For Richer or Poorer

More Than Beads and Feathers

The Multicultural Church of Jesus
The Multicultural Church of Jesus

How do we feel about this multicultural flavour of our church?

They were just a few in the upper room; uneducated, from the same ethnic group, speaking the same language, with a very parochial mentality. Yet their master had cast a great vision for them — to “go to the whole world and make disciples of all nations.” In the book of Revelation, this vision is broadened to include “every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people.” Revelation 14:6 No one on this planet was to be excluded. This vision implied an action — Go. It required an intentional movement to reach out to other people. It also implied overcoming prejudices.

Prejudices are bidirectional. They encompass our own and other’s biases. The Jewish nation had prejudices about other people. As Jews, the apostles were first to overcome their own prejudices before they could help individuals from other nations overcome theirs. They also needed to adapt the message in such a way that it would be grasped by those with different world views. It was not an easy task for them. They had to face their own biases in accomplishing this mission. Some were more successful than others. Peter, reluctantly and in a rather awkward manner, was the first to reach out to the Gentile world. Paul followed suit and later became the apostle to the Gentiles.

Eighteen centuries later, the small group that came out of the great disappointment was once again challenged by the same gospel commission. After struggling with the early “shut door” view, they were faced with the mandate of Matthew 28:18-20 and Revelation 14:6. How could anyone fathom that these few individuals, with limited education and financial resources, could reach out to the whole world? From a human perspective, this was an impossible mission. So they rationalized that they had in their own country (U.S.A.) people coming from different nations, and by reaching them, they were reaching out to all nations. Fortunately, that short-sighted and distorted view was soon corrected, and the gospel commission was taken at its face value. Soon, missionaries were sent out and today our church has reached many nations, tribes, tongues and peoples. We can boast of a multiracial, multiethnic, multi­tongued, 11 million member church that continues to grow. Although the mission is a long way from being accomplished, one can marvel at what has been accomplished thus far.

Canada is a country of immigrants. Thousands of individuals — Adventist members among them — immigrate every year to Canada. Some of these Adventist immigrants form ethnic churches with the purpose of reaching out to those of the same ethnic or language group. Immigrants face similar challenges — a different language (for some), a different culture, a different world view, and the loneliness that comes from being far away from family and friends. To be accepted in the Canadian society, and to ultimately break through the job market, is a challenging task.

Language is a major barrier for some. Others, by lack of recognized degrees or Canadian experience, have a tough time entering the job market. Many are victims of prejudice, their own and others’. These factors make immigrants crave for acceptance, and the church provides that ideal place where they find a sense of belonging. Immigrants, in general, and recent immigrants, in particular, are usually more open to the gospel than nationals. Because of their need for acceptance, they are often a field ready for the harvest.

The SDA Church in Canada reflects the multicultural dimension of this country. In developing countries, the church has a more uniform face. Immigration has brought a rich multicultural flavour to the church in Canada. However, the question still remains: How successful have we been in reaching out to immigrants in this country? How do we feel about this multicultural flavour of our church? Do we embrace it joyfully as a miniature of what Jesus wanted His church to be, or shun its diversity and feel threatened by its rapid growth? The GC Session in Toronto provided not only the true face of the Adventist church, but the realization of Jesus’ vision for His church. There is beauty in diversity. The multicultural church in Canada is the miniature version, and the GC Session in Toronto was an enlarged version of Jesus’ final triumphant church. The God of diversity awaits to hear from the sea of glass the choirs of the redeemers singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. In that choir there will be people from “every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people.” Jesus’ vision for the church will be realized. The few in the upper room have become the “great multitude” of Revelation.
For Richer or Poorer

by Beverley Connors, vice-president of CHER Board of Directors

It is customary, and sometimes useful, to refer to persons geographically — Finns or Aussies, Sri Lankans or Tongans. But since everyone gifted with life shares the same basic DNA, it might be helpful to sweep away all geo-political designations, and call us Terrans, Earth People, Third Rockers.

It is habitual, and sometimes useful, to refer to persons economically, as rich or poor, the haves and have-nots. But since everyone gifted with a glimmer of God shares the humbling certainty that all are His and all is His, it might be helpful to sweep away all economic designations and call us by a relational term — brothers and sisters, members of the family, kin.

The Old Testament is full of urgings that God’s people “do justice.” What that means, at bottom, is that we try to make this planet a more level playing field, where what the “haves” actually have is an opportunity to know real joy by serving as conduits for the grace of God.

CHER (Children’s Health, Education and Relief) is a group of “civie Sevies,” lay persons working through Adventist mission structures to make a difference in young lives. There is a lovely flow between those in need and those who know their need to help.

Juli is a 7-year-old Bangladeshi girl. In her picture, she stands at attention, with her toes pointed straight ahead. Her teachers describe her as good in her studies and regular in attendance, but a mischievous child, with spark and spirit. This is encouraging, a small wonder, for her parents are illiterate and numbingly needy. Her father is an occasional labourer who cannot provide for his family each day. Juli’s application for CHER sponsorship had this poignant note from the assessing caseworker, “Sometimes (the family) spend the whole day by starving.” Juli is fortunate that a Canadian family finds joy spending $20 a month on this child, guaranteeing her education at a church school where she receives one nutritious meal a day, and all her school supplies.

A Sabbath School class in Alberta pools an offering and gives a break to a youngster in Sri Lanka. This boy’s family has deposited him at Lakpahana School, as into a safe deposit vault, to escape the random political terrorism that plagues the region. He is learning a better way, that transcends the cycle of revenge and violence.

Alejandro, a Bolivian boy now 12 years old, began to misbehave after his mother died. Lured to life on the streets by older boys, he began taking drugs, which were readily available. His father found him and brought him home, but physically abused him, which made him run away again. This pattern was repeated over several years, until he came to the attention of a worker at Cerenid, a CHER-sponsored outreach which takes street kids to a safe haven in a rural setting. There they receive schooling, a chance to learn a trade, and loving bandages for their wounded and reckless hearts. Alejandro doesn’t have a sponsor yet, but the school director hopes that someone will want to play a part in reclaiming this hurt child who is just learning to read and write at an age when most North American children are as fluent as their parents.

In Mexico, a father abandons his children on city streets, but a government worker has heard of the remarkable work of Hogar de Refugio Infantil Villa Juarez, an Adventist orphanage run by Bob and Annette Mason of Peachland, B.C. Today the children live there, and have a good chance at a positive future.

In Saskatchewan, an elderly couple whose children are grown, write to a little girl in a remote village in the Philippines, and the ties that bind grow longer and stronger.

2 Corinthians 9 has a lot to say about attitudes toward other Terrans, other members of the family. The Message paraphrase gives a new zing to the old familiar phrases, jolts and tenderizes hearts that are weary from the bombardment of the out-stretched hands of the poor that we have with us always. Listen. “I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind about what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.”

What an exciting thing to be part of a group that spans the globe, and runs havens of acceptance and learning, of nourishment and health. Have you ever watched the heart-rending ads for World Vision on TV and thought, “I wish my church had a child sponsorship program?” Good news! It does.

For information, write CHER Canada, Box 31012, 1300 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 8N9, or E-mail childhealth@idirect.com. Phone 905-434-7474.

For Richer or Poorer
More than Beads and Feathers

by Linda Calderbank, co-chair, Canadian Native Advisory, and principal of Mamawi Atosketan Native School in Ponoka, Alta.

During the recent General Conference Session, I had the privilege of being one of the hosts to the many visitors who stopped by our Native Ministries booth. As part of our display, our booth featured a miniature tepee. I was taken aback at the number of visitors who came by and asked, “Do Indians still live in tepees?” or “How do they live in these in winter?” or “Where’s your Indian outfit?” I couldn’t help but think, “What is the perception of Indian people to our church members?” Do they see us only as “beads and feathers?” Are we perceived as savages? Ignorant? Helpless? Less intelligent because we’re Indian. I began to reflect back on some of the incidents I’ve encountered over the years, and I have to admit that there have been times when I’ve been placed in one or more of these categories. I recall being asked one time, “Why do we bother trying to Christianize the Indians when most of society has given up on them?” I also remember that when our school was located on the reserve teachers asked, “Are we safe here?”

First of all, Indians do not live in tepees. They live in ordinary houses like other people. Their tepees are used primarily for special gatherings such as pow wows. Secondly, Indian people dress like most other people. We don’t limit ourselves to leather, beads and feathers, although some of the outfits of old were very attractive.

I’m not sure how the use of the word “savage” came into play. I do know that historically native people welcomed their white brothers. Many tribes had prophecies that told of the coming of the white man. If Indian people had been savages, many white people would not have survived the harsh environment of this land in the new world. Indian people taught their white brothers winter survival techniques, such as how to boil the bark of certain trees to stave off scurvy. Native people have contributed much to the development of this country, but there is very little that is known by the dominant society of these contributions.

Ignorant and dumb? Many of the early missionaries and government agents expressed just that in their travel journals. What really was happening was an inability to communicate, primarily because of the difference in languages. Many Europeans could not understand the nomadic lifestyle of most tribes and saw them as drifters, lazy and unproductive. Yet Indian people played a very significant role in the fur trade. You could not be lazy and survive in that environment.

Are the Indian people hopeless? I think not! Should we bother trying to Christianize them? Most definitely! When Christ decided to come to earth, He must have looked down and saw despair and hopelessness, but He came anyway knowing the price He would have to pay for the salvation of mankind. If Christ didn’t see mankind as hopeless then we have no right to look upon another people group as hopeless. It is our responsibility as Christians to go out and tell others about Christ, but it needs to be done in a kind, loving and sensitive manner. I thank God that the missionaries that converted my ancestors didn’t see them as hopeless.

How does prejudice enter our lives? Why do we judge others on the basis of their ethnicity, gender, or beliefs? When you watch children play, there is no prejudice. At the age of four or younger, children play without concern if their playmate is red, yellow, black or white; Jew, Catholic or Adventist; male or female. It seems that when a child enters school awareness of our differences begin to surface, and discrimination and prejudice arise making it a learned behaviour.

I find most often that prejudice and misunderstanding of other people groups generally comes from ignorance of that groups’ culture. Not knowing the other persons’ norms and values within their culture makes us more prejudiced in our views of other people. We often try to minister to people from our values, and not the values of the people we are attempting to reach. I have encountered many principled and honourable Indian people in our cities and on our reserves. Unfortunately, we most often hear only about those
that have problems. Sometimes all it takes to overcome our prejudices is getting out there and talking to the people, listening and trying to understand each others' values. I believe that through education and awareness of another person's culture, we can overcome prejudice.

Indian people have suffered greatly at the hands of “Christians.” The missionaries and the church played a major role in the Indian losing their land, their culture, their language and their way of life. The goal of the governments was to assimilate the Indian into the white culture. The church and the missionaries had a direct role in the process of assimilation. Churches made deals with governments in exchange for special considerations. Often the methods used by these groups were not Christ-like. We who work in Native Ministries today have this legacy to deal with when we go out into our native communities. Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, the Indian people numbered 12 million or more on this continent. By 1900, Native Americans made up approximately 1 per cent of the North American population. This reduction in numbers was a direct result of diseases, such as smallpox, brought by the Europeans.

The Bible tells us that in the eyes of God we are all equal. God is no respecter of persons. He loves each of us the same. He wants us to love one another with the same kind of love He shows us. Remember that no matter what you may experience at the hands of others, God is a witness. We can change people's views and attitudes by rising above ignorance and prejudice, and not allowing ourselves to be drawn into situations that put down or treat others in a prejudicial way.

Christ's unconditional love should help us fight against prejudice that tries to come into our lives. An old Indian saying is: “Never judge another man until you have walked a day in his moccasins.” In other words, don’t be quick to draw conclusions about someone from another people group until you know what they have to endure each day. Please pray for us who are on the front lines of this very worthy ministry.

The author and Kitty Maracle, attired in native dress, enjoy a few moments of relaxation between the crowds at the Native Ministries booth at the recent GC Session

Please remember the Native Ministries offering on Sept. 30 which helps to support the native schools and provides resources to the conferences for the native work.
It was the summer of 1899. Walter Black and Charles Williams, two Seventh-day Adventist colporteurs, were faithfully and methodically knocking on doors in Tucson, Arizona, searching for folk who would be interested in buying the books they carried in their bags. As they approached the home of Marcial Serna, pastor of the Mexican Methodist Church, they had little idea of the impact this particular visit would make in the lives of a number of families in this area.

Marcial invited these two men into his home and listened as they expounded on the material they had set before him. When they approached the subject of the Sabbath, Marcial at first became defensive, but being an honest Christian and open to God’s leading, he eventually accepted this truth. By December, Black and Williams had 15 people ready for baptism and requested that someone be sent to baptize the group. R. M. Kilgore of the General Conference responded to the call and boarded a train for Sanchez, Arizona.

When Elder Kilgore arrived, he met with the baptismal candidates and found them all firmly grounded in the truth. Arrangements were made for a baptismal service, and on December 9, 1899, a cold but sunny afternoon, Kilgore led the baptismal candidates to the bank of the Gila River, where one by one he immersed them in the chilly waters. Pastor Marcial Serna was the first one into the Gila for his spiritual burial and resurrection to a new life in Christ as a Seventh-day Adventist. On December 23, the Sánchez Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially organized, becoming the first Spanish SDA Church in North America. And Pastor Serna became the first Hispanic pastor.

This is, in brief, the beginning of a success story. From these small beginnings in Arizona, the Adventist Hispanic work has continued to grow and prosper until now, 100 years later, their number exceeds 100,000 members in the North American Division. Hispanics make up 13 per cent of the total membership, and had 23 per cent of the baptisms in the Division. At the end of 1998, they had 655 churches and companies and 421 pastors. They are among the most active and involved members in North America. And it is still an unfinished story. The end will be told in Heaven!

Centennial Celebration Activities
The celebrations were varied and took place throughout the year. On February 27, in Sánchez, Arizona, Hispanics had the main celebrations with representatives from the state of Arizona, the General Conference, the North American Division, the local fields and many special guests. Three historical markers were dedicated to honour the efforts of those first Hispanics who responded to the Sabbath teaching of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Sabbath services and the services held in the afternoon at the Sánchez cemetery were trilingual. They were held in English, Spanish and what we would describe as “Spanglish.”

Fabiola Jaramillo was the first Hispanic to be baptized in Canada (Feb. 1973)

As part of the celebrations of the 100th anniversary, other events took place throughout the year. From July 27–31, the Hispanic pastors throughout North America met at Atlantic Union College to plan their soul-winning strategy for the next quinquennium. Aggressive evangelistic
plans were made, and everybody left feeling spiritually motivated to follow through this programme of action.

For our Hispanic brethren, there is no better way to celebrate than doing soul-winning. They determined to do preaching during the anniversary year using Heaven-sent technology. From September 11 – 25, they conducted the Hispanic NET 99 involving all the pastors, churches and members of the division. Thousands of baptized souls were presented to the Lord as a result of this outreach.

Every member who participated in the NET 99 crusade will receive a copy of the 300 page, fully illustrated book on the history of the Hispanic work in North America. Our colleges, institutions and local fields throughout North America will also be presented with a copy.

Spanish Work in Canada Growing
In Canada, there are fewer Spanish-speaking people than in the other Unions of the North American Division. Yet the number of members is growing in a marvelous way. In February 1973, at the Portuguese church in Toronto, the first Hispanic members were baptized. The first Spanish church was opened in May 1978. Today, a few years later, we are glad to report that there are 21 congregations (churches, companies and groups), 11 Hispanic pastors and 1,295 members in the Hispanic churches. In addition, we have a number of Hispanic attending English-speaking churches where we don't yet have Spanish work established. In the past, the Canadian Union had an average of only 60-70 Spanish baptisms per year. But in the last two years, by the grace of God, 242 new members were added to the family of God, making these the best years of the Hispanic work in Canada.

“It was shown to me that the Spanish work will be at the ‘vanguard’, and will be in the front of the Lord’s work in North America.” These are the only words that we have from Ellen G. White in reference to the Hispanic work, and they were directed to Jose Abel Sánchez, one of the sons of the first Hispanic Adventist members in this division. It seems that this prophecy is being fulfilled 86 years later. The Hispanics in the Canadian Union praise God for what He has done for them. At the same time, they want to commit themselves to do their best in finishing the work the Lord has entrusted us all to do.

“It was shown to me that the Spanish work will be at the ‘vanguard’, and will be in the front of the Lord’s work in North America”
I remember the day I was born. It was noisy and hot.
Shuffled along with millions of my brothers and sisters, I reached the stamp of no return, and voilà, I was officially created, complete with the queen's insignia.

It was only a couple of days before we were all moved to a financial institution. They took really good care of us here, allowing only a few of us to be given away at a time. Eventually, my turn came. I was stacked into an automated machine and eagerly awaited the adventures ahead.

One day, I got bumped down and ejected out of my resting place into the real world. I barely had a chance to look at my new owner as I was carelessly stuffed into a crowded pocket. A little shocked, I was overwhelmed by the cigarette smoke in the vehicle as we drove through the city. This wasn't how I envisioned living out my purpose in life. Later that evening, I got thrown on a gaming table. Aghast, I tried to hide my crumpled body in shame, but to no avail. I lay there exposed until the game was over and I had a new owner.

This time, I was put into a wallet. We drove home and I was placed on a table. In the middle of the night, however, my sleep was disturbed by a child's crying. "She's got a fever; we've got to get something," I heard. The wallet was tucked into a coat pocket, and later, I was blinded as I was pulled out as payment for some children's medication at the pharmacy. I spent the rest of the night locked in a drawer. The next day a woman became my new guardian. She seemed troubled by a lot of stress.

I was taken to a church and counted out with more of my relatives. We were sent to a bank, and we waited there for awhile. One day, without warning, we were transferred to India! I couldn't believe it. I never envisioned international work in my career. This was a whole new, exciting experience for me.

Soon I learned that I was to be put into a bank again, but a very different kind of bank. This was an ADRA bank. After eavesdropping on a few of the workers that came around, I learned that ADRA — the Adventist Development and Relief Agency — was offering loans to people who didn't have access to objects such as myself. We would be given to individuals to help them start a new chapter in their lives, and eventually, we would be returned so that we could help somebody else.

I thought that was pretty useful instead of sitting in a slot machine in Las Vegas. Here I was helping people to improve their lives dramatically.

My first Indian owner was a woman named Rheena. Over time, I learned her story. She had two small children and no husband. He abandoned her, and she was left trying to take care of herself and the two little ones. At first she begged on the streets for help, but that didn't get her very far. Then she met someone from ADRA who wanted to help her. She enrolled in classes, and learned to read and count. Then she decided she would start to raise cows, but she needed help. That's how I came into the picture. I helped her get her first cow, and she worked very hard to take care of "Bessy." Every morning she checked up on her, and soon she was selling extra milk and butter at the market. The children are really growing now that they have nutritious milk in their diet.

Rheena gave me away as a church offering, and again, I was sent to work for ADRA. This time, I ended up in the Middle East. In Jordan, I helped to purchase some medicine for physically challenged children. They can't run and play like other boys and girls, and their families struggle to take proper care of them. But with ADRA's help, these children are living more comfortable and useful lives than before.
After Jordan, I ended up in a place called Nicaragua. Here, even though it's been more than a year and a half since the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Mitch, nearly 5,000 people are still living in refugee camps. This time I helped to buy materials to build homes for families, to get them out of the dusty camps and back into a normal house.

Through ADRA, I've made a difference all over the world. I've helped immunize children in Mexico, provided blankets and food to single moms in Canada, brought water to thirsty people in the Philippines, and I've helped teach children how to read and write in Africa. I never would have been sent on this adventure if it had not been for the ADRA Annual Appeal, a fund-raising campaign done once a year, that keeps on giving and giving all year round.

Today, we live in a "global village" — interacting and interdependent with people who are hundreds of thousands of miles away. But in the midst of all this technological advancement, there are still people who live in stunning poverty — on less than $1 a day. Working in over 120 countries around the world, ADRA is bringing hope to others. With water, food, medicine, and most importantly, education, ADRA is touching and enriching the lives of millions of people.

In September 2000, the ADRA Annual Appeal will be officially launched once again. With your continued and generous support, we still aim to reach a goal of $1 million. Through this campaign, ADRA continues to provide assistance and love to people in desperate plights of poverty. The list of needs goes on and on, while ADRA’s funding does not. Please help ADRA help. Your support and prayers go a long way in touching the lives of millions with a glimpse of Jesus’ love. Together, we can make a difference...one life at a time.

In the words of Dr. Bruce Larson, “Money is really another pair of feet to walk where Christ would walk; money is another pair of hands to heal and feed and bless the desperate families of the earth. In other words, money is my other self. Money can go where I do not have time to go, where I do not have a passport to go. My money can go in my place and heal and bless and feed and help. A man’s money is an extension of himself.”

How Your Donation Helps

ADRA conducts a fund-raising campaign every year; 46% of the funds raised by this drive is utilized for ADRA programs overseas. Ten percent is allocated for administration and the remaining 44% is used in Canada for community service programs and disaster response.

Admin: 10%
Canada (Community Services and Disaster Response): 44%
Overseas: 46%

Last year, Canadians contributed $721,037.59. Of this amount, $317,266.54 was allocated for ADRA Canada's national program, while $331,677.29 was used for programs overseas.

Since 1978, ADRA Canada has received funding from CIDA, the development branch of the Canadian government. Since 1989, CIDA has funded ADRA Canada on an annual matching grant basis. Last fiscal year, ADRA received $1,030,106.00 from CIDA.
The Extra Mile:  
Helping Newcomers on and off Campus 

by Preston Smith

CUC’s “new neighbours” come in many guises. They may be a student from outside Canada or an immigrant grappling with a new culture. CUC faculty, staff and students are continually finding new ways to reach out with a welcoming, helping hand.

CUC Reaches Out to Tamil Community in Toronto

The 200,000 Tamils who live in Toronto are a special concern of Dr. Deva Doss, Professor of Mathematics at CUC. For Doss, a Tamil himself, helping the new immigrants – most of them refugees from Sri Lanka – is one of his priorities.

Thrown into a culture very foreign to them, they are, Doss finds, adrift and often confused, with little hope. “They are buying into the North American junk culture,” said Doss, who in the summer of 1999 began a ministry among them with the help of one of his CUC students, Johnson Washington, who came to CUC from Sri Lanka three years ago.

Washington’s Catholic brother, Homahan, a local Tamil celebrity, helped publicize the math camp the CUC duo conducted to give Tamil youth an academic leg up. Both brothers have been accepted into the Crossroads Christian Broadcasting TV broadcasting training program that takes place in Hanover, Germany, for three months. This excites Doss, for as he said, “People are not reading books.” Upon completion of the program, Doss and the Washington brothers plan to prepare videotaped chapters of Daniel. Already, 12 chapters have been dubbed into the Tamil language, which they consider a huge step towards reaching the people. “We have to meet them where they are,” Doss says.

Plans for this summer are focused on Bible studies in the Tamil community. A former employee of NASA, Doss looks forward to taking Tamil teenagers to the NASA space camp in Huntsville, Alabama this summer. “We are looking for something other ministries aren’t doing to excite people about our ministry,” Doss says.

Doss is spending the summer in Toronto. He is involved in a series of Bible studies in the book of Daniel with several different groups, and is working with a charismatic leader of four different congregations totalling around 500 people. He studies with a pastor of a Pentecostal church who has around 60 people in his congregation, and this past school year held a Sabbath morning session with anywhere from eight to 12 people, and another evening session with 10 to 14 more. All of this transpires mostly over the phone. During the year, Doss spends 10 to 15 hours a week on the phone in Tamil Bible studies.

While Doss sees opportunity to work among the Tamils, he wants to make it clear to them that he isn’t trying to make an opportunity out of working with them. “We want to demonstrate Jesus’ love,” Doss says, “love that expects nothing in return.”
CUC Student Selected for International Christian Broadcasting at Expo 2000

Pre-engineering student Johnson Washington has been given a full scholarship in an interdenominational media training program this summer and will be spending part of the summer doing TV production at Expo 2000 in Hanover Germany.

The Geoffrey R. Conway School of Broadcasting and Communications, affiliated with McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., offered the scholarship to Washington and his brother, Homahan, based in part on their evangelistic work among the Tamil community in Toronto (see story preceding page). The mission of the Conway School is to provide professional training in media to international Christian students, preparing them for active evangelism from an indigenous base.

The brothers are two of only six individuals selected to help with TV production to be broadcast in six languages to all continents from the Expo Church in Hannover, Germany during the Universal World Exposition 2000 being held from June 1 to Oct. 31. Johnson Washington will be in Germany from July 21 to early September.

CUC Student Video Chosen in Anti-Racism Commercial Competition

An anti-racism commercial written by CUC pre-law student Kris Samraj, and featuring CUC students, has been selected as one of the top 10 submitted to a competition sponsored by the Central Alberta Diversity Project in Red Deer.

The commercial, which aired March 14 on Shaw cable, stars some of Samraj’s friends: Debbie Leavitt (CUC music student), Asher Handy (CUC education student), and alumnus Ravi Chokka (Red Deer). RDTV, the local TV station, aired the top four finalists as voted by Shaw viewers. Samraj

Director of Admissions’ Story Aired on Province-wide Radio — Lorna Samraj, Director of Admissions, entered a story in a Christmas story contest organized by CKUA Radio this past winter, and was one of 10 finalists whose stories were aired on Jan. 1, 2000. Her story, “Woe Christmas Tree” recounts her Christmas as a student away from home at Spicer Memorial College when she was 13, and can be read at CUC’s web site in the Real Stuff Web Exclusive section www.cauc.ab.ca.

Student Soloists Provide Sabbath Concert — A mid-semester concert by students Eiko Oka (organ), Glen Graham and Crystal Sayler (voice), and PAA high school student Stephanie Wombold (organ) provided a special Sabbath rest for lovers of live sacred music. See the Web Exclusives section of CUC’s web site www.cauc.ab.ca for the story of how Oka, one of the foreign students at CUC, came to study biology (and organ) at CUC from Japan.

In Brief

Kris Samraj, anti-racism script writer

Debbie Leavitt, Asher Handy, and Ravi Chokka during taping at RDTV studio

Eiko Oka of Japan at CUC’s Casavant pipe organ, made possible by the gifts of many music-loving donors and alumni
The Next Step: Fulfilling CUC's Strategic Plan

Parent Wins $58,000 in Grants for Students and Crusades for Ontario Funds

CUC's strategic plan calls for more and innovative involvement with its constituency in making Christian education affordable. Bob Switak, father of a CUC student, took up the challenge in a lengthy David vs. Goliath battle with the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education — and won.

This March, the Ministry reversed its earlier decision to provide Canada Millennium Fund Scholarships only to students studying within the province of British Columbia. Switak, who lives in Sidney, B.C., and whose son, Daryl, is a biology major at CUC, appealed the original policy at several levels. As a result, 18 CUC students from B.C. who meet the federal fund's criteria will be receiving $2,316 to $3,536 each toward their CUC education this year.

Encouraged by the ruling, Switak also fought on behalf of Ontario students as well. In June, Ontario provided notice to CUC that its students from Ontario are now eligible for provincial loans and grants, as well as the Millennium Fund grants. For his efforts, Switak has also earned hero status among CUC students, faculty and staff.

Alumni Fun Fest, Oct. 20-22: Canadian University College and Parkview Adventist Academy invites all alumni, attendees and friends to this special weekend. For more information or to sign up for the hockey tournament, please call the Alumni Office at 403/782-4481, ext. 4010.

Canadian University College
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“Jumping on opportunities to serve others is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done.”

Scott Sackett, Denver, Colorado
B.Ed., Junior High Education and two-year diploma in Adventure-based Counselling, CUC and its partnership Union College education program, Spring 2000; Teacher Grades 3, 5, 6 and 7, Level Land Junior Academy, Beiseker, Alta.

An avid snowboarder who was attracted to CUC’s location and the Outward Pursuits program, Scott came to CUC for the adventure — but he stayed for the education. He was impressed by the solid academics and the money he saved by getting his Adventist education in Canada. To fulfill part of his Outward Pursuits requirements, Scott volunteered with at-risk kids at Lacombe Outreach School.

There he did a lot of things: helped teenagers who’ve given up on traditional school with their assignments; planned out-of-the-ordinary PE activities based on his OP courses; used his experience as CUC’s student newspaper editor to help them get their own school paper going.

But when the class requirement was fulfilled, Scott stayed on at LOS to let some troubled local kids know that he cared. As a student, Scott was also Rock Wall Supervisor, making sure that students and community groups alike learned safety as they enjoyed the sport of rock climbing. He and his wife Kerry (nee Grabo, who teaches Grade 2 at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy) led CABL (Collegiate Adventists for Better Living) for three years at CUC. They did much to help the organization grow into a thriving, exciting example of how SDA health and lifestyle principles enhance rather than hamper a fun and abundant life. Because that’s what the gospel is all about, and that’s important to Scott and Kerry.”
Focus on Health — Health Wise
by Raymond O. West, M.D., M.P.H.

Care to Shed a Pound or Two?

Long time readers of Health Wise will remember our “200 Club.” Some of you have joined as fans. We’ll tell you of all the benefits in just a paragraph or two. But first —

Yes, it’s true, our society has sired a veritable epidemic of obesity. Almost one in four of us is just plain too roly-poly. Maybe it doesn’t sound so bad if we say rotund. Or better yet — plump. But no matter the adjective, when body mass exceeds the ideal, there’s big trouble ahead. Like diabetes and high blood pressure. Or heart attacks and strokes. And arthritis. Would you believe, even some kinds of cancer?

And why is it that so many of us have bulges where we want curves? Answer: Listen now, it’s so simple as to be unbelievable. It’s because we dine on more calories (read that “food”) than we can burn off. If we can’t burn off a 550 calorie “Big Mac” our body chemistry turns it into fat and deposits it on the hips or abdomen or under the chin. There it lodges until we consume it with exercise. Sure, we can do that. It takes about one and one half hours of brisk walking to dispose of a Dairy Queen shake.

So here is where the 200 Club enters the slender-now scene. Let’s agree that a loss of 20 pounds would bring us close to perfection — clear up the depression, free up a closet full of too-tight jackets, dresses, pants and skirts and bring the blood pressure down to normal. We’ll go for it. We’ll join the club.

Two simple things to do: Eat 100 calories less each day. Walk (or swim, bicycle or paddle your canoe) off another 100 calories each day. Believe it or not, we will lose about ½ pound of fat weekly. That’s a big 20 pounds per year or more. We will hardly miss the food and the exercise will firm up muscles and clear the cobwebs from the cranium. It will. We can count on it. Doesn’t it sound easy? Too simple to be sane? Nope. But it does need one more ingredient and that’s commitment.

With that triad, one can’t miss. And as long as the commitment lasts, so does the now normal weight. Want to lose 60 pounds? Plan on a three-year stint and a trim figure forever.

Don’t we need some liposuction here and there? No. How about some staples in the stomach or wires to clamp the jaw tight-shut? Unnecessary. Some pills perhaps, to quell the yearning for food? Probably not indicated for we will hardly miss the calories. That’s not to say that we want to give up a good appetite. On the contrary, we can still enjoy our hunger for good food.

A Caution: Your doctor should know your reducing plans. She or he will have gobs of sound advice.

Want to try the 200 Club? Join up and give your bathroom scales a big surprise. ■

Crazy for Cantaloupe

Which celebrated summer fruit also happens to be one of the best for you? Carotenoid-rich cantaloupe. Cantaloupe is one of the few fruits or veggies that boast not only vitamin C, but beta carotene as well. Both of these are antioxidants — compounds that have been shown to fight cancer, heart disease, and other age-related illnesses. Half of a cantaloupe provides 5 milligrams of beta carotene — half the amount you need each day — and more than your daily fill of vitamin C. In addition, cantaloupe is chock full of potassium, which helps lower the body’s LDL (bad) cholesterol levels and protects against high blood pressure.

Carotenoids are vitamin-like substances found in fruits and vegetables. Over 600 carotenoids are found in foods, the best known being beta carotene. You can spot carotenoids by the red, orange, and yellow color they impart to foods such as tomatoes, carrots, and apricots. Also, carotenoids are plentiful in dark green, leafy vegetables such as spinach, broccoli, and kale.

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New Treasurer for Alberta Conference

The Alberta Conference is pleased to announce that Carolyn Russell Osmond has accepted their invitation to become conference treasurer. Carolyn is a certified Trust Officer and a graduate of Atlantic Union College. She has a background in Canadian denominational service as a business education teacher with Kingsway College for 13 years, as Business Manager of Kingsway College for 11½ years, and as Vice President for Financial Administration at Canadian University College for 4½ years. Carolyn also taught business education at St. Patrick’s High School in Halifax, N.S. for four years.

Carolyn is married to Aubrey Osmond, a former principal of College Park Elementary School, in Oshawa, Ont., and of Sandy Lake Academy in Bedford, N.S. Aubrey later taught math, science and industrial education at Kingsway College for 15 years, and is currently Director of Plant Services at CUC.

The Osmonds have one daughter, Kristi Langlois, a certified Search and Rescue Technician/Instructor, and one granddaughter, Kaely Langlois, 7.

While the Osmonds are both proud to be Newfoundlanders, they consider Oshawa to be their home base, having studied and lived there for over 30 years. They have also become very fond of Alberta, particularly its “... friendly people, big sky, immense fields and magnificent mountains.”

Carolyn has thoroughly enjoyed her work with CUC’s board, administration, faculty, staff and students, and highly recommends the university college. She is equally enthusiastic about her new appointment and looks forward to a successful partnership with the administration and membership of the Alberta Conference.

On a historical note, it is believed that Carolyn is the second woman to act as treasurer of the Alberta Conference, preceded by the appointment of Stella B. Lowry as the first secretary-treasurer of the conference when it was formed in 1906.

Children’s Choir from Maskwachees

The Children’s Choir from the Maskwachees SDA Church performed at the Native camp meeting and at the Alberta Conference camp meeting. These precious children, under the direction of Jeanie Spratt and Jodi McCoy, love to sing and entertain. This past school year, for the first time, the children that attend the church program came to the school program. As a result of this, children that have been attending the school program came to the church program. It has been a true melding of the two ministries — something we have long been praying to have happen.

Parkdale Youth Pianist Wins Scholarship

Heather Atagan, leader of the Parkdale SDA Church music department, left on Aug. 18, 2000 for a four-year scholarship to Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J.

In the past, Heather and a group of young people in the church were instrumental in a number of fundraising programs, which included organizing a carolling group at Christmas time.
Last year, this group presented an outstanding program called “Let All Heaven Rejoice” which was a poignant portrayal of Jesus’ time in Jerusalem, evoking a stirring and emotional response from the audience.

With her God-given talent and leadership abilities, Heather has been an inspiration to a number of prospective pianists and leaders. Her notable contributions and dedication have been greatly appreciated by the leaders of the church, the parents and, most of all, by the young members of the Parkdale Church. Heather will be missed, but we know that God will continue to bless her as she uses her zeal and talent in His service. ■

by Chris Elias, Calgary Parkdale SDA Church

Alberta 2000 Camp Meeting Features Ordination/Commission Service

“Lead On O King Eternal...” expresses the heart of the ordination/commissioning service for Alberta 2000. Carolyn Macomber and Lew Wiegel were recognized by the church with the laying on of hands to serve in the gospel ministry. Both have demonstrated God’s call to ministry and have shown the fruit of their labour.

Members whose lives had been impacted by the ministry of these pastors were on hand to testify in word and song. Leslie Pollard, Vice-President for Diversity at Loma Linda University, gave the ordination sermon with the prayer of consecration offered by the conference president, Frank Tochterman. Norman Yergen, general secretary, gave the charge to the candidates.

Alberta Conference continues to lead North America with its innovations in lay leadership, policy governance, natural church development and the highest percentage of women in ministry in the division. We, as conference officers, pastors, teachers, and lay leaders are working side by side to finish God’s work. “Lead On O King Eternal...” ■

Second Oldest Church in Alberta Re-erected and Rededicated

The early Harmattan Church, the second church to be built in Alberta, was re-erected over the past few months at Alberta’s Foothills Camp in Bowden. It was rededicated in its new location at camp meeting, August 2000. A great amount of the considerable work in re-erecting this little church was done by Wolfram Hackenberg, the camp caretaker, and Aaron Petersen, as well as the Nazarene minister, Timothy Kirby, along with a few other capable volunteers.

The church, which was built sometime between 1902 and 1906, has been relocated from the small town of Harmattan, which is about 10 miles west and three miles south of Olds, Alta. After most of the Adventists moved away from this area, the church was sold to the Nazarenes in 1939 who have owned it until it was bought again by the Adventists in 1998. On the same property where the church stood was a small log church school and a cemetery. Although the log building was used for a chicken coop for years and then removed, the cemetery is still maintained by the Nazarenes, and Adventists are invited to use the cemetery for burials. The Carlson family were members of this church and efforts are being made to learn more of its history from members who have photos or information. Robert Strand was a student in the little church school, and the first teacher was Miss Reid.

The church has been restored to typify, as much as possible, the original early 1900s structure. The Nazarenes have made available much of the old furniture, and even the communion table and accessories have been placed in the church. A prominent location was chosen for the church on the camp ground, and it is affectionately known as the “little white church at the edge of the woods.”

On Friday night, Aug. 11, after the evening meeting, people gathered at the church for a candlelight dedication service. Pastor Frank Tochterman, the conference president, conducted the service, and Timothy Kirby was invited to speak briefly. After the service, each person carried their lighted candle out into the darkness, symbolically taking their light into all of Alberta, and all of the world. ■

by Irma Hartley
B R I T I S H  C O L U M B I A

Grade 5 Student Places 2nd in NAD Healthy Lifestyle Contest

Sara says, “I hope that people will listen and not take drugs so they can be healthy.”

Congratulations to Sara Sutherland, a student at Island Pacific Adventist School, who entered the Student Health Lifestyle 2000 Contest sponsored by the NAD Health Ministries and Education departments. She prepared a power point presentation detailing what being healthy means to her. She won the second place prize of US$150 in the Grade 5-8 category. The school benefited as well, with a matching US$150 for various projects. Sara would like to see the money go towards a new music room or more PE equipment. For her own winnings, she plans to give some of it to a mission project. Sara says, “I hope that people will listen and not take drugs so they can be healthy.” We are very proud of her accomplishment.

IPAS Walks Around the World

On June 5, 2000, all students of Island Pacific Adventist School participated in a worldwide event to draw attention to drug awareness, to raise money for drug education, and to promote a drug-free lifestyle. The students and teachers walked 10 km around a local lake, carrying placards promoting our belief that a drug-free lifestyle is the way to go. They raised $543 in support of this cause.

Correction: In the article, The History of A Committed Life, which appeared in the April issue of the Messenger, the correct telephone number for Russell Schultz is 250/558-1834.

M A N I T O B A / S A S K A T C H E W A N

Gulf States Youth Outreach Comes to Mamawi

If you could dream up something grand for your church and/or school, what would it be? Remodelling? A community service project? A special Vacation Bible School? Enthusiastic, missionary-minded youth and adults who are willing to tackle anything? Well, sit back, turn on your imagination, and mix together all of the above mentioned components. The result is a modern day miracle!

We at Mamawi Atosketan Native School and the Maskwachees Church Company in Hobbema, Alta. were privileged to observe this miracle taking place from July 13-22, 2000. A big, glamorous bus from the southern United States transported 28 youth, 12 adults (pastors, cooks, a nurse, an engineer, crafts director, and other talented sponsors), and two children to our area. They planned to remodel our kitchen at school, paint lockers, walls and trim at the school; enclose the school secretary’s reception area; paint the church we rent in Hobbema; hold a full-scale Vacation Bible School for the children of Hobbema; and do whatever else they could find time for.

All their planned projects, plus a few others were completed. The kitchen is unbelievable, the lockers look splendid, the little church has a new look, and the VBS was a smashing success!

The crowning activity was a Sabbath church service and feast for all – First Nation children and their families, the U.S. visitors, and any other friends who could attend. After the food was cleared away, the bus and assorted vehicles loaded up for a rendezvous with God at a secluded lake nestled in the hills. All disembarked and headed...
for the lakeshore. Songs of praise ascended to heaven as Carissa Northwest, a precious 12-year-old from Hobbema, followed Pastor Frank Johnson into the water and was baptized. Carissa has attended our children's church for over two and a half years and Mamawi Atosketan Native School the past school year. Amidst songs, tears, congratulations and hugs, she started her new walk with Jesus.

Too soon we had to depart this hallowed moment. The Hobbema residents had to bid farewell to the U.S. "angels of mercy" and now best friends, and return to their homes. After sunset, amidst much scurrying about, straightening up of classrooms where they slept, and final packing, the bus was boarded, the engine roared into action, the bus turned southward and the prairies of Alberta became memories in the darkening night.

Later, we were informed that one of the girls, Jennifer DeLaughter, from the United States, was so inspired by the baptism she witnessed that she too wished to be baptized. Somewhere along the 3,000 mile trip home, the big bus paused and Jennifer was baptized. Also, we were presented with a four and a half page poem of memories composed by these wonderful missionaries from the U.S.A. A big thank you to Lisa and Crystal Johnson and Jamie Lee Arnold from our area who joined the youth team in this outreach.

Please pray for each of them as they venture for Christ, and also for us as we continue in ministry to the First Nation peoples.  

by Jodi McCoy

First Cree Pastor Ordained

History was made on July 29, 2000 when Daniel Guiboche was ordained to the gospel ministry. Daniel is a Cree Indian from Grand Rapids, Man., and is the first native to be ordained to the work in Canada.

The ordination service was held at Camp Whitesands near Theodore, Sask. Karen and Brian Hawes, as friends and mentors, presented Daniel and his wife, Gina, to the congregation. Pastor Ed Dunn, a longtime friend to the Guiboches, gave a thought provoking sermon with timely advice for Daniel as he was welcomed to the ministry. Daniel has been a pastor for Opaskwayak Cree Nation/The Pas and Grand Rapids area since graduating from Canadian University College in 1994. He and Gina have four children: Tyson, Tannis, Danette and Daniel J.

This past winter, Daniel and Gina had nine baptisms as a result of a crusade in their area. They plan to host another crusade in the fall of 2001. A second cooking school is scheduled for August 2000, and a children's church program is in the planning stages. A community outreach centre is also in the works, and Daniel is hopeful that the funds for this building will be in place shortly. They are also committed to pioneering work on Opaskwayak Cree Nation, a reserve next to The Pas, Man. The Adventist message is unknown to these people, and we need to pray for Daniel and Gina as they work for the Lord in this very worthy ministry.

Daniel hopes that the Opaskwayak Cree Nation will be only the beginning of a work that desperately needs advancing. There are many First Nations People throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as well as the rest of Canada, who have not even heard the name Seventh-day Adventist. Daniel is grateful to the Man-Sask Conference and Daniel Jackson, president of the conference, and to former president, Lester Carney, for taking on the vision of the Guiboches to spread God's work to other First Nation...

The Adventist message is unknown to these people...
Peoples throughout northern Manitoba and Canada. Daniel eventually wants to expand the work from Opaskwayak Cree Nation to the surrounding First Nation communities through personal evangelism. He sees himself presenting God’s last message to the First Nations People in northern Manitoba.

This ordination may be a first, but surely not the last of other committed couples who are able to catch the vision of a finished work among the native people.

**ONTARIO**

**GC Session Souvenir Post Cards**

A number of months ago, a committee was established by the Ontario Conference to plan for an exhibit at the 57th Session of the General Conference to be held in Toronto. Members of this committee were Dirk Zinner, Chair; Mary Lou Teop, Secretary; Elaine Bernard, Adam Bujak, Carmen McLeary, Cyril Millett, Milton Perkins, Alvin Ram, and Mike Savatovich. As this energetic committee proceeded with its mandate, it envisioned that souvenir postcards depicting events at the session would be an excellent feature, especially when we knew that the Adventist stamp by Canada Post would be a reality.

This put in motion plans to produce three full-colour postcards with the first card to be available when the session opened, and cards two and three available by mid-session. Thanks to the co-operation of Maracle Press this was accomplished, and very quickly these became a popular item for visitors at the Ontario Conference exhibit booth. These cards were even sold by several souvenir shops in the vicinity of the SkyDome and Convention Centre.

Further information on these post cards may be obtained from the Communication Dept., Ontario Conference of SDA, 1110 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8.

**One Perfect Storm**

The area was dry, in deep need of rain. A storm would be great! A small cloud formed in the distance; it had been building for 18 months. This was no ordinary prairie or maritime storm, nor was it one coming from south of the Canadian border. This storm started somewhere in the South Pacific and quickly headed our way. The storm was about to break, but for where and when was it forecasted? Amazingly enough, the exact date was revealed. It would be on June 22–27, 2000, and the location was the Six Nations Reserve in Ohsweken, Ont. The forecast called for a strong wind with lots of rain, followed by sunshine. But what type of a storm was this? It was one that North America had not heard of. It was STORM Co — a perfect storm.

STORM Co is an acronym for Service to Others Really Matters. The STORM Co manual states that “STORM Co is a youth initiative of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organized under the banner of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). STORM Co’s mission is to send teams of trained young people to work for, learn from, and encourage individual communities, sharing God’s love by building bridges to all peoples through an adventure in service to others.” This adventure in service has been precipitating in Australia for eight years. More than one adventure in service team goes out on a mission each year.

Wherever God opened a door, the Holy Spirit blew in and performed endless blessings

The teams often combine community service projects and a Kids’ Club, adjusting to the unique needs of a community. STORM Co originally targeted Aboriginal communities in Australia, but has since ventured as far away as Africa and, most recently, North America. Because of the success and rapid growth of this service program, the STORM Co Toronto 2000 trip aimed to work
closely with Canadians to share this dynamic program with North America. The Australian team of 20 adopted four Canadians to energetically serve the Six Nations Reserve in Ohsweken.

The forecast was accurate in terms of the wind. It turned out, however, to be a lovely warm wind that brought comfort to all as it wrapped itself around each person standing in its path. The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit as a wind, and its presence was there constantly opening doors along the way.

One of the opened doors at Six Nations was the local radio station that interviewed some team members, and broadcast the interview to the community residents. Daily announcements were also made of STORM Co’s program held in the Veteran’s Park.

Another door opened as the press readily interviewed several STORM Co team members. Two newspaper articles featured STORM Co in North America’s foremost native weekly newspaper, Turtle Island.

An unexpected yet delightful door that opened was a meeting with the Band Council Chief Wellington Staats for an informal history lesson. The community service ministry helped senior members on the reserve by cleaning their windows and walls, doing yard work, such as mowing the lawn and weeding, and performing house-cleaning chores.

The Kids’ Club ministry involved the native children in face painting, clowning, crafts, sing-a-longs, drama, and puppetry. Daily themes taught friendship, trust, obedience, forgiveness and love. It became obvious to us that the more we freely gave to the community, the more they responded in giving. One of the highlights that resulted from the program included a warm reception by a community resident who brought over some traditional soup as a gesture of appreciation. It wasn’t long before others followed their example. Many of the services at the reserve, such as the police department and fire department, generously distributed souvenir pins to team members as appreciation mementos.

After the refreshing rainfall, the sun came out and shone on everyone’s face. It was difficult to tell whose faces shone brighter; the STORM Co team’s or the native residents’ — you see, we both gave; consequently, we both received and that was the beauty of service.

Wherever God opened a door, the Holy Spirit blew in and performed endless blessings. When God closed a door, we looked for a window and, sure enough, the Holy Spirit blew on through.

The storm consisted of water droplets, and each of the droplets formed together and created the rainfall. As for the rain, it fell steadily for the entire week just as forecasted. Each member of the team functioned as a water droplet, and poured out God’s blessings through their various forms of ministry.

God opened many doors, both at the week spent at Ohsweken, and the week spent at the General Conference Session. During the session, you may have seen an energetic group of young people wearing rugby-styled red, blue and cream striped t-shirts. If you did, then you were in the “eye of the STORM.”

Several countries and youth leaders at the GC Session eagerly expressed interest in having STORM Co teams service their communities. Many of these leaders have already begun planning for STORM Co trips in the future.

What made this a perfect storm? It was perfect because a perfect God decided when and where the rain fell. The Bible says that, “He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” Matthew 5:46

We are but droplets waiting for the master of the storm to tell us where to pour down His love. ■

by Davina Shaw, teacher at Grandview Adventist Academy
Clothing Drive for Needy Church Workers a Success

As part of the General Conference session, the North American Division took the initiative to make Sabbath clothing available to persons from developing countries.

The project was to include no cost, no duties and no customs. Persons from North America were to take an extra suit or dress in their regular luggage. Upon hearing of this special project some local churches became involved sending clothes to the session with their pastor. The extra clothing was deposited at specified locations, picked up, and taken to one central point for distribution to persons needing them.

The distribution point chosen was the Toronto Adventist Community Services (TACS) situated on 150 Bentworth Ave. in North York.

Dean Lashington-Francis, the executive director of TACS was responsible for the collecting and distribution of the clothing. Joyce Powell, the food bank coordinator, assisted Dean.

The clothing was collected at the North and South Building of the SkyDome. H-Racks for the display of the clothing was donated by the Goodwill store at Jarvis and Adelaide.

Volunteer labour was used to sort and hang the clothing. Youth colporteurs from the Canadian Youth Challenge and youth scholarship programs were the main volunteers. The clothing was displayed in the newly renovated section of the community centre.

Over 400 men’s suits were distributed on the first day of the project. By 1 p.m. on the second day of operation 850 suits were distributed, in addition to women and children’s clothing. Each minister took an average of two suits. Many took for colleagues and fellow ministers in their home country.

Pastors, pastors’ wives, teachers and lay preachers were the main persons to benefit. Each person took about eight pieces. Each day there was between 120 and 150 persons. The average number of pieces distributed, including women and children’s clothing, was 1,200 per day.

In addition to clothing donated by individuals, Ex-Toggery department store also donated. The TACS headquarters buzzed with taxis as scores of persons continuously left the centre taking back needed clothing to their hotels.

Clothing was collected using the TACS van and the private vehicle of the executive director. Thanks to John Skulech, Gary Nurse, and Pastor Pricely Francis for driving to and from the SkyDome for the duration of the project.

The project was a remarkable success. The days and hours of operation were extended to even after the close of the GC Session. The beneficiaries, from over 31 countries, expressed their gratitude in many ways. Letters of gratitude have come from as far away as Kenya Coast Fields.

The Toronto Adventist Community Services is grateful that it had the opportunity to be involved in such a needed and worthwhile project, and hopes the blessings received will multiply and be shared with others far and wide.

by Dean Lashington-Francis, Executive Director, Toronto Adventist Community Services

Eagles Fly Flag

The Eagles Pathfinder Club from the Immanuel Church participated in a flag-raising ceremony at Nathan Phillips Square to mark the opening of the 57th GC Session in Toronto. After the ceremony, the Mayor of Toronto, Mel Lastman, and GC president, Jan Paulsen, pose with the Eagles Pathfinder Club representatives (L - R) Ester Troya and Nathanaelle Normand.
Immanuel SDA Church Marks Its 15th Anniversary

The Immanuel Church shares a rich diversity of 42 nationalities, all working together for the growth, advancement and unity of the church. On April 28, 2000, it was an exciting day for the members and friends of Immanuel SDA Church as they celebrated their 15th anniversary.

The theme for the day was To God Be the Glory. Pastor Evert Potgieter, a former pastor of Immanuel Church, presented the sermon. The afternoon program featured a musical salute of various selections from Immanuel and neighbouring churches. The Bowmanville Bell Choir from the Bowmanville Church were special guests for this event. A reception brought the days events to a conclusion as members and friends renewed old acquaintances and friendships. To God be the glory, great things He hath done.

SDA CHURCH IN CANADA

More Personnel Changes at the SDACC Office

Brian Christenson — After more than 10 years as the Undertreasurer for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, Brian Christenson and his wife, Debbie, have left Oshawa to return to their hometown of Fredericton, N.B.

In addition to his work at the church headquarters, Brian served as treasurer of the Newfoundland and Labrador Mission for three years, business education teacher at Kingsway College for one year, and treasurer of the Ontario Conference for three years. Debbie has taught at College Park Elementary School for the past 13 years, part of that time serving as principal.

The Christensons have two children, Dr. Pam Callan, a graduate of Loma Linda University School of Medicine, who is currently completing a residency in Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia, and Peggy Payne who completed a MSc. Degree in Physical Therapy at Andrews University and is living in Georgia.

We wish Brian and Debbie God’s blessings as they begin this new phase in their lives.

Brent Burdick — Replacing Brian as Undertreasurer will be Brent Burdick who has been serving in Canada for the past three years as an auditor for the General Conference Auditing Service.

Except for the five years he spent with his family in Seoul, Korea, Brent lived and grew up in Collegegade, Tenn., and graduated from Southern Adventist University in 1997 with a degree in accounting. Brent does have Canadian roots. His mother, Doris Stickles, grew up in Oshawa, and his grandfather, Bert Stickles, was the treasurer of a number of Canadian organizations, including Canadian Junior College and the Ontario-Quebec Conference. As he has travelled across Canada for the Auditing Service, he has enjoyed following in his grandparent’s footsteps and meeting people who knew them.

Brent enjoys outdoor activities, especially hiking, travel and reading. He plays trumpet in a brass quintet, Strictly Brass.

We are pleased to welcome Brent to our office family.

Former GC Associate Director Accepts Presidency of Canadian University College

Dr. Reo Ganson has accepted the invitation to become president of Canadian University College for a second time. An alumnus of Canadian University College, Ganson previously served as its president from 1987-1991, and as a faculty member and administrator between 1980 and 1987. He takes up his presidential duties at the university college on September 1.

Ganson’s expertise as an education professional took him from the presidency of CUC in 1991 to the General Conference as Associate Director of Education. In this capacity, he co-ordinated the church’s accreditation of 102 of the church’s academic institutions world-wide, one objective of which was to promote parity of academic standards at a North American level. In 1997, Ganson accepted the position of president of the British Columbia Conference, the position he currently fills. He has also served as a junior high/high school teacher, professor of education, and as Director of Education for the Alberta Conference.
It was during Ganson’s first tenure at CUC that the university college obtained its degree-granting status from the province of Alberta. Ganson also served as one of the original members of Alberta’s Private Colleges Accreditation Board, which governs the accreditation of programs in Alberta’s private post secondary educational institutions.

by Lynn Neumann McDowell, Director of College Relations

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Meeting of Society of Adventist Communicators

Communication professionals and students in the fields of print, sound, video, TV, radio, illustration, or design are urged to attend the first meeting of the Society of Adventist Communicators in Silver Spring, MD, Oct. 19–22. To pre-register, call PlusLine at (800)SDA-Plus (732-7587). This is for writers, editors, photographers, videographers, producers, designers, media buyers, and all other communication practitioners and teachers, whether self-employed or employed by media, business, government, or church entities. Don’t miss this opportunity to network with other Adventist communication professionals from all over the country. And bring your business cards.

Hot GraceLink Synch

When something great is happening in the church, everyone ought to know at least something about it. And what better way to get the news than by seeing it—in church, in video format. Thanks to Adventist Communication Network (ACN) everyone will be able to stay abreast of developments.

September 16, at 4:30 p.m., ACN will broadcast a hot new CrossTraining program, GraceLink Curriculum. “This one-hour presentation follows a 5-10-15-20 format,” says Ray Tetz, co-designer of the new CrossTraining format. Tetz explains the 5-10-15-20 formula as follows:

5 minutes: of high-interest footage. Show this segment in church to let everyone know what is happening in the children’s divisions — and why.

10 minutes explaining GraceLink. This portion explains for the church board and others why your church needs to be getting the GraceLink materials.

15-minute walk through. Teachers and others who are interested to know what is coming will appreciate the added information about methods and materials shown in this section. You can invite them to stay for potluck and view this segment.

20-minute interview with a curriculum expert. This segment is for leaders and teachers, maybe even some parents, who may or may not have heard about the grace emphasis in Sabbath School and want a more in-depth treatment.

Between the first two segments, the video host suggests how to use the segments in orienting your church to the new emphases in Sabbath school.

Besides training children’s Sabbath school leaders, this ACN program will inform pastors, elders, and other local church leaders, as well as parents, of the curriculum changes.

Juniors are already excited about GraceLink Sabbath school programs. Next January GraceLink comes to primary, and the following year to kindergarten and beginner. Everybody at church should be aware of what is happening in the spiritual education of children if for no other reason than that they are all our children. Our spiritual future as a body will be in their hands.

Ask your pastor to be sure to tape and watch this show. Tapes of the show will be available at ACN by October 1. To order call ACN at 800/ACN-1119 or fax 301/680-6697.
You may be wondering why all the fuss to explain GraceLink. Recent research by Barna Associates shows that the years prior to age 14 are prime time for making a decision for Jesus. Children are eight times more likely to make the decision than are adolescents, and six times more likely than are adults.

Research into attitudes toward Sabbath school, as well as attendance records, pointed to the need for better materials and more interesting programs. But to really make a difference, leaders and parents need to work together to train children.

Keep the tapes on hand in your church training library. Every year new leaders and teachers are elected. They will need the orientation that the program provides. Be sure too that families joining your church have a chance to see the program. They need to understand the role of the home in the spiritual education of children.

by Noelene Johnsson, NAD Director of Children's Ministries


**GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**GC Session Media Coverage**

Many of you may be wondering what kind of coverage the church got in Toronto. Bettina Krause, news director for the GC, just got a report from a clipping service that tracked radio and television coverage of Adventists during the two-week period of the session. They found 41 stories. That doesn't include newspaper . . . and that only includes Canada. The NAD team handled media in the U.S. and are currently working to gather those newspaper, radio, and TV clips.

**P.R.E.A.C.H. Field Director for the Canadian Union Territory**

Elder Lawton G. Lowe has accepted the invitation of the General Conference Ministerial Association to be the Field Director for the PREACH Project in the territory of the Canadian Union Conference.

PREACH is a project of the Seventh-day Adventist Church offering Ministry magazine, other resources and seminars to clergy of other denominations.

“This innovative project was started by J. Robert Spangler and it has been a blessing to clergy of various denominations,” states James A. Cress, Ministerial Association Secretary of the General Conference.

Elder Lowe is available to meet with pastors, churches, and to accept camp meeting appointments.

Nikolaus Satelmajer, Associate Secretary of the GC and Director of the Project states that, “We are delighted that an individual with such broad experience in the church is willing to work on this project. While officially retired, he will be a blessing to the field.”

Elder Lowe can be contacted at: RR1, Site 3, Comp 33, 5163 Pine Ridge, Peachland, B.C., Canada V0H 1X0; phone: 250/767-3366; fax: 250/767-7213; E-mail: llowe@okanagan.net.

During the past several years, the PREACH Project has introduced the concept of providing seminars to Adventist pastors and elders and clergy of other denominations by satellite. One of the areas that Elder Lowe will be emphasizing will be signing up satellite downlink sites. There has been a significant increase of sites which are not Adventist churches or institutions.

**Legal Notice**

**ADRA, Canada Annual Meeting**

The ADRA, Canada Annual Meeting will be held on Fri., Nov. 24, 2000, from 8 a.m.–10 a.m. The meeting will take place in the board room of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada at 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, Ont.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect officers and board members for the coming year, to appoint an auditor, to consider possible changes to the constitution and by-laws, and to transact any other business that may properly come before the board. Each supporting constituent is invited and urged to attend.

Orville Parchment, Chair
K. Oliver Lofton-brook, Executive Director

*NB: The ADRA board members will meet from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. after the Annual Meeting concludes.*
These are just a few of the expressions teachers used to describe their experience at the first-ever North American Division K-12 Teachers Convention held in Dallas, Tex., August 13-16.

More than 6,000 teachers, school administrators, conference and union personnel, including family members, from the North American Division (NAD), along with special guests from outside the NAD, converged at the Adam’s Mark Hotel in Dallas for the largest gathering of educators in Seventh-day Adventist history. “The convention far exceeded our hopes,” says Dick Osborn, vice president for education at the NAD Office of Education. “Teachers left here feeling proud to be Adventist educators, realizing that they are part of a bigger system.”

Four years ago it was unanimously voted by the NAD Union Directors Education Council to host a division-wide teachers convention. During the initial planning stages, only about 4,000 teachers were expected to attend, but by the time of the event, 6,200 people had registered. Participants expressed warmth, enthusiasm and appreciation as they listened to 210 speakers who conducted 310 breakout sessions and eight special guests who gave presentations at general sessions and worship assemblies. And in the exhibit hall, nearly 100 exhibitors captivated the attention of teachers with educational materials for display and for sale, occupying 140 booth spaces.

Corrine Mazier, a teacher at Saskatoon Adventist Junior Academy, found the convention to be a very positive experience. “Coming to this conference has been phenomenal!” Mazier says. “It was so nice to meet with a group of educators and realize that I’m not the only teacher. I gained so much knowledge, and the convention helped me to see the importance of making Christ the center of the classroom.” Mazier was one of 327 teachers from the Canadian Union who attended the teachers’ convention. Thanks to the foresight of conference and union administrators, who began planning for the convention three years ago, the total expenses of every teacher in the union were covered, including food, transportation and lodging. “We wanted all of our teachers to benefit from this experience,” says Mike Lekic, director of education for the SDA Church in Canada.

Sunday night’s opening session set the tone for the meetings with a keynote address to educators by General Conference president Jan Paulsen. “Three idols in the modern
world are wealth, education and therapy,” Paulsen said. “Therapy has its place, but what has happened to God, to prayer, to Bible study? The fact is that none of the three [idols] can, in of and themselves, provide us with healing for our broken world and broken lives... True education looks first of all to God. This is the antidote to making education an idol.”

Challenging teachers to equip students both professionally and spiritually, Paulsen admonished them to consider carefully the sacred work that has been entrusted to them. “You teachers are my fellow ministers,” he said. “You have a trusted role because of the special material placed in your hands. You are entrusted with the task of forming it. You give the material its character. You help it to discover both its value and its usefulness.”

Also addressing the large gathering of educators during the opening session was special guest Joe McTighe, executive director of the Council for American Private Education. “Adventist schools are a vital part of the private education community,” McTighe remarked. “I am in awe of your energy and spirit, and I have a deep respect for the commitment you bring to your noble work.”

Three eminent general session speakers inspired the attendees. Dr. Harry K. Wong, one of the most sought after speakers for Adventist education, challenged educators on how to become a successful and effective teacher. Besides giving more than 3,000 presentations to a half-million people, almost one million copies of his book, *The First Days of School*, have been sold. Dr. Leland Kaiser is a consultant and university professor and one of the world’s leading futurists, working with corporations, health care and education. A dedicated Adventist layperson, he focused his futuristic eyes on Adventist education in the 21st century with provocative, passionate ideas that stirred the thinking of each listener. Dr. William Glasser, one of the most influential thinkers in education for the past three decades, focused on the characteristics of quality schools. Worship speakers were Dr. Bailey Gillespie, Director of Hancock Center for Family and Youth Ministry, La Sierra University; Dr. Joan Coggin, former head of Loma Linda University's cardiology team to 13 countries around the world, and presently Special Assistant to the President for International Affairs, LLU; and Dr. Calvin Rock, General Vice President, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The convention’s theme, “The Call, The Challenge, The Commitment,” was the brainchild of Bill Reinke, associate education superintendent of the Michigan Conference, whose theme was selected as the winner among 200 entries in a theme-writing contest. When asked to reflect on his theme, Reinke commented, “As I thought about a theme I realized that teaching is more than a job, more than a profession — it is a calling. We are called to lead children to Jesus Christ.”

A highlight of the opening session was the unveiling of the newly-published book, *True Education*, a modern adaptation of Ellen G. White’s classic volume, *Education*. James Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, and Bob Kyte, president of Pacific Press Publishing Association, presented a copy of the book to Jan Paulsen, and provision was made for every convention attendee to receive a complimentary copy. Nix assured the audience that no changes have been made in the principles expressed in the original publication; only the language has been updated.

Evident during the meetings was a spirit of prayer and consecration. A special season of prayer, led by Ruthie Jacobsen, NAD prayer ministries coordinator, and Trevan Osborn, a sophomore theology student at Columbia Union College, invoked the blessings of God, not only during the meetings, but for teachers and students during the upcoming school year.

One of the most typical sights was of people renewing old acquaintances. “I’ve seen people here that I haven’t seen in years,” was a frequent comment among attendees. Hugs and warm greetings were a regular part of convention activities, as well...
Adventists made on hotel and networking and exchanging ideas. Teachers realized that they’re not alone, but part of a larger worldwide educational system. Most important, many who attended expressed that they felt affirmed in their ministry. “We had such a feast of talented presenters to remind us why we chose to be teachers and just how important that commitment is,” expressed one participant.

Also impressive was the positive impact that the large gathering of Adventists made on hotel and convention staff and the local Dallas community. Mercy Little of the Dallas Housing Bureau, who worked closely with convention planners to arrange hotels for convention participants, told Dick Osborn that the Adventist group is the nicest one she has ever worked with. “I don’t know much about your church,” Little said, “but the way your people have been with me makes me think about joining your church.” This is just one of many such praises from others who interacted with convention participants.

Tuesday evening marked another historic event for the Adventist church — the largest formal banquet ever held in the church’s history. A total of 5,400 persons were served by 240 waiters who accomplished the task in a mere 45 minutes. “Educators can learn a lot from the service industry,” master of ceremonies Dick Osborn commented.

Honored at the awards banquet for their years of involvement and distinctive service in Adventist education were Frederick Stephan, who received the Medallion of Distinction, and Paul Kilgore, Erma Lee, Melvin Northrup, Beverly Rumble, Gerry Thompson, and Don Weatherall, who received awards of excellence. Also recognized were Tom and Violet Zapara, whose generous donations have funded numerous $1,000 cash awards to teachers who demonstrate excellence in education. Over the years the Zapara awards have amounted to more than 1.5 million dollars to Adventist educators. The stage overflowed as more than 400 former Zapara award recipients gathered around the Zaparas in their honor.

The convention climaxed with a commitment response, written by Dr. Denise Herr, Professor of English at Canadian University College, in which teachers read responsively indicating their response to the call, challenge and commitment to involve themselves in the lives of students and parents and to live a life of service to Jesus Christ. Newly-elected North American Division president Don Schneider gave a stirring message, reminding teachers that their true work is that of a missionary. Citing personal examples, Schneider said that his greatest expectation of Adventist educators has always been that they would help facilitate for his own children (and others, as well) a personal relationship with Jesus. “It’s [education] not about school boards, discipline and grades. It’s about leading children to Jesus Christ,” Schneider admonished teachers.

“Make a prayer list. Put every kid in your room on it,” he continued. “We have not one dime to spend in the Adventist church for any teacher who is not a full-time missionary. Will you do it?” he asked. “Will you be God’s messenger to bring boys and girls face to face with Jesus?”

FOUR YEARS OF PLANNING went into this convention. Was all of the work and expense worth it? Undoubtedly so. Mike Lekic and Nour Issa, SDACC Office of Education, received these notes of appreciation:

“Thank you both so much for all the work you have done in planning, organizing, and participating in the Teachers’ Convention in Dallas this summer. It was simply an excellent event. One that I thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from. Thanks again for all your effort.” Keith Leavitt, Professor, School of Education, Canadian University College

“ ‘When men and women on earth have done their best, angels in heaven cannot do more.’This is my way of expressing the tremendous blessing I have received from the convention in Dallas. All the teachers with whom I have talked with expressed nothing but positive things about the general sessions and breakout sessions. Thanks to all for a job well done. The question to which I have no answer is this, ‘When is the next (NAD) K-12 Teachers’ Convention?’” Dave Higgins, Supt. of Education, Ont. Conference.

“Teachers were appreciative, thrilled and exhilarated. I believe this convention could be considered a rite of passage, as it caused our Adventist teachers to move from a somewhat inferior feeling about themselves to the recognition that they are truly professionals working for a world-class organization with a heavenly mandate. The most frequently asked question: ‘When can we have another one?’” Juanita Neal, Vice President for Education, B.C. Conference

“What did we accomplish? We left hundreds of Adventist teachers proud to be church workers. They feel validated and empowered even more to do their work. They feel part of a larger mission than they have experienced. They feel spiritually and professionally filled. They feel focused on sharing Jesus Christ with their students.” Dr. Richard Osborn, NAD Vice President for Education.
Announcements

Missing members: Where are you? The Maple Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church in British Columbia wishes to locate two of its members, Louanne Poirier and Mark Russell. If you know the whereabouts of either of these people, please phone the church clerk, Martha Castro at 604/466-7779, fax 604/466-3929, or E-mail martha.castro@3web.net, or phone the head elder at 604/312-1849.

Indiana Academy needs missing addresses. Many former staff and students are not receiving the IA Alumni Newsletter. If you can help, please contact, ASAP, Norman Clear at 317/877-5254, or E-mail IAAumni@juno.com. The 2000 alumni weekend is Oct. 13-14, Centennial celebration will be Oct. 10-13, 2002. (9/00)

Births

Lili-Ann Guglich was born May 15, 2000, to Allen and Heather (Latoski) Guglich of St. Albert, Alta.

Julie Phare and Christopher Dubyna were married May 21, 2000, in Salmon Arm, B.C., and are making their home in Lacombe, Alta. Julie is the daughter of Keith and Roselyn Phare of Salmon Arm, and Christopher is the son of Don and Charlene Dubyna of Cando, Sask.

Geeta Lisiel Chauhan and Phillip Oakes were married June 25, 2000, in Willowdale, Ont., and will be making their home in Northern California.

Obituaries

Stella Chudyk Gorovenko was born May 13, 1923, in Hazel Dell, Sask., and died May 28, 2000, in Vernon, B.C. Surviving: husband Ed of Vernon; daughters Lenore (Norm) Duncan, Delores Burns, Louise (Rodney) Smith, and Gerri (Marvin) Rachul; brother Bill Chudyk; sisters Mary Kocot, Tillie Mihalcheon, and Ella Holland; and 10 grandchildren.

Oskar Kropf was born Nov. 1, 1921, in Breslau, Germany, and died May 10, 2000, in Edmonton, Alta. He served his church as janitor, deacon, and assistant treasurer. He was predeceased by his wife, Hilda. Surviving: son Edmund (Georgina) of Vancouver, B.C.; daughter Marty (Bob) Ramsay of Edmonton; and brothers Heinz (Josephine) of Edmonton, Fred (Klara) of Edmonton, and Frans of Germany.

Paul Andrew MacBay was born July 30, 1978, in St. Johns, Nfld., and died July 24, 2000, in St. Johns, as a result of a tragic accident. Surviving: parents Heather and Patrick; sister Katherine; and grandmothers Peggy and Marie.

Jean Makela was born Feb. 22, 1925, in Chicopee, Mass., and died June 26, 2000, in Red Deer, Alta. Surviving: daughter Patricia; and four grandchildren.

Correction

Karl Heinz Hiob was born Aug. 24, 1926, in Birkenfeld, Germany, and died July 29, 1999, in Edmonton, Alta. One of the many ways Karl served his church was as a Sabbath School teacher. Surviving: wife Elfiriede; sons Uwe (Lorraine) of Markham, Ont.; daughter Patricia (Mark) Watson of Langley, B.C.; brothers Eric (Sylvia) and Werner (Leni) both of Edmonton, Eberhard (Celia) of Okanagan Falls, B.C., and Gerhard (Waltra) of Germany; sister Rosemarie (Don) Santangelo of Texas; and two grandchildren.

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