and to realize their full potential.

Jesus affirmed the man on the cross when He said, "I promise you today, you will be with me in Paradise." These words were uttered to a condemned criminal at a time of crisis and need!

Jesus affirmed Zaccheus. He told him that he had found what he had been looking for all his life: "Salvation has come to your house today."

Think of how Jesus affirmed the children whom the disciples told to go away.

"Behold, she has given everything that she possesses," He said. He affirmed her as one who was prepared to dedicate all that she had to the service of God.

Observe the way in which Jesus affirms the woman caught in the act of adultery. Dragged by her accusers into the presence of Jesus in front of the temple crowd, Jesus says to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." The woman could hardly believe the gentle affirmation and encouragement. After receiving such grace, it's impossible to believe that she went off and again continued in her sin.

Yes, Jesus' words and touch empowered people to live their lives to the full. And when He left this earth He sent us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the One who comes alongside us to encourage us and to strengthen us.

#### Power in Affirmation

There's tremendous power in affirmation. The Christian church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, indeed, the whole community needs to rediscover the power to heal, to encourage and promote personal growth through affirmation.

It's strange that, in some Christian circles, many assume their main responsibility is not to affirm, but to condemn. It's too difficult to affirm others. Besides, they say, compliments provoke pride and self-glorification.

What's more, affirming is difficult

because it takes creativity and ingenuity to compliment others in different ways. It's far easier to criticize and point out things that are not right.

But that's not how it should be, said Paul. Note these passages: "Encourage one other and build each other up . . ." (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV). "I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down . . ." (2 Corinthians 10:8, NIV).

And in Hebrews we're told, "Let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (10:25, NIV).

#### How to Affirm

So, when you feel the urge to affirm someone, there are three suggestions:

- 1. Just do it!** Don't assume others know how you feel and how much you appreciate them. Tell them. An intention to affirm is only good when acted upon.
- 2. Do it frequently.** Most of us are like a tire with a slow leak — we need to be pumped up often. We need to receive encouragement and affirmation from each other. So not only should we affirm, we should do it frequently.

- 3. Don't be put off** by people who have difficulty accepting your affirmation. Some people find it hard to receive our encouragement. They may respond by saying, "Oh, you didn't need to do that!" or "Oh, you shouldn't have!"

And remember, the best way to receive affirmation is to give it. The more you give, the more there is to go around.

Solomon said, "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Affirmation is a wonderful gift that we give to each other. It not only builds people, it builds community. And it has the ability to encourage us to become the people God wants us to be. ■





**1,001  
Things  
Not to Ask  
— or Do for —  
Your Pastor**

(Unless You Want  
Him or Her  
to Faint)



**"Pastor, is it time to start getting the Discover\* Bible school cards out? You know the board voted to hand them out in person."**

**"I know, Mark. I will work on finding someone to do that."**

**"But pastor, you don't have to worry about that. I'll take care of it. I just wanted you to know we were starting."**

I couldn't believe what I had just heard. In 15 years of being a pastor, that was only about the third time anything like that had happened to me. It was sincere. And it was done.

I had heard about the need to talk to Mrs. Greyhead: "Pastor, you **need** to do that." I had painted walls, installed insulation, put in windows, fixed leaking baptisteries, carried little old ladies to the grocery store, talked to errant school children . . . just because I was the pastor. But only rarely did someone tell me that they saw something that needed to be done and did it.

That got me to thinking about some of the other things that might shock a pastor to hear. Or see someone do. I thought I'd list a few for you. Maybe you can think of more.



One thing that I would be shocked to hear more often is, **"Pastor, I think that our church needs . . . Will you teach me how to do that?"**

Now, there may be pastors who want to do all of the work themselves. Or there may be some who think that nobody wants to help, and they just do it all. Or they may be so tired of asking that they just don't ask. But I have a suspicion that most pastors do not want to do everything themselves.

Ellen White describes how pastors should see their work in the spiritual

realm: "In laboring where there are already some in the faith, the minister should at first seek not so much to convert unbelievers, as to train the church members for acceptance co-operation. Let him labor for them individually, endeavoring to arouse them to seek for a deeper experience themselves, and to work for others. When they are prepared to sustain the minister by their prayers and labors, greater success will attend his efforts." *Evangelism*, pages 110-111.

So share yourself where you can. Hey, why should you let the preacher have all the fun?



Something else I would like to hear more often is, **"Pastor, I am studying with a friend of mine, and**

**she wants to know about the Sabbath. Can you help me with what to tell her?"**

I don't know about you, but I am more impressed with someone willing to learn and share than someone who brings in an "expert." Your pastor is not the last word spiritually. The Word of God is. And it is stronger and more powerful than your pastor. Your pastor may recommend certain thoughts, but you as a believer should have and be able to use a good concordance and your Bible. And then the teaching can come from a person who is known and trusted. But your pastor will be glad to help you get started.

Then, I would like to hear, **"Pastor, can you go with me to see the Newstudy family? I'd like to you to get to know them."**

And I'd love to go. Not to prove a point. Most pastors do not want to be the final arbitrator of truth. What we want you to do is help us to make your friends, our friends; and our friends, Jesus' friends.





Now something that you might not have suspected. As strange as it may seem, **many pastors want to hear when you have a problem with them.** Suppose that they haven't visited someone that you feel they should have visited. Or haven't visited often enough. Or any number of possible things.

What do you do? Go to your pastor and tell him or her. This goes for anything that may concern you. Spreading the word around the church without confronting the pastor helps no one. And particularly not the church. And we are in this together.

In my first district as a pastor, I was not as communicative as I should have been. I had a godly head elder who was not afraid to talk to me. He was at least twice my age, and I respected him. He came to me and said, "Pastor, if we cannot have better communication, I cannot continue to be the first elder."

From that kind but pointed declaration, we began working together in a much better way. And I still think fondly of him. Most pastors I know want to deal with issues of difference and resolve them as quickly and as near the source as possible. Help us do that. Talk to your pastor.



Remember that pastors are human. We need a little pat on the back sometimes. A little recognition goes a long way. It just might make an average pastor into a good one.

I'm not talking about flattery. I believe that most pastors see through that. We know that you are supposed to tell the pastor that you enjoyed the sermon — even if you slept through it. That's not what I am talking about. I mean real appreciation. Unexpected. Sincere.

Several times through my ministry, I have received unexpected cards of appreciation for doing things I never expected to be remembered for.

I gave a short series of talks one time to a church away from my district. I did my best to present the glory and goodness of Christ. A month later, I received a card thanking me for presenting Christ in the way that I did. It let me know that my purpose had been accomplished, and Christ had been lifted up.

On the other hand, in one church, after the conference declared a pastor appreciation day, one of the elders there was muttering about all this nonsense about appreciating pastors. Now that made me feel good!

I want my church family to see me as part of the church, with no more importance in the plan of salvation than they are. We are workers together with God. He never put church leaders on a pedestal. And I for one don't want to be on one. I may like country music. Or classical. I may even indulge in a little jazz from time to time. If that is acceptable for church members, why not the pastor? Let me be an individual.



On this next point some may not agree with me. I speak for myself, and at least some other pastors. **I want to be your friend. I want you to know me as a person, not as a figurehead.**

This may not be possible in larger churches. But in most of our churches it can be. I want my wife to be another church member, not Mrs. Pastor. I want my children to be seen as other church members' kids are seen.

John 15:15 says, "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

Jesus had friends in His earthly ministry. He had three special friends that He was closer to than the others. They loved Him more than the others. And His humanity needed the closeness. Pastors and their families need someone they can kick back with and enjoy their company. We don't want this to be a possessive relationship, but a comfortable one.

There are people who stand out in each church I have been in that have been closer than others. But the careful pastor can enjoy these special relationships without letting them interfere with the church family as a whole. So let me have special friends as long as I am serving my church faithfully. And be glad with me that friendship is possible.



Finally, I would like to hear the question, **"Pastor, can you help me know Jesus better?"**

It is the joy of a pastor to lift up Jesus. More than anything, I want my church members to know Jesus for themselves. Personally. One to one. And we want you to share that experience with your fellow believers.

We know that where Jesus is lifted up, there is spiritual growth. Where Jesus is lifted up by all, questions and divisions can solve themselves. Where Jesus is lifted up, His people find peace, assurance, and joy. And in the church where that happens, you are most likely to find the pastor that you want to have, and you deserve.

I'll leave it up to you. But find a good way to shock your pastor. Soon. And your church will be the better for it. ■

*\* The Discover Bible lessons are available from The Voice of Prophecy or your ABC, and are designed so that each church can have its own Bible school.*



# Practical Pointers for Building Relationships with Youth

**"We don't care how much you know.**

**We want to know how much you care."**

What young people value more than anything else are relationships. They want good interpersonal ties, and they want to be loved. A 1992 survey of Canadian youth by Reginald Bibby and Donald Posterski documented that 85 percent of youth report that friendship is "very important" to them, while 80 percent place high value on "being loved." (*Teen Trends*, p. 9)

What implications does this have for working with youth in the church? Bibby and Posterski state, "Whether adults work with today's youth within religious structures or other settings, it will be crucial to function within the laws of life that control the youth culture. Just as it is impossible to live in this world without embracing beliefs of one kind or another, the dominance of friendship in today's youth culture means there is no escaping the relational laws of life, either. If you hope to influence the younger generation or minister effectively among them, you must deal with the friendship factors that rule their lives." (p. 254)

The authors go on to list youth's seven relational laws of life:

- "Who" is more crucial than "where"
- People are more important than programs
- Organizational structures must be warm
- The touch of a person is more powerful than an idea
- Results take time
- Influence is limited to a few
- Relationships are an end in themselves

So how do youth leaders communicate their care and concern to young people? In the November/ December, 1992, issue of *Group* magazine, Dick Gibson described 55 ways to love your kids:

- 1. Remember names.** Few things leave a more lasting impression on kids than your ability to call them by name!
- 2. Meet at the kids' level.** Position yourself to communicate at eye level. Also take care that your vocabulary is easily understood by your teenagers.
- 3. Send birthday cards.** Who do young people get cards from? Immediate family, extended relatives and close friends. Why not add your name to that list?
- 4. Invite them along.** "Never go anywhere alone," advises youth ministry consultant Les Christie. Asking someone to join you confirms their worth to you. And it's a great chance to share informally and to role model the Christian life.
- 5. Be in touch.** How many kids suffered through another week without positive physical contact? Expressions as

simple as a hand on the shoulder or a "holy hug" can prove your concern.

**6. Respond to absences.** Many young people drop out when they feel unneeded or unimportant. When you follow up with them, it communicates their value to you and the group.

**7. Forgive and forget.** "Love keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Cor. 13:5). If you model authentic forgiveness it'll give your kids the courage to do the same.

**8. Recognize accomplishments.** Look for opportunities to applaud your group members. Spread the word to family and friends that you want to know about this inside information.

**9. Write encouraging notes.** Kids love to get mail, so send them brief postcards or letters. Express your confidence in them and reaffirm your availability.

**10. Offer support in a crisis.** You're never more needed than when your teenagers face trouble. When kids face unexpected pregnancy, abuse, crime, death, or rejection, your active concern can impact them for a lifetime.

**11. Recognize personality changes.** Abrupt shifts from normal behavior patterns may be signals for help. Don't hesitate to share your concerns.

**12. Follow up prayer requests.** Ask for progress reports on prayer concerns. This reminds your kids that you take their spiritual life seriously and helps them recognize God's provision.

**13. Use the telephone.** How often do you phone your teenagers for no reason? Call just to say "Hi!"

**14. Go to their "natural habitat."** Your presence on your group members' turf is significant. So go to school events or schedule a visit at their work place.

**15. Open your home.** Occasionally ask kids to join you at home apart from regular group activities.

**16. Confront in love.** Authentic concern sometimes says, "I care for you too much to let that continue." Your willingness to deal with tough issues reveals the true nature of your commitment (Heb. 12:5-11).

**17. Listen.** You don't need all the answers, just two good ears. Empower your teenagers to talk through their problems with someone they can trust.

**18. Answer questions.** Young people have difficulty interpreting the mixed messages they receive. If they ask, it's because they trust you. Don't be afraid to respond honestly, even in sensitive areas.

**19. Say "I love you!"** These words can never be said too often. Say them personally, sincerely and individually.

**20. Affirm spiritual growth.** Everyone can use a spiritual "pat on the back." Commend godly character you observe.



**21. “Unwrap” kids’ giftedness.** When you detect latent talents or abilities in your kids, give them the encouragement and opportunity to explore those gifts.

**22. Expect the best.** Young people will settle to your level of expectation — so aim high.

**23. Accept them as they are.** Teenagers are in transition from childhood to adulthood, and they can act like either at any moment. Be patient; God’s not finished with them (or you, for that matter).

**24. Focus on their interests.** Investigate your group members’ hobbies and ask for pointers. They’ll be happy to oblige, and you’ll gain new insights into them.

**25. Be available.** Inform your group that you’re accessible when they need you (remember to tell them when you’re not available too). You have lost an opportunity if they weather their storms alone.

**26. Laugh together.** Don’t be so serious that you miss humorous moments.

**27. Cultivate kids’ opinions.** Invite honest feedback and keep an open mind. God may want your young people to teach you something.

**28. Be real.** Your teenagers hunger for relationships with people who have the confidence to be themselves.

**29. Be a “soft touch.”** When you can, participate in your kids’ fundraisers. To avoid poverty, I purchase from *only* the first group member who asks me to.

**30. Speak first.** Initiating conversation can be difficult for shy or new group members. Make them feel important by speaking to them first.

**31. Give positive reinforcement.** Some young people are lightning rods for criticism. So look for something praiseworthy in every group member.

**32. Keep confidences.** Develop a reputation as someone who’s reliable with confidential information. Nothing is more destructive to your credibility than breaking a trust.

**33. Share “good news.”** When group members make the news, mail them the clippings. Even if their parents already have a supply for the relatives, they’ll

appreciate your thoughtfulness.

**34. Seek sanctuary.** Your meetings should not be a battleground for personal disputes. Place a high priority on emotional security and acceptance for everyone.

**35. Be dependable.** How’s your track record for consistency? If you’re reliable in the small things you’ll be rewarded with greater confidence (Matt. 25:14-28).

**36. Be a servant.** Greatness, as Jesus demonstrated, is expressed through service. Your group will reflect this truth to the extent they observe it in you (Matt. 10:24-25).

**37. Send postcards.** When you travel, mail postcards about your experiences to your group members. Let them know that even though you’re away, they’re still on your mind.

**38. Smile.** Your smile expresses openness and approachability.

**39. Watch your tone of voice.** Clear communication is made up of the words we choose and how we express them. Take care that your tone reflects concern and support.

**40. Be attentive.** It’s frustrating to talk with someone whose actions demonstrate they’re not interested. Make sure your body language reflects concern.

**41. Support through prayer.** Select two or three group members to pray for every week. Inform them in advance and ask for special needs or requests.

**42. Maintain eye contact.** The eyes are a window to the soul. So let your kids see your compassion in your eyes.

**43. Watch your words.** Real affection is often exercised through what we determine *not* to say. Your careless remarks could leave lasting scars.

**44. Post kids’ pictures.** Ask each group member for a school photo. Exhibit these photos in a high-profile place.

**45. Give kids respect.** This is a “boomerang principle” — give and you will receive in return.

**46. Take them seriously.** Any problem, no matter how trivial it may seem to you, is your kids’ biggest concern at the

moment. Don’t brush it off.

**47. Admit your mistakes.** Don’t be fooled. We’re usually the last to acknowledge what others already know.

**48. Avoid church/school conflicts.** Arbitrary scheduling that forces kids to choose between church and school activities is unfair.

**49. Foster teamwork.** Although your role will always involve overseeing the tasks at hand, don’t lose touch with the crew. Serving together in the trenches builds camaraderie.

**50. Invest your time in them.** There’s no substitute for just being together. This life-to-life interaction is the essence of discipleship.

**51. Smooth “rough” edges.** Do you have kids who lack social graces or need help with personal hygiene? It’s awkward, but that’s what friends are for.

**52. Visit them at home.** A young person’s room is his or her corner of the world and your turnstile to it. Make an appointment and ask for a “guided tour.”

**53. Empathize.** Empathy is “feeling your pain in my heart.” Isn’t this how Jesus expressed His love for us? (Phil. 2:6-7). Remember what it was like to be a kid.

**54. Play together.** If your teenagers would rather watch than participate, help them rediscover the joy of play. Choose activities that stress total group participation.

**55. Resist favoritism.** If pressed, you’d admit feeling “closer” to some kids than others. Budget your time and attention to everyone equally. ■

by Shelley Nolan  
Messenger editor

Photos by Jason Ivany







# Rebuilding Services and Lives in Cambodia

ADRA Canada

by Oliver Lofton-Brook  
Executive Director, ADRA Canada

**C**ambodia is a small country in Asia that 25 years ago was in the process of becoming a leader in that part of the world. However, since then it has suffered terribly from civil war, invasion, and the occasional coup. More than one million people have died in a country of only about 12 million. Many of those who were killed had education and training that was much needed by the country.

Now, as Cambodia tries to rebuild, the people are struggling under some terrible burdens, not the least of which is poverty and generally poor levels of hygiene and water supply. Agriculture improvement is also needed.

In my visit to Cambodia in February of this year, I found that ADRA Cambodia is helping in many areas in a country that really needs help. In visiting our Pursat health

project, I found the needs in that community to be quite incredible. Even the trained midwives in some of the localities had been killed under one of the former regimes. The project is training all types of medical personnel and operating clinics that provide medical help for their communities. This project has been operating for a number of years, and we are hoping that it will continue for at least another four years. It will probably take another 25 years for medical care to reach an acceptable level.

During my visit, I found that western and Asian tobacco companies were taking quite a toll on the people with their sales, even to the extent of giving free cigarettes to young people. It was sad to think that we in the more developed world are encouraging a habit that will destroy health in the future.

ADRA Cambodia has an ongoing anti-smoking

program which endeavors to educate the young people about the dangers of smoking. Television drama and advertising is used to get the message through to as many people as possible that smoking only destroys health. Famous Cambodian comedians and actors are encouraged to help make anti-smoking commercials. However, the allure of the tobacco companies' money is hard to resist for these people, and they often become supporters of the sale of tobacco.

I went north to Siemreap; there ADRA has projects in agricultural improvement and irrigation. It was quite impressive to see areas of small farms producing excellent crops in the dry season. This has enabled the farmers to not only feed their families well, but to sell their excess vegetables in the local market. This means they are able to repair their houses, clothe and educate their children, and further expand their gardens.

ADRA supplied agricultural training, dug a tube well, and put in a treadle pump. This pump is operated by treading up and down on two boards that are connected to pistons which draw the water to the surface. This enables irrigation trenches to be filled with water that is needed by the plants.

With the ADRA director for Cambodia, Murray Millar, and some of his staff, I visited a homestead which was operated by three young ladies between 14 and 19 years of age. Their mother had died many years ago, and their father had deserted them in recent years. When ADRA arrived in their area they were discouraged, listless, and at a loss as to what they should do. They decided to see what the ADRA organization had to offer. Within a few months, they had a new well and carefully followed instructions to improve their gardens. When we visited them in February, I found three young ladies enthusiastically expanding their gardens and full of optimism for the future. It took only about 16 months to reach this level of development.

The most exciting aspect of ADRA work all over the world is seeing lives changing in so many dramatic ways. We are meeting people where their needs are, and showing the real love of Jesus for each and every person that we work with. ■



Murray Millar, ADRA Cambodia director, and an assistant visit an improved village garden

Bent Moeller Nielsen, ADRA country director for Burundi, was shot and killed by bandits on April 22. According to reports, Bent had just dropped off a colleague when he was killed and his vehicle stolen. Nielsen was one of ADRA's longest-serving country directors. The absence of his service and expertise will be deeply felt by his colleagues and the people of Burundi. Our prayers are extended to Nielsen's wife and their two daughters.



# New President and Academic Administrator for CUC

by Lynn Neumann McDowell  
CUC College Advancement



## Wisbey Named 22nd President

On July 1, 1998, Dr. Randal R. Wisbey becomes the 22nd president of Canadian University College.



Wisbey has a keen interest in youth leadership training. When he accepted the presidency, he was teaching in and was a key architect of the accredited master of arts in youth ministry degree at Andrews University, where he also established the Center for Youth Evangelism. His primary expertise is in the area of youth culture and in helping young adults find ways to transform their culture. His administrative, teaching, and training skills have taken him throughout North America and Europe.

Acting president Ken Fox observes, "With his young, enthusiastic, and positive approach, CUC will be in good hands."

## Ministerial and Academic Experience

An ordained minister, Wisbey served as a pastor in two Oregon congregations and then went to teach at Columbia Union College as professor of Christian ministry, staying at that college for a further five years as chaplain. He then became associate pastor for college ministry at Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Md., and went on to finish his doctor of ministry degree in 1990 with a dissertation considering the role of young adults in missions.

Wisbey also holds a degree in journalism from Walla Walla College. His writing and editing credits include serving as editor of *Giraffe News*, the quarterly publication of the Center for Youth Evangelism; contributing chapters to several books, including *A Reason to Believe*, and serving as editor of the *YouthNet Evangelism Source Book*, a new

book that considers effective ways that young people can be engaged in service ministry for the North American Division youth ministries department.

## Canadian Ties

Wisbey first visited Canadian University College in 1974, when his grandparents, Millard and Doris Wisbey, were dean of men and director of food service respectively (1971-75). When he married Deanna Clay in 1981 (who until recently was an assistant professor in the department of communications at Andrews University), the newlyweds honeymooned in Victoria, B.C., and have since felt strong affection for Canada, Wisbey says.

## Visionary Strength

Wisbey's visionary strength and follow-through ability is evident from the variety of creative/administrative responsibilities he has assumed not only at Andrews but in his prior ministerial and academic work.

When asked about his decision to take the position, Wisbey says, "I am convinced that there are many students — and, by the way, many parents with college-age students — who are looking for a campus like CUC," which, he notes, provides outstanding academics in the context of Christian commitment — a commitment he found very evident among the faculty and staff in his visits to campus.

The Wisbeys and their son, Alexander, age 9, have enjoyed their visits to campus and Alberta's Rocky Mountains. In their March visit for the CUC constituency and board meetings, Wisbey gave everyone a glimpse of his vision for CUC at the board banquet. The event recognized the contributions of Dr. Wilford Tetz, long-standing board member now retired; acting president Ken Fox; professor of biology Don Abbey, who is moving to Union

College; and director of food services Donna Hodgins, who is going to Hope, B.C. The following is condensed from Wisbey's speech. ■

## Between the Dreaming and the Coming True

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

Robert Frost

Though it is a path seldom traveled in this day and age, the path of Canadian University College, as exemplified [in the lives of those we honor tonight and] in our newly-adopted vision and mission statement, is one that "values not only individual achievement and the spirit of community renewal, but seeks to educate students to think with discernment, to believe with insight and commitment, and to act with confidence, compassion and competence." And that vision and mission clearly take us down a path less traveled.

While I now understand how very helpful and in fact how desirous [your new] name truly is, I have been thinking of what it might imply for us here.

The designation university reminds us that we will be a community of thinkers; we will value not only the answers but also the questions, realizing that in the quest for understanding, the questions often say more about a community than their appropriate responses. Here at CUC we will not be afraid to think. We will not be afraid to ask questions — but we will search for responsible answers. We will conduct research, write papers, teach solid classes. We will share our findings across the disciplines to create a shared life that values strong academics, thoughtful reflection, and appropriate application.

Neil Postman, author of *Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology*, argues that technology redefines what



we mean by religion, art, family, politics, history, truth, privacy and intelligence — becoming, in effect, a “technopoly.” Postman concludes that education must take up the task of developing “loving resistance fighters.”

In consideration of the disintegrative power of technopoly, perhaps the most important contribution schools can make to the education of our youth is to give them a sense of coherence in their studies, a sense of purpose, meaning and interconnectedness in what they learn. Modern secular education is failing not because it doesn't teach facts, but because it has no moral, social or intellectual center. There is no set of ideas or attitudes that permeates all parts of the curriculum. The curriculum is not, in fact, a “course of study” at all but a meaningless hodgepodge of subjects. It does not even put forward a clear vision of what constitutes an educated person, unless it is a person who possesses “skills.” In other words, a technocrat's ideal is a person with no commitment and no point of view but with plenty of marketable skills.

As Postman reminds us, it is CUC's challenge to give students a sense of

coherence in their studies, a sense of purpose, meaning, and interconnectedness in what they learn.

But we are also a college, a community; we will value the quality of our collegial relationships, and we will strive to live balanced lives that will tell as much about our commitment to Christian education as do our classroom lectures. We will take seriously our commitment to excellence, whether it is in the service of the cafeteria, in the dorms, in the classroom, or on the playing fields.

We will be a community characterized by grace; a place where legalism is replaced with freedom, fear with love, cynicism with hope, performance with acceptance, indifference with passion, conformity with conviction, pride with humility, exclusiveness with inclusiveness, and the letter of the law with its spirit.

Our world is marked by enormous change. As we move toward the 21st century, a new way of viewing the world has emerged. Coined the “postmodern age” by many, this world view will challenge our college.

Postmodernism impacts our literature, dress, art and music. It impacts our

sense of right and wrong, our self-identity, and our understanding of God. Postmodernism tends to view human experience as incoherent, lacking absolutes in the areas of truth and meaning.

The young people coming to us are members of a generation that bring these postmodern viewpoints to all areas of their lives. They belong to a generation that is characterized by chaos. They are children of divorce, facing a barrage of societal evils that no generation before them has faced. This sobering reality has produced a generation pessimistic about its own chances for survival. The primary assumption [of the postmodern world view] is that truth is not rational or objective — rather, truth is defined by each individual and community.

This, in effect is why our mission is so vital. Our commitment to Biblical integrity and Scripture will remain solid. Grace will be emphasized in our lives. Personal commitment to God will be emphasized. Compassion and forgiveness will make our community vibrate with life. Each person is the object of God's incredible love and, therefore, is the object of our love also.

Friends, it is an understatement to

## In Brief

### Literacy Workshop Attracts 104 Teachers and TV Cameras

— Eighty-five public school teachers plus Adventist educators attended the Marie Carbo National Reading Styles Institute workshop organized by Dr. June Fiorito and sponsored by the education department on March 9. So impressed was RDTV with the workshop and the need for early intervention, that it came out to film part of the workshop and asked Fiorito to find two teachers who would allow TV cameras to follow their implementation of the workshop principles. Approximately 75 percent of the participants want to come back for a second workshop, and several asked for the cafeteria's recipe for vegetarian meatballs.



June Fiorito

**Wedgwood Trio Benefits Scholarship Fund** — The popular singing group, booked two years ago, brought their folk gospel concert to the campus on March 28 and raised approximately \$4,000 for the CUC/PAA student scholarship fund.

### 33 Public School Teachers Climb the Walls

— Outward pursuits program instructor Paul Lehmann sent 33 teachers from the Lacombe Junior High School up the walls of the CUC gym to learn rope and rock climbing skills on their professional development day in March — and they loved it. Since January, Lehmann and the outward pursuits students have been running an average of two such workshops per week



Paul Lehmann

for groups not connected with the college, from cub scouts to challenging teens and special needs children.





suggest that we have an incredible task before us. Allow me to take a few moments to suggest a plan of action:

First, we will embrace change. We will not be afraid of the future but will see the incredible opportunities all around us. We will think creatively, utilizing the amazing resources of this committed faculty, staff, and student body.

Second, we will encourage diversity, reaching out across Canada with the message that we want all of Canada's children here. And in the process, we will learn that we cannot truly flourish without each other!

Third, we will share the story of CUC far and wide. I've heard people say that CUC may be the best-kept secret in Adventist education. It is high time to let the world in on the secret.

Most of all, however, we will share the message far and wide that CUC is unabashedly Christian. To our students we will offer this one promise: We are absolutely committed to helping you find your truest sense of identity in Christ-centered service.

Yet if we are to do the work of God in this place; if we are to follow Jesus down the road less traveled; if we are to

lead this college that Jesus loves far more than we do, we need God's blessing.

I own a book titled *Between the Dreaming and the Coming True*. In many ways this is where Canadian University College stands this evening — somewhere between the dreams of all of those who have gone before us, and the fulfilment of this dream. My family and I look forward to serving with you, to seeing the dream fulfilled. For our lives, for your lives, and for all the young people who will come to this place. May God bless us in this work. ■

by Randal Wisbey

## McDowell Appointed New Vice President for Academic Administration



Dr. John McDowell, dean of the division of arts for the past nine years, has accepted the invitation of the president elect at the recommendation of the search committee to become the new vice president for academic administration.

In addition to nine years of administrative experience, McDowell has 16 years of teaching experience as a professor of English at Canadian University College, and five years ago was appointed by the Alberta government to the Private Colleges Accreditation Board (PCAB).

Part of McDowell's work as a member of the PCAB was serving on a committee which recently revised the accreditation handbook. This handbook provides the criteria used by the PCAB in assessing programs that private colleges are seeking to have accredited. Given his knowledge of accrediting procedures and requirements, McDowell authored CUC's self-study report to the PCAB, submitted in the fall of 1997.

"I have found John to be a man of integrity, vision and commitment," wrote president elect Wisbey in his announcement of the appointment to the faculty. "He not only brings to this position a great deal of expertise, but also the broad support of the faculty. I believe he will make a tremendous contribution to the life of the college, and to each one of us who are blessed to work beside him." ■

## Choir Reunion Brings 80 Alumni and TV Crew Back to Campus

— RDTV viewers (the station's viewing area spans most of Alberta, including Edmonton and Calgary) were treated to a 230-voice rendition of "Hodie" on the March 14 evening news. Covering the entire new platform area as they sang, the choir was the largest that Wendolin Pazitka-Munroe has conducted on campus. More than 80 former choir members from across Canada and the United States returned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CUC Singers with special

musical programs from Friday to Saturday night.

The CUC Singer experience creates such deep feelings that newlyweds David Fong and Tania Tataryn made sure it was part of their honeymoon trip. Eva Genier, of Red Deer, Alta., was one of many that took time to write to Munroe after the event, and she expressed the sentiments of many: "My more precious memories from the year I was at CUC [come] from choir . . . You had — and still have — an ability to make it magical for us, with your leadership and that wonderful smile!"

## Dormitory Dean Gets Certified

— Dwayne Straub, head dean at Lakeview Hall, received his residence life educators' certificate in March from the Adventist Student Personnel Association. To earn the certificate, which is good for five years, an active dean must fulfil professional development and research requirements, have a minimum of five years service, and letters of recommendation. ■



Dwayne Straub





## ■ ALBERTA

### Mission Accomplished: This Life Was Saved



Baby Jose Moran with his family after successful heart surgery in Edmonton

Jose Moran was born in Panama with a serious congenital heart defect. "He will die in a short time without surgery," the specialists said. There was no hope for him. He could not get the required surgery at home, and his parents

could not afford the cost of bringing him to Canada. But love entered the action!

Specialists at University Hospital in Edmonton agreed to waive their fees. Public donations helped to cover the hospital costs, estimated by the Capital Health Authority at \$100,000. American Airlines and Marlin Travel agreed to cover the cost of the flight, and Ronald McDonald House donated the lodging. Edmontonians pitched in to cover other costs.

Jose arrived in Edmonton accompanied by his parents — Ricauto Robles, a mechanic, and Sadia Moran, a lab worker — as well as a brother and two grandparents. The lifesaving surgery was performed immediately.

After struggling between life and death for several days, Jose was released from hospital two weeks later and shortly after was able to fly with his parents back to Panama. During his stay in Edmonton, local and national media followed the story closely.

"This life was saved thanks to the love in action of many people," said Victor Schultz, pastor of the Edmonton Spanish church. Schultz ministered to the family every day during their stay, while church members helped with translation, finances, and organizational and spiritual support. The family attended the Adventist church in Edmonton and also visited an Adventist church in Panama on their return.

Schultz says, "I am proud of the Canadian people. I could see everywhere the sensitivity of the people for the need of this family. Love was shown day by day in different ways. I am proud also of the Adventist church for their participation in the process." ■

### 32 Groups Participate in International Program



The Edmonton Central SDA Church held its 14th annual international Sabbath School program several months ago. The program consisted of 44 separate items of music, Bible readings, and prayers by 32 different language groups and cultures. The popularity of this endeavor was evident with a full church and a strong feeling of camaraderie. The service was followed by an ethnic potluck luncheon.

### "God Gave Me My Voice"

We recently had a real-life miracle with the cooking class at the Grand Prairie SDA Church. That particular day, I came to work very ill, dragging around in weakness and a fever. I kept praying that God would get me through the day so I could make it to the class to teach. I called friends and asked them to pray for me. All day my voice was getting worse, and I was sure I'd lose it and we would have to cancel the class.

When I got home and started to pack up to go to the church, I felt *no* illness, *no* cough, *no* voice loss. My body felt strong, and my voice was clear. God kept me going through the entire class of speaking — the class of 17 was very receptive, even to the devotional I presented.

When I got home, I called a friend to tell her how the class went. We spoke for half an hour, and I lost my voice in the end. As I went to sleep, I coughed and coughed but was praising God every minute because He gave me health for the class.

The next day, a member called me at work and commented on my raspy voice. I told her, "It's not Tuesday, so it can do whatever it wants because I know that God will provide every Tuesday until May 5." All I had hoped for when I prayed was that I'd make it through the workday, and He gave me health for three



hours of the class.

In the cooking school — which we call Health for Today: Keeping a Balance — we have 17 students ranging in age from 16 to 70. For the first time, we offered spouses or a family member the opportunity to attend free of charge with the person who signed up. That was popular! We have only two church members in the class, so this time we're doing a church bulletin insert every week called "Here's what you missed..." which gives a summary of the class along with a recipe that the class voted as their favorite.

In April, we had a booth at the Leisure and Tourism Trade Show in Grande Prairie — a first for our church. Approximately 15 volunteers ran stress and nutrition profiles, and we had interest cards available on which people could indicate their desire for cooking classes, Breathe Free, and stress classes. We also had cards for people to sign up for the Discover Bible school, as well as books such as *Eight Steps to Health* and *To Your Health*, for which people could make a donation. Our booth was located next to the Volkswagen booth, where the new bug was displayed. The trade show promoter suggested that we use the slogan "Catch the Health Bug"! ■

by Dianne Bertold

## Smoky Lake Church Believes in Prayer and Outreach



Smoky Lake church members served a dinner after the World Day of Prayer activities hosted in their church, and enjoyed the opportunity of sharing fellowship time with the many guests who attended the event

Smoky Lake families joined people in more than 170 countries for a World Day of Prayer on March 6. The service, which took place in the facilities of the Adventist church in Smoky Lake, had a special flavor and included members and leaders from other denominations, such as the Ukrainian Catholic, Ukrainian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, United, Russo Orthodox, and Baptist churches. The leader of the event was Carolyn Schmidt, from the Adventist church. Other Adventist members served as musical leaders, organist, pianist, and hostess.

The members of the Adventist church prepared a banquet at their fellowship hall, and everyone attending was invited to join after the service. The city mayor, Carole Carpenter, expressed appreciation for the excellent program and delicious meal. The local newspaper, the Smoky Lake Signal, ran several photographs and a story about the successful event and the impact that the Adventist church is having in the community. ■

by Pastor Victor Schulz

## ■ NEWFOUNDLAND / LABRADOR

### This Small Church Is Growing



Matthew Pennell and Timothy Hannebury with church elder Steve McIntyre



Rodney Norman with fiancée Dena Daniels



Gladys Steele with Steve McIntyre

The Conception Bay South SDA Church of Upper Gullies is happy to report the baptisms of the following people and welcomes them into church fellowship.

- Rodney Norman was first introduced to the Adventist faith during a visit with his fiancée, Dena Daniels, to the Adventist church in Corner Brook early last year. Upon his return to St. John's, Norman began a series of Bible studies with Pastor Gary Hodder of the St. John's SDA Church. He also faithfully attended the Leo Schreven meetings which were held in St. John's last fall. Following the meetings, he decided give his life fully to Jesus and was baptized by Hodder in November at the Conception Bay South church. Head elder Steve McIntyre assisted in the baptism.

- Matthew Pennell and Timothy Hannebury were both baptized in December by Pastor Gary Hodder of the St. John's SDA Church and assisted by head elder Steve McIntyre. These young students regularly attended the Leo Schreven meetings, following which they decided to dedicate their lives to Jesus. Both Pennell and Hannebury attend St. John's Adventist Academy, and their church family is very proud of them.



• For most of her life, Gladys Steele experienced a good relationship with her Lord through prayer and personal Bible study. She will be the first to admit, though, that through the blossoming of new friendships she has come to the realization of what good Christian living is all about. She decided to attend the Leo Schreven meetings last fall, following which she set the date for her baptism in January. Pastor Dave Crook was the officiating pastor for the service.

Our little church in Upper Gullies consider ourselves quite blessed to have all of these brand new, born-again Christians as part of our church family. ■

*by Virginia Casey,  
communication secretary*

## ■ ONTARIO

### Meet Ed, the Multivestor



**Ed Fowler with one of the handcrafted wood items he builds to raise money for missions**

Ed Fowler does not sit idling during his retirement years. A builder by profession, Fowler likes to do things around the house. He converted a garage into a work den and set up a carpentry shop. During the recent ice storm, he was looking for ideas to help donate money for the project. But the ice storm was soon over, and Fowler was left scratching his head.

“What can I do to help the church in fundraising?”

He pastor suggested an idea. “Why not be a multivestor?”

“What in the world is a multivestor?”

The pastor laughed and told him that a multivestor is someone who starts as an investor and makes so much money that it multiples and is turned in to the conference for evangelism.

That sounded interesting to Fowler. What does he do to make money for investment? First he goes to places where new homes are being built and gathers odd pieces of unwanted wood. He brings them home,

cleans them, and his wife, Eva, “bakes” them in the oven to dry the wood. Fowler then takes the pieces to his den, smooths them, and makes items that catch your eye in record time. It takes about 10 hours to make a finished product. He creates fancy flowerpot holders that look like old-time washing machines — rollers, crank, and all. You have to look at one closely to believe that all that material, except for the screws, came from a junk heap.

Fowler has earned \$475 in three months while doing “nothing” at home. His fellow church members at the Leamington church couldn’t resist buying his wares.

“This is the Lord’s money, and I want the conference to use that for outreach,” Fowler says.

*by Kingsley Peter, Pastor  
of the Leamington SDA Church*

### Brass Group to Visit Camp Meetings

Strictly Brass will be featured this summer at the eastern Canadian camp meetings as part of a special public relations group for Kingsway College, the high school which all the members attend. Strictly Brass is a dynamic brass group consisting of seven committed instrumentalists. The group was founded last summer by Jussi Maattanen, who directs from the lead trumpet position. The other players are Pekka Maattanen, baritone; Erik Andersson, euphonium; Nathan Zinner, trombone; Chris Jones, french horn; Steven Newman, tuba, and Brandon Tamungday, trumpet. The group has performed concerts at numerous venues, ranging from churches and schools to a ski resort in British Columbia. This spring, the group had the distinction of winning the gold award for brass quintet at the local Kiwanis Festival. Strictly Brass perform a wide variety of music from the classical, religious and modern secular realms. ■



**The members of Strictly Brass are poised to share their musical ministry with audiences at camp meetings in eastern Canada this summer**



## Celebrating an Anniversary and Impressive Growth

In February, the Brampton SDA Church celebrated its fifth anniversary in its own building. This congregation is one of the fastest-growing Adventist churches in Ontario. In the past five years, the Brampton church has had more than 172 people added to its membership through evangelistic crusades alone. The church has been instrumental in establishing three other Adventist congregations. The first was in Orangeville; the Milton Church company has benefitted from the energy and dedication of several Brampton members; and the Ruth church was established last year as a result of Brampton's prolific growth. ■

*by Judy Williams,  
communication secretary*

## Solid Advice Shared at Education Day



**Speakers and organizers of the Ghanaian SDA Church's Education Day: (left to right) Joe Kingsley Eyiah, Vernon Langdon, Amma Nkruman, and Yaw Obeng**

In February, the members of the Ghanaian SDA Church in Toronto organized an Education Day church service and symposium to emphasize the importance of Christian education.

The featured speaker was Vernon Langdon, principal of Crawford Adventist Academy. In his sermon, Langdon stressed that while sending children to Christian schools is the best investment parents can make in children's futures, Christian education begins at home. He cautioned parents to be wary of what he termed the TTC in children's home environments — television, telephone, and company, which all have a strong influence on children.

The other speaker at the event was Yaw Obeng, who is a program advisor on equity education at the Toronto District School Board. He advised parents to become involved with their children's school education by:

- showing interest in their child's day by discussing what happened at school

- enforcing routines regarding television viewing, bedtime, and homework
- providing a place for the child to study
- reading to young children
- attending events such as concerts, open houses, and plays
- communicating with the school about changes at home that may affect the learning process at school
- informing the school about their special skills or knowledge that may contribute to enrichment programs in the school
- offering to help in the school
- help children set school goals ■

*by Joe Kingsley Eyiah,  
education/communication leader*

## ■ MARITIMES

### Rebuilt House Serves as New Community Service Center

For many years, the Tantallon SDA Church in Nova Scotia worked and planned to provide a much-needed community center, but all of the plans ended in disappointment. Excitement was in the air during the summer of 1996, when a 35-year-old house became available to the church if they would move it. Cyril Smith was in charge of the work.

Plans were to move the building in sections and put it together on the new foundation. Those plans had to be changed, and the house was taken apart and built on the new site. This took much longer, and more work was involved. The new building, 30 by 50 feet, is located across the driveway from the church and is wheelchair accessible.

By the fall of 1997, the outside of the building was finished, and the food bank and used clothing outlet were moved in. Citrus fruit is stored and sold from there as well. When the inside is completed, the Pathfinders will use the facility for their meetings and activities.

We praise God for His blessing in providing this building for us. Volunteers worked tirelessly on evenings and weekends for many months. Our grateful thanks to the church members, friends in the community, and members of sister churches who came to help in our time of need. ■



**The Tantallon church's new community center houses a food bank and used clothing outlet, and will soon also be home to the local Pathfinders**



## ■ NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

### Net '98 to Include Closed Captioning

In North America, Net '98 is to include closed captioning for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Every church may take advantage of this special free feature, which will be offered throughout all of Dwight Nelson's programs. There are two million deaf in Canada and the United States, and many millions more who have significant hearing loss. All can use captioning. Since closed captioning is available on nearly all prime time television programs, and there are many hard of hearing and deaf who find it extremely helpful, Net '98 coordinator Glenn Aufderhar reports that Net '98 will make captioning available in the signal.

Net '96 published a letter from a deaf young man who was baptized after Net '96 because of closed captioning. In Vancouver, Wash., the hearing sign language interpreter was baptized after interpreting Net '96 for the local deaf group.

A professional stenographer will watch Net '98 via satellite from an office, while typing in "live" the script of what Dwight Nelson is saying. This signal will be sent via data telephone line to Berrien Springs, Mich., where it will be inserted into the master signal. The printed script on screen will follow several words behind Nelson's actual voice.

Local churches can simply connect a 25-inch or larger TV (those produced since 1994 have closed captioning capability) directly to the satellite source. The TV works well placed near the front of the church to the side of the main projection screen. All those wishing to see the captioning, or even occasionally refer to it when they miss a spoken word, can sit near the TV and then watch either the large screen or see the captions on the TV.

Churches can also indicate on the Net '98 handbill order form that they are offering captioning, and it will be imprinted on every handbill they order. There are a number of valuable helps available for ministering to the needs of deaf. Those needing more information can contact John Blake, of Adventist Deaf Ministries, at 403/782-4255 or E-mail 74532.332@compuserve.com. For technical questions about captioning, contact Douglas Janssen, of the Net '98 technical department, at 800/226-1199 option #4 or E-mail 74617.106@compuserve.com. ■

*John Blake, Coordinating Adventist Deaf Ministry in Canada*

## ■ SDA CHURCH IN CANADA

### Toronto Hosts North American Women's Ministries Conference

From September 18 to 20, a women's ministries conference organized by the North American Division (NAD) will take place in Toronto. Titled Living the Joy, the event features numerous workshops on topics such as friendship evangelism through community involvement, the journey of healing, sharing your faith with a non-believing spouse, the journey of healing, mentoring, the gift of encouragement, building friendships with women of other faiths, and reaching people in their most receptive times.

Women across Canada are invited to attend and learn spiritual insights and skills that will assist you to effectively share your unique ministry. Pre-registration is required, as seats are limited and no registration will be available on site during the event. Each Canadian conference has been allocated a number of seats, which are available for registration on a first-come first-served basis. To register, phone SDA PlusLine at 800/732-7587. For hotel reservations, call the Royal York Hotel at 800/441-1414. The registration deadline is June 10. (After this date, any seats that are still available will be open to individuals on the waiting list). The deadline for conference and hotel cancellation is July 10. ■

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## Maritime Camp Meeting — *What Really Counts*

July 24 to August 1 at Pugwash Campground



**Daniel Bookhun**  
Pastor,  
Ontario  
Conference



**Lowell Bock**  
Associate  
Secretary,  
PARL, Pacific  
Union  
Conference



**Merlo Bock**  
Lecturer,  
Pacific Union  
Conference



**Dale Galusha**  
Director,  
*Signs of the  
Times*



**John Howard**  
Coordinated  
Ministries  
Director,  
SDA Church  
in Canada



**Paul Lehmann**  
Professor/  
Director,  
Outward  
Pursuits,  
CUC



**Oliver Lofton-Brook**  
Executive  
Director,  
ADRA Canada



**Orville Parchment**  
President,  
SDA Church  
in Canada



**Larry Richards**  
New Testament  
Professor,  
Andrews  
University



**Andrea Steele**  
PR and  
Development  
Director,  
AWR



**Myrna Tetz**  
Managing  
Editor,  
*Adventist Review*



**Robert Lehmann**  
President,  
Maritime  
Conference

## Alberta Camp Meeting — *Remembering the Past — Imagining the Future*

July 3 to July 11 at Foothills Camp



**Bill Johansson**  
Editor,  
*Adventist  
Review*



**Brian Leavitt**  
Canadian  
University  
College  
Representative



**Orville Parchment**  
President,  
SDA Church  
in Canada



**Ben Maxson**  
Stewardship  
Director,  
General  
Conference



**Gerard McLane**  
Program  
Director,  
Lifestyle Center  
of America



**Kathryn McLane**  
Registered  
Nurse



**Leroy Moore**  
Teacher/  
Administrator,  
Lavoy  
Missionary  
College



**Leo Ranzolin**  
General Vice-  
President,  
General  
Conference



**Tennyson Samraj**  
Professor,  
Canadian  
University  
College



**Willard Santee**  
Pastor,  
The Dalles,  
Oregon



**Ron Schafer**  
Canadian  
University  
College  
Representative



**Randall Wiseby**  
Canadian  
University  
College  
Representative

### Divisions:

**Earliteens:** Mark Witas, Chaplain, Mount Pisgah Academy, North Carolina

**Young Adult:** Ian Hartley, Pastor, Red Deer, Alberta

**Youth:** Alex Bryan, Pastor, New Community Church, Georgia



## British Columbia Camp Meeting

July 24 to August 1



**BJ. Christensen**  
Assistant to the President for Administration, North American Division



**Lowell Cooper**  
Associate Secretary, General Conference



**Hans Diehl**  
Founder/Director, Lifestyle Medicine Institute



**Dr. & Mrs. M.A. Fargo**  
Billings, Montana



**Henry Feyerabend**  
Speaker/Director, *It Is Written*, Canada



**Dan Jackson**  
President, Manitoba/Saskatchewan Conference



**Gerry Karst**  
Administrative Assistant to the President, General Conference



**Kay Kuzma**  
President, Family Matters, Family/Child Development Specialist



**Brian Leavitt**  
Canadian University College Representative



**Nola Pal**  
Treasurer, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Canada



**Gary Patterson**  
General Field Secretary, Mission Awareness, General Conference



**Tennyson Samraj**  
Professor, Religion and Philosophy, CUC



**Ron Schafer**  
Canadian University College Representative



**Leo Schreven**  
Evangelist, Amazing Facts



**Randal Skoretz**  
Associate Pastor, University Church, Loma Linda, California



**Dan Stapelton**  
Pastor, Salmon Arm/Silver Creek Churches, British Columbia



**Ranko Stefanovic**  
Professor, Theology Department, CUC



**Lee Venden**  
Senior Pastor, Auburn Academy Church, Washington



**Morris Venden**  
Associate Speaker, Voice of Prophecy



**Randal Wiseby**  
Canadian University College Representative

## Newfoundland Camp Meeting — *Every Day with Jesus*

July 20 to July 25 at Woody Acres Campground



**Steve Chavez**  
Assistant Editor, *Adventist Review*



**Dave Crook**  
President, SDA Church in Newfoundland and Labrador



**Gary DeBoer**  
Associate Treasurer, General Conference



**Will Eva**  
Editor, *Ministry Magazine*



**Paul Lehmann**  
Professor/Director, Outward Pursuits, CUC



**Oliver Lofton-Brook**  
Executive Director, ADRA Canada



**Marvin Moore**  
Editor, *Signs of the Times*



**Kermit Netteburg**  
Assistant to the President for Communication, NAD



**Orville Parchment**  
President, SDA Church in Canada



**Jerrold Ritchie**  
General Manager, Eastern Canada Adventist Book Center



**Jim Ryan**  
Dean of Men, Kingsway College

**Jack Baier**  
Secretary/Treasurer, SDA Church in Newfoundland and Labrador



## Manitoba/Saskatchewan Camp Meeting — *Embrace the Cross*

July 3 to 11 at Camp Whitesand



**Roy Adams**  
Associate  
Editor,  
*Adventist  
Review*



**Lloyd Erickson**  
Director,  
Counseling and  
Testing Center,  
Andrews  
University



**Don Jacobsen**  
President,  
Adventist  
World Radio



**Fitzroy  
Maitland**  
Pastor,  
Toronto West  
SDA Church



**Orville  
Parchment**  
President,  
SDA Church  
in Canada



**Philip  
Samaan**  
Editor,  
Adult Sabbath  
School  
Quarterly



**Ranko  
Stefanovic**  
Professor,  
Canadian  
University  
College



**Don Upson**  
Treasurer,  
SDA Church  
in Canada

## Quebec Camp Meeting

July 14 to 18 at Val d'Espoir



**Nilton Amorin**  
President,  
Quebec  
Conference



**Monique  
Auguste**  
Canadian  
University  
College  
Representative



**Marvin Moore**  
Editor,  
*Signs of  
the Times*



**Leo Ranzolin**  
General Vice-  
President,  
General  
Conference

**John Graz**  
Director,  
Public Relations,  
General Conference

**Hector Jurado**  
Secretary,  
Quebec  
Conference

**Norman Miles**  
President,  
Lake Region  
Conference

**Robert Olson**  
Retired  
Minister

## Ontario Camp Meeting — *Jesus Christ: Hope for the Next Millennium*

July 2 to 5 at Kingsway College, Oshawa, Ontario



**Audley Allen**  
Youth Pastor,  
Toronto,  
Ontario



**Henry  
Feyerabend**  
Speaker/  
Director,  
*It Is Written*,  
Canada



**Pedrito  
Maynard-Reid**  
Walla Walla  
College



**Derrick  
Nichols**  
President,  
Ontario  
Conference



**John Nixon**  
Oakwood  
College SDA  
Church



**Carolyn  
Osmond**  
Canadian  
University  
College  
Representative



**Randall  
Wiseby**  
Canadian  
University  
College  
Representative

**Terry Johnson**  
Youth Pastor,  
Washington, D.C.

**Into the Light**  
Music Group,  
Canadian University College



**Announcements**

**The Oliver SDA Church 50th anniversary** is scheduled for June 27 and 28. All former pastors, teachers, and members are invited to attend this special occasion. For further information, contact Annemarie Klatt at RR 1, S-48, C-4, Oliver, BC V0H 1H0, or phone 250/498-3700.

**Church dedication:** The Ottawa West Seventh-day Adventist Church would like to invite all former and present members to join in our celebration services on the weekend of July 10-12, 1998. Questions? Contact 613/728-8178, or E-mail OttawaSDA@compuserve.com.

**Fifth Anniversary celebration of Apple Creek SDA Church** (formerly Agincourt) in its new building, June 26-29. Everyone is invited to join the celebration events: an agape feast on Friday; a special Sabbath School program; divine service with Harold Baptiste, executive secretary of the North American Division; and a Sunday picnic on Centre Island in Toronto. For more information, please contact Dr. Errol Lawrence, senior pastor, Apple Creek SDA Church, 700 Apple Creek Blvd., Markham, ON L3R 7X9, E-mail errola@pathcom.com.

**Births**

**Jordan Emanuel Bissell Graça** was born in Oct. 16, 1997, to Kay and Pedro Graça of Lower Sackville, N.S.

**Trevor Brian Murray J. Hawthorn** was born on Mar. 26, 1998, to Tanya (Greer) and Brian Hawthorne of Oshawa, Ont.

**Joy Elizabeth Loxdale** was born on Jan. 14, 1998, to Glenn and Denise Loxdale of Hubley, N.S.

**Sarah Dawn Nichols** was born Jan. 18, 1998, to Michell and Andrew Nichols.

**Joshua Manuel Daponte Raposa** was born Dec. 18, 1997, to Gabriella and Robert Raposa of Terrace, B.C.

**Weddings**

**Martha Lucier and Bradley Boehner** were married July 20, 1997, in Windsor, Ont., and are making their home in Killam, Alta.

**Karie Lynn Kluss and Nelson Daponte** were married Apr. 5, 1997, in Terrace, B.C., and are making their home in Terrace.

**Leonie Bunker and Shelby Goertzen** were married Sept. 7, 1997, in Hope, B.C., and are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif.

Leonie is the daughter of Norman and Linda Bunker of Chetwynd, B.C.; Shelby is the son of Ron and Jan Goertzen of Aldergrove, B.C.

**Marilyn Zinner and Mark Griffin** were married on Aug. 22, 1997, in Boring, Ore., and are making their home in College Place, Wash.

**Heather O'Neill (Latoski) and Allen Guglich** were married Jan. 24, 1998, in Banff, Alta., and are making their home in Redwater, Alta. Heather is the daughter of Terri Lang of Beiseker, Alta., and Allen is the son of Mike and Olga Guglich of Redwater.

**Obituaries**

**Hulda (Hilda) Berreth** died Feb. 19, 1998, at the age of 91. She was predeceased by her husband Emil, daughter Vivian Tolsdorf, and son Wesley Berreth. Surviving: son Arnold (Pat) Berreth; daughter Adeline (Seborn) Bradley; seven sisters and two brothers; 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

**Bessie Coffin** was born Dec. 9, 1904, in Phillips Head, Nfld., and died Mar. 18, 1998, in Borwood, Nfld. She was predeceased by two husbands, Theodore Budgell and Norman Peckford, son Percy, daughter Pearl, stepson Raymond, and stepdaughter Louise. Surviving: husband George; sons Fred Budgell, Allen Budgell, Theodore Budgell; daughters Doris (Dot) Wall, Delcie Boone, Gladys Budgell, Beatrice Wells, Rowena Reid, Florrie Norman, Bernice Hall, Phyllis Lewis, and Effie Carrol; stepsons Stephen Coffin, Claude Coffin, Ephrim Coffin, Arthur Coffin, and George Coffin, Jr.; stepdaughters Mary Humphries, Jessie Sheppard, Joan Sheppard and Thelma Dawe; and 71 grandchildren.

**Norman Corney** died Mar. 5, 1998, in Dartmouth, N.S., at the age of 87. He was predeceased by his wife, the former Jennie (Sands) Oickle. Surviving: stepsons Peter and Victor Oickle; stepdaughters Anne Bone, Linda Harvard, and Mary Whitworth; and stepgrandchildren.

*(As far as we know, the stepchildren of Norman Corney do not know of his passing. If anyone is acquainted with the members of the family, would they kindly inform them. Thank you.)*

**Florence Duffett** was born June 21, 1908, in Cottrell's Cove, Nfld., and died Feb. 15, 1998, in St. John's, Nfld. She was predeceased by her husband Robert. Surviving: son Jim (Valda); two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**Merle Flowers** died Feb. 22, 1998, in Perth-Andover, N.B., at the age of 80. Surviving: wife Angie (Tomlinson); son Ronald (Karen) of Takoma Park, Md.; daughter Cheryl

(Keith) Falcao of Catonsville, Md.; brothers Preston (Mavis) of Aroostook, N.B., and Lowell (Carolyn) of South River, Ont.; sisters Dora Elliot of Lanham, Md., Golda (Jim) Smith of Carlingford, N.B., Inez Flowers of Toronto, Ont., Donna (Urban) Turner of Carlingford, N.B., and Schylor (Fran) Turner of Big Stone Gap, Va.; and four grandchildren.

**Angus Foulston** was born Jan. 18, 1906, and died Feb. 8, 1998, in Central Butte, Sask. Surviving: wife Sheila; son Don (Sharon) of Eyebrow, Sask.; three sisters and three brothers; and one granddaughter.

**Jeffrey Richard Duaine Huether** was born Sept. 19, 1957, in Peace River, Alta., and died Jan. 22, 1998, in Calgary, Alta. Surviving: wife Paula of Calgary; children TJ, Derrick, and Kalyne of Calgary; parents Richard and Ruth Huether of Beiseker, Alta.; brother Wesley (Kathy) of Lacombe, Alta.; and sister Tammy (Jim) Kostrosky of Vernon, B.C.

**Lily MacBay** was born July 25, 1908, in St. John's, Nfld., and died Mar. 2, 1998, in St. John's. She was predeceased by her husband Thomas. Surviving: daughter Ruby (Cliff) Fifield; two sisters; and two grandsons.

**Olive Mattson** died June 14, 1997, in Westbank, B.C., at the age of 96. She was predeceased by her husband Victor and son Alfred. Surviving: sons Lawrence of Penticton, B.C., Marvin of Langley, B.C., and Don of Spokane, Wash.; daughters Verna Jacobson of Victoria, B.C., and June (Norman) Lewis of Winfield, B.C.; 25 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

**Cora McBay** died Feb. 27, 1998, in St. John's, Nfld. Surviving: sister-in-laws Amy McBay and Margaret McBay; cousin Elsie Cornick; and nephews and nieces.

**Irene Georgie Paisley** died Aug. 8, 1997, in St. John, N.B., at the age of 88. She was predeceased by her husband Herbert and her son Edson. Surviving: sons Herbert, Jr. (Carol) of Stettler, Alta., Darrell (Dorothy) of Westfield, N.B., James (Vivian) of Westfield, and George (Barbara) of Browns Flat, N.B.; and daughters Noreen Thorne of Brown's Flat, and Lorraine (Bob) Popik of Edmonton, Alta.

**Olive Perkins** was born in 1909 in Michigan, and died Feb. 7, 1998, in Victoria, B.C. She was predeceased by her husband James. Surviving: daughters Patricia (Warren) Benson and Phylis (John) Broomhall of San Francisco.

**Raymond (Ramon) Ranck** was born in Puerto Rico, and died of cancer Jan. 27, 1998, in Rosswood, B.C., at the age of 41. Surviving: wife Michele; daughter Michele

(Mar Y Sol); stepson Guillaume; mother Edna Torres; father William Ranch; sister Edna Sarah; and brother Billy.

**Millie Saylor** was born Aug. 10, 1942, in Lacombe, Alta., and died Dec. 1, 1997, in Ponoka, Alta. She was predeceased by her daughter Vaughn. Surviving: husband Les Saylor; daughters Melody Petersen of Grande Cache, Alta., Jacqueline Belk of Kansas City, Nebr., and Lenora Kidwell of Walla Walla, Wash.

**Anna Thiessen** was born Feb. 3, 1907, in Winkler, Man., and died July 7, 1997, in Falkland, B.C. Surviving: husband Jacob of Falkland; son Audie; daughters Evelyn, Myrtle, Elvina, Bernice, Marian, and Franny; brothers Henry and Jake; sisters Kate, Mary and Elizabeth; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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**Deadline**

September issue: **July 2**  
October issue: **August 3**  
November issue: **September 1**

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# The Messenger Asks

## What sort of senior citizen would you like to be?

... a sanctified saint. At this advanced age, considering all (or some) of my sanity years were spent “appropriately,” I must have already been persuaded that “God loves me no matter what” and that “all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.” (Romans 8:28)

Hence, as I secure myself in the hollow of His hands, my senior years will retire into a trusting relationship with God. To augment this process, I look forward to do the following: settle in a simple abode, dispose “unnecessary” gadgets but keep my library, stereo set and music tapes (religious and some good classical), a good pair of running shoes and recipe books on vegetarian cooking (and a grandmother by then, hopefully). Then on to years of volunteering work, dotted with a few trips here and there. No rocking chair, no soap operas, no popping of pills. God willing, I’m out there working for Him till Jesus comes.

**Evelyn Regoso**  
*Toronto, Ontario*

I’m far from being a senior citizen yet, but when I reach that age and Jesus has not come, by God’s grace and mercy, it is my hope that I would remain faithful to Him, and be as healthy and strong as I am now. By the time I have reached that age, I would have liked to have met the challenges in life, gained wisdom and knowledge to pass on to my grandchildren, tell them stories and be bonded with them. I would like to continue to be a useful citizen, helping my church and my community doing voluntary works. I would like to pursue the things that I put off while rearing my children, working full time, and being both a father and a mother to my children. I’d like to pursue my interest in oil painting, crafts, carpentry, sewing and other interesting hobbies. As adventurous and missionary-minded as I am now, I’d like to be able to do mountain climbing and parachuting. I would love to travel the world and visit missionary lands, learn about the people,

learn about their different languages and cultures. I would like to be financially independent by then so I’d managed to do all these things and also I will not be a financial burden to my children or to my church or to the government. So part of my retirement plan is to invest in RRSP’s during my earning years. While we are counseled to lay up our treasure in heaven, where no rust or moth corrupts, (through our tithes and offerings), it is also a must and a reality to think and save for our good old age days.

**Norie Perez**  
*Scarborough, Ontario*

Tomorrow is always fresh, and has no mistakes in it. But all we have are yesterdays, lots and lots of them. Yes, I am just a whisker away from senior citizen, but not the armchair variety. I expect to keep busy. I have the honor of caring for my disabled husband, and volunteer at the local food bank, been given the privilege of church librarian, as well as the challenge of going back to school.

At Selkirk College, I take courses that prepare me for a writing career. The courses have English grammar, reporting, editing on the computer and life skills exercises. I hope and pray the articles I write will always be helpful and never hurtful. My concerns are for the elders of our community and across the nation. Ignored health problems, petitions to food companies to supply a selection of foods for additive sensitivity, is my project at the moment.

God has blessed me with a talent, and when I have done my best to develop it, will His will be done? The next step is to use the developed talent to His honor and the good of all. Tomorrow is very important to my Cameron and I. Because of his illness, we take one day at a time, we never plan farther, so tomorrow is our new beginning. “We’ll try again, it may work better tomorrow.”

**Margaret Corbet**  
*Grand Forks, B.C.*

Most people don’t consider themselves seniors until they collect a pension; since I’ve been doing that for ten years, then I qualify. The above question predisposes that I could improve, and I would agree.

As long as I’ve lived, the Word has had a claim on my life (and on yours), and in spite of my delinquent ways has turned me towards the foot of the cross many times. Since the above question is bordering on confessional, I should like to be more like Jesus and do the will of my heavenly Father rather than let my own will interrupt my days.

Every stage of life has adjustments. This old world does not get better as it ages, nor do we; our genes carry the traits of many generations of delinquents but we have choices to make that direct our path and our focus. Herein lies the crux of living, to daily hear the name of Jesus, to know and do God’s will, and to discipline each day through commitment and prayer.

God planned me to be me, stayed by my side when I went my own direction and guided me to safe havens. I know this same Companion will strengthen all the days of my life. Senior? Not really, just a child of God and by His grace an ageless citizen in the kingdom of God.

**Helen Thorne**  
*Newcastle, Ontario*

Each month the Messenger poses a question to readers, inquiring about your experiences and viewpoints.

September issue (deadline — July 2)  
**Which community services (both Adventist and non-Adventist) in your town have benefited you and how? (Names withheld on request.)**

October issue (deadline — Aug. 3)  
**What do you do for recreation? (Laundry doesn’t count!)**



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