

canadian  
adventist

# messenger

may 2006

## **GOSSIP**

You won't believe  
what I heard

## **God Bless Canada**

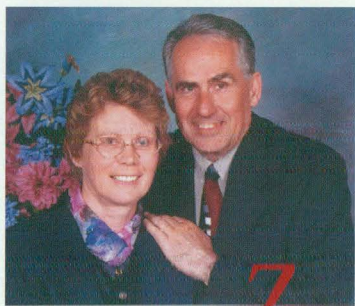
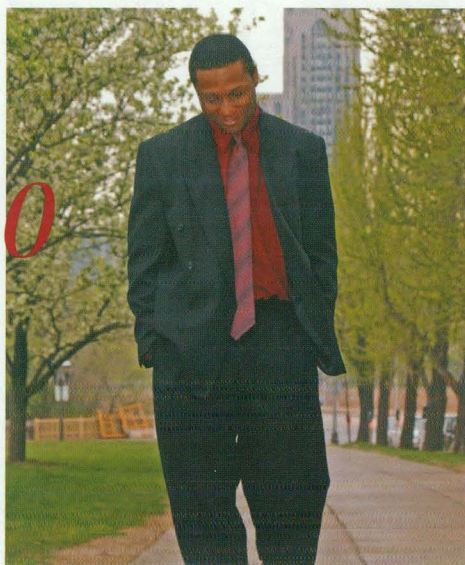
## **Mankind Is Your Business**

It's NOT as big a job  
as you might think

# So, you're Single



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# Deadline

July issue **May 1**  
August issue **June 1**  
September issue **July 4**

# Whose FAULT? Is It ?

by Reo E. Ganson

**T**he Bible record tells us of a blind man that Jesus walked by as He strode the pathways of ancient Israel. His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” (John 9:2). They wanted to know who was to blame! Are we any different today? Should we be different today? Bear with me a few minutes as I share a personal story.

This morning the alarm rang at 4 a.m. Who in the world made an alarm clock that even rings at that time? It was time to rise, prepare myself for a day of travel, complete my packing, meet the deadlines of airport and airplane schedules and arrive at scheduled meetings at a location somewhere a long way from home. Oh yes, I nearly forgot. I also had to allow for the time to drive through traffic in two of the largest cities in Canada in meeting these deadlines.

My dear wife, Leona, was again putting her brave foot forward at this early hour; she was driving me to the airport and returning through rush-hour traffic. The time frameworks were correct, traffic was normal and there were no accidents. We arrived at the airport on queue—one-and-a-half hours before the scheduled flight departure.

I kissed my wife goodbye, collected my cases from the back seat and headed into the departures area. This was routine by now. I would walk to the nearest kiosk, insert my frequent flyer card, get my boarding pass, check in my checked luggage and proceed to security. I inserted my card and my file had been flagged—

I had no boarding pass! I removed my card, input the flight file number and again it was flagged. I still had no boarding pass. I collected my cases, but now I made my way to the regular check-in counter. While walking across the departure area I checked the itinerary my secretary had prepared and I realized why I had been flagged and had no boarding pass. The itinerary identified a Thursday flight and today was Friday—I was one day late!

The gentleman at the counter was polite as he informed me, “I’m sorry, I cannot help you. You will need to go to our ticketing office and they will assist you.” Unkind thoughts of my secretary raced through my head. “How could she do this to me? Why had she not ensured that I was fully informed?”

I found the ticket office and approached a smiling gentleman. He greeted me, saying “How can I help you?” I explained my circumstance and he began clicking the keys on his computer. He confirmed that my file had been dumped from the system—no out flight and no return flight! More clicking. He now confirmed that he had restored my file! The available flight with the same category of my purchased ticket was now at 5 p.m. on Friday, and it was still just a few minutes after 7 a.m. I tried to feel encouraged, but a 10 hour delay just didn’t seem to fit into my thinking. I then suggested to him, “This is my error, but I would like not to wait until late afternoon. Is there any option for an earlier flight? I am willing to pay a reasonable fee.” After more clicking,

he asked if a 10 a.m. flight would be okay. I assured him that this was much more reasonable. He then said, “How would you like to pay for the additional fees?” I passed him my credit card and began to fear what the additional fees were going to be. He soon handed me the receipt, which amounted to \$30, and I had a boarding pass and a restored return flight. Later, I discovered that this fine gentleman had also given me a \$7 meal credit for the trip.

As all of this transpired, the question of “Who can I blame?” kept flashing in my mind. Then I realized, “Does it really matter.” God’s name had been glorified! He had taken care of me! After all, wasn’t that what Leona and I had prayed for earlier that morning?

When “they” asked Jesus, He answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him” (John 9:3).

When we demand, “Whose fault is this?” we should also ask, “Is God’s name being glorified?”

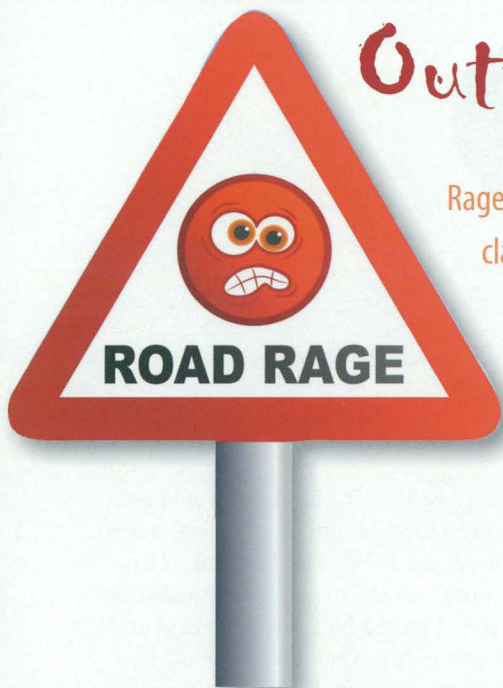
By the way, before you all blame my secretary, I have concluded that it was my own fault. More importantly—is it possible that God wanted me to build more trust in Him? After all, His name was glorified! ■

*Reo E. Ganson is president of Canadian University College.*



# Outrageous Rage

by Carolyn Willis



Rage, sitting on the edge, waiting for some slight irritation to step forward and claim a willing victim's emotions. We've all experienced it—either as a casualty or an offender. It can be an emotion that builds slowly over time, or an instant of flashing irrationality. Either way, it is offensive and often provokes fear or anger in the one who is beaten low under its assault.

Sun shining through the tinted glass of the car window warmed and relaxed the frown of concentration that I noticed was becoming a recent habit of mine. Errands left for Friday afternoon were usually rushed affairs that were a stressful interruption in my tightly scheduled day. I had yet to finish preparing lunch for Sabbath guests the next day and I was wasting precious minutes sitting in heavy downtown traffic. Breathing in a calming breath, I turned on the radio to my favourite station. Keeping rhythm with the stop and go traffic, my ears tuned in to the topic being discussed. The controversial commentary was both interesting and entertaining. Tense muscles relaxed as my thoughts focused on the discussion. Alternating my foot between gas and brake, the traffic inched forward like a centipede with a mind full of indecision.

Slowly, above the sound of radio voices, I became aware of a horn blaring in staccato bursts and a loud enraged voice. Curious to see who was causing this unpleasant disruption, I looked around me and saw nothing. The noise continued. Opening my car window a few inches enabled me to hear more clearly and my face reddened. The belligerent voice was unrelenting as it

spewed out profane oaths. Raising my eyes to my rearview mirror I quickly discovered the source of wrath. A man, his face contorted in outrage, sat rigid with arm stretched out, his finger extended in a crude gesture. Confused, I saw that I was the apparent object of his rage. Catching my questioning eye in the mirror, he wildly gestured for me to move forward. With a quick glance at the car in front of me I saw that it had moved forward ten feet and this desperate man was wanting me to move my car ahead. Off to my left was a side street and I realized that if I moved forward a short distance he would be free to make his exit onto this street. Quickly stepping on the gas to close the gap I wondered what turmoil in this man's life could possibly cause him to act in such an outrageous and threatening way. It left me feeling sick.

The popular term for this man's actions might be road rage, and it is often referred to as if it is excusable as a disease rather than a personality problem with social and legal implications. Plain and simply put, it's a lack of self-control. Is there any possible excuse for this foible in the life of a Christian? Listen. "... But you stand ready to justify yourself by the plea that you are so sensitive; you feel so deeply; you suffer so much. I saw that all this will not excuse you in the sight of God. You mistake pride for sensitiveness. Self is prominent. When self is crucified, then this sensitiveness, or pride, will die; until then you are not a Christian. To be a Christian is to be Christlike, to possess humility and a

meek and quiet spirit that will bear contradiction without being enraged or becoming insane" (2 Testimonies, pg. 572, 573).

So how do we push self aside and develop this meek and quiet spirit? There's no smoke and mirrors here, no impossible crusade to embark on, no sure defeat. We are told, "Prayer is heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all for which he pleads. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask and the promise is, 'Ye shall receive'" (AA, pg. 564).

There may be times when, in all innocence, our words or actions provokes another to anger. "Sorry" is a powerful diffuser on the lips of a meek and humble offender. An offering of restored peace to one who is struggling under a crushing load of self and all the baggage it carries, may be the first step in showing them how to rule their own spirit to rise above the petty annoyances of life.

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." He has conquered self, —the strongest foe man has to meet" (MYP, pg. 134). ■

Carolyn Willis is editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.



## Abdominal Fat Doubles Risk of Gallstones in Females



Women with a lot of weight around their waistline are nearly twice as likely to develop gallstones large enough to require surgical removal. These are the findings of data analysis from the Nurses' Health Study of 42,000 women over the course of 14 years.

None of the women in the study had gallstones at the beginning. However, 14 years later, nearly 3,200 (7.6%) women needed to undergo gallstone surgery. Of these women, those with waistlines that exceeded 36 inches were twice as likely to develop gallstones that required surgical removal. In addition, higher waist to hip ratio (calculation of waist size divided by hip size) also increased the risk of gallstones.

Belly fat is thought to boost gallstone risk because this type of fat is more "metabolically active" than fat found elsewhere on the body. Research also shows that gallstones are linked to metabolic syndrome—a combination of risk factors for heart disease and diabetes. One of the major risks for metabolic syndrome is excess abdominal fat.

Most gallstones are made of built-up cholesterol.

Reference: HealthDay, Feb. 14, 2006.

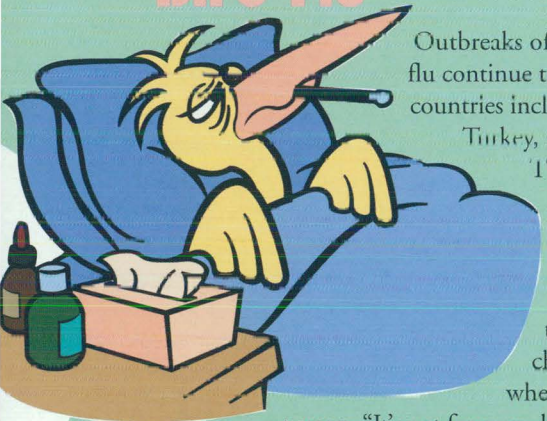
## B-12 and Brain Function



Inadequate vitamin B-12 is much more common than realized before. A new study in the elderly showed that 40% had low or marginal levels for good health. Another study showed that up to 18% of 40- and 50- year old persons had low B-12 levels. Lack of B-12 damages the nervous system resulting in loss of feeling and balance, and can also lead to dementia. The Institute of Medicine recommends that all people 50 and older take a B-12 supplement or eat vitamin B-12 fortified foods. Be sure you get adequate B-12 to keep your nerves and brain in good health.

Reference: Nutrition Action Health Letter Jan/Feb 2006.

## Bird Flu



Outbreaks of avian flu continue to spread to other countries including Indonesia, Nigeria, Turkey, Greece, Iraq, and Azerbaijan.

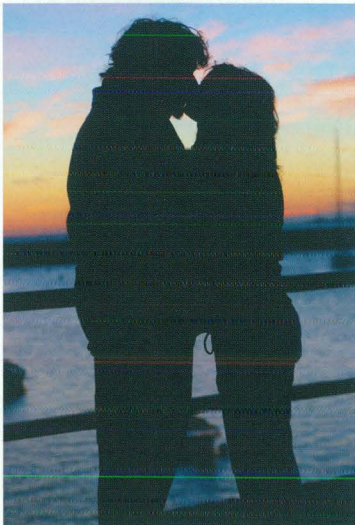
The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates there have been 91 deaths so far from 169 cases. You can see that the mortality rate is very high! The WHO is monitoring this deadly disease trying to contain it. The virus is undergoing changes but has not yet mutated to the point where it is readily spread from person to

person. "It's not far away, however," said the WHO representative.

One estimate by health authorities in the U.S. is that as many as 1/2 a million people in the U.S. could die from this flu should it break out into a pandemic. References: JAMA, 2006;295:748, Feb. 15,

2006. Reuters Health, Feb. 10, 2006

## Preventing Meningitis



Meningococcal disease is a bacterial infection in the fluid within the brain and spinal cord that usually affects children younger than 5 years of age. However, in recent years rates have been rising significantly in teens in the U.S. and Britain. A study of risk factors in teens found that intimate kissing with multiple partners was a strong risk factor, increasing risk by 3.7 times. Interestingly, factors that predicted a low risk were being vaccinated against the disease (decreased risk by 88%) and attending religious services (decreased risk by 90%). This obviously indicates that changing personal behaviors can significantly reduce the risk of this serious illness in teens as well as getting the immunization.

Reference: BMJ, 2006;332:445-450 Feb 25, 2006

# GOD BLESS CANADA

In my lifetime there did not exist a Canadian prime minister who would end his or her speeches with “God bless Canada.” It seems so unnatural to hear it. We have become more accustomed to hearing the blasphemous and four letter outbursts that were quickly minimized as “fuddle duddle.” “God bless Canada?” Stated by our Prime Minister? Surely, it is not possible in 2006—but it is.

by Barry W. Bussey

The first time I noticed it was the election victory speech given by Mr. Harper on January 23, then on his appointment of the Cabinet, and again just a few days ago when he spoke to the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. Now my ears are tuned in. I will look for it more and more.

So what does one make of it? What does it signify? Is it something to be concerned about?

From what we have seen of the Prime Minister, he is a religious person. He is a Christian. His faith is more cerebral than emotional. His religious views have been shaped in part by such thinkers as C.S. Lewis, Malcolm Muggeridge, William Buckley and Reinhold Niebuhr.<sup>i</sup> Though raised with a United Church-Presbyterian background, Harper now worships with the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. While he takes his faith seriously, he stops “short of being obsessed by matters religious.”<sup>ii</sup>

It would appear to me that Harper’s use of the prayer, “God bless Canada,” is sincere. He is not one given to “irrational exuberance” on religion. On the assumption then that he is sincere is there anything wrong with a politician openly expressing his religious viewpoint?

For far too long in recent times our politicians have experienced a cold winter on their public expressions of faith. They had every reason to fear the media onslaught. As Lewis noted, “it’s always

winter but never Christmas.” I think the absurdity of the notion that politicians are to be straight jacketed on expressing their religious faith has slowly sunk into the Canadian consciousness. While secularists could freely express their views on a host of issues, those of faith were told to button up. One could only scratch heads at the intolerance of the self-professed tolerant.

Asking God to bless our country does not strike me as a problem. In many respects, as you compare ours to the rest of the world, you can only conclude that He already has! Indeed, perhaps another prayer of “God bless the world” would not be a bad idea either. There is something comforting about the concept that our highest office holder is willing to allow his faith to be shown by such a prayer of relief.

Yet, what if he were a member of a Satanic sect and asked Satan to bless Canada? Would I be as comfortable then? Well, the truth be known, I would have some discomfort in such a case. However, the principle of religious freedom suggests that it is to be open to all, thus, if you allow religious expression, even the Satanist, if he or she were prime minister, would be free to express his or her faith.

What has to be kept in mind is that politicians ought to be free to express their faith. It is who they are. What they cannot do is use their political office to impose that faith on others. Such is the lesson we have gleaned from the history of Christianity and the Western World.

In the meantime, may “God bless Canada.” I am beginning to like the sound of it. ■

*Barry W. Bussey is General Counsel and Director of Public Affairs for the Adventist Church in Canada.*



*bbussey@adacc.org*

<sup>i</sup> Lloyd Mackey, *The Pilgrimage of Stephen Harper*. Toronto: ECW Press, 2005, at p. 73, 93    <sup>ii</sup> Mackey, p. 68.

# Retired, but Ready to Serve

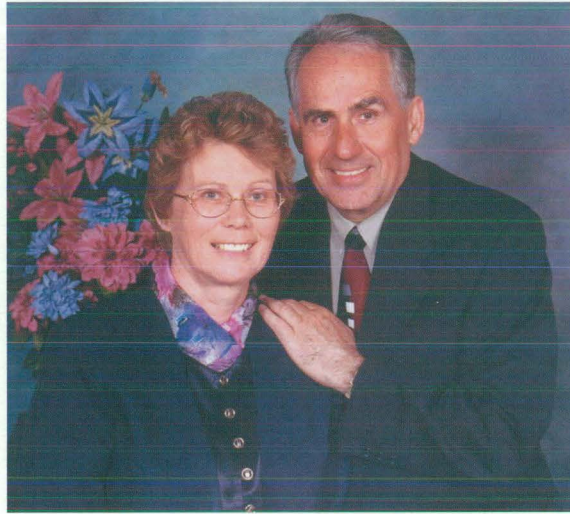
*Ralph Janes served Kingsway College as its president from 1982-1996, the longest any president or principal has occupied that position since the institution's beginnings in 1903.*

Ralph Janes went on to work at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada headquarters in Oshawa until his retirement in September 2001.

Since 2001, Ralph has been called out of retirement three times. First, it was as interim education director for the Ontario Conference, then as interim pastor at College Park Church, and now as interim principal of Kingsway College, replacing John Janes, his younger brother who is currently on short-term medical leave. As of November 2005, Ralph is sitting again in his old chair in the principal's office where he will lead, manage, and inspire for the remainder of the current school year.

The faculty, staff and Board of Directors are very grateful for Ralph's willingness to serve, on short notice, especially at a time of the year when it would be much more comfortable in Florida! Ralph has already taken on the challenges of the coming North American Division school evaluation, the updating of the current student handbook, and the preparation for the upcoming division-wide Teachers' Convention. He is also actively involved in Kingsway's Alumni Association.

Seven of Kingsway's current staff were hired by Ralph and continue their dedicated work at Kingsway. It is a privilege to have Ralph back in the principal's chair, even if it is only for a short time. He has dedicated his life to Adventist education and, even in



Connie and Ralph Janes

retirement, his passion for Kingsway College is alive and well.

It is also important to recognize that beside each good man is a good woman, and we are very grateful for the support that Connie Janes has given Kingsway over the years and for her willingness to share her husband with Kingsway during their retirement years.

Thank you, Ralph and Connie, for your continued dedication to the mission of Kingsway College and to its staff, students, parents and constituency. ■

## German Camp Meeting—May 6, 2006

Camp Hope, 61855 Lougheed Highway, Hope, B.C.

The 2006 Annual Seventh-day Adventist German Meeting will be held for the first time, May 6, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on the Youth Hill. Bring your German Zions Lieder, German Bible, musical instruments, special music, and food for the potluck. Camping available. For more information, contact Reiner Kupperts at 604/826-0300, or email rkupperts@telus.net.

## Simcoe Regional Camp Meeting

June 2-3, 2006

Simcoe Adventist Church, 56 South Drive, Simcoe, Ont.  
Simcoe Composite School Gymnasium, Wilson Ave., Simcoe, Ont.



**Guest Speaker, John Earnhardt**  
Pastor, Cartersville  
Adventist Church, Georgia

**Youth Speaker  
Musical Program**  
(Sabbath afternoon)

Friday, June 2, 7 p.m.—church  
Saturday, June 3, 9:30 a.m.—gym

# what's the whole deal with **tithing?**

**Q** Do I have to give tithe and offerings? As a college student I only get like \$8 an hour... Besides, I'm saving for a mission trip!

**A** You're going on a mission trip? That's so cool! Those \$8 per hour you make are worth millions of smiles to the people you're going to help on your trip. =)

Tithe and offerings are actually a very important aspect of your life as a Christian. It's not just money. It's a question of loyalty and attitude. Let me explain.

1) Loyalty. When you tithe, you're recognizing God as your boss. But a really nice boss, though, because he gives you everything you have! He's just asking a little amount back, so you don't forget from whom your wealth (yeah, even \$8) comes. Also, it's like telling him: "I trust you're going to take care of my needs. I don't know how I'm gonna make it, but hey, you're in control."

2) Attitude. If loyalty determines who we serve, attitude determines how we serve. The offerings make a total difference. Picture this – you go to Pizza Hut and they serve you the best pizza you've ever tried in your life. Plus, the waiter served you like royalty. I bet your tip will be generous and you'll give it to him with a big smile on your face.

You get the point, right? Happy Christian equals cheerful giving.

## Josue's Pick

"Money Management for College Students"  
by Larry Burkett & Todd Temple.

Preparing for college can be overwhelming – especially when you're wondering how you'll pay for it! This book will help you get your finances in order.

## Hands On

You should give tithe even from the money you're earning for your mission trip.

Even the Levites (they lived from the tithe of the other tribes) were to tithe!

(Numbers 18.21-28)



Pastor, youth speaker & columnist, Josué Sánchez enjoys sharing Jesus with teens.



# Creation Corner for Kids



## Mountain Lion

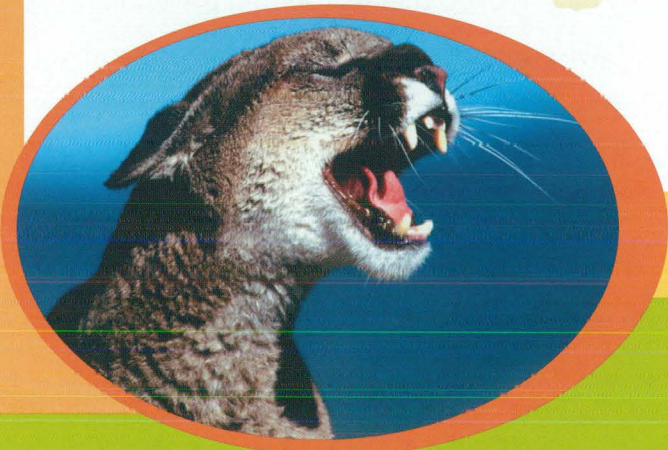
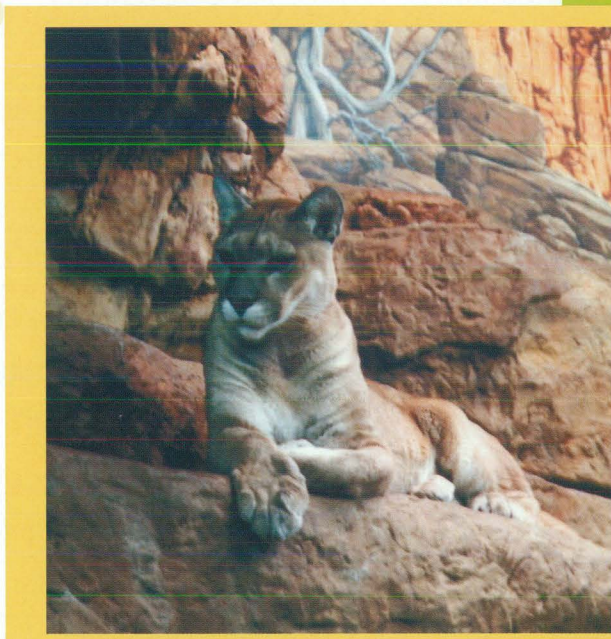
**Jogging at twilight** in a steady rain, a friend of mine happened upon a full-grown mountain lion, crouched upon a rock. A mere couple of arm-lengths away, the wet cat only blinked as my friend (and his angel) continued on his way.

A hunting mountain lion is a deadly foe to contend with. It is a silent stalker that usually attacks its prey from above, throwing its whole weight upon its victim and swiftly dispatching it with its lethal claws and teeth.

### Think about it.

People sometimes act unwisely, putting themselves in physical and/or spiritual danger. The places we go, the company we keep, the choices we make can remove us from the protective safety of our Saviour, bringing us into Satan's territory. When you hear the Holy Spirit counselling you to reconsider a choice you're about to make, how should you respond?

*"Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)).*



### Do it.

Find out more about mountain lions on the web. One site to try is: [www.wonderclub.com/Wildlife/mammals/mountainlion.html](http://www.wonderclub.com/Wildlife/mammals/mountainlion.html). Another site that gives information about staying safe in areas inhabited by mountain lions is [www2.ucsc.edu/police/liondoc1.html](http://www2.ucsc.edu/police/liondoc1.html).

—Tammie Burak writes from Cherry Grove, Alta., where she enjoys studying nature with her husband, Randolph, and their three children, Samuel, Emily, and Joshua.

by John M. Scott

## Resolve to the Single Question

# You're So ... Single

### The Reality

Let's consider the Christian single man, the Christian single woman. Healthy. Strong. Vivacious. Educated. He knows what he wants. She knows what she wants. They meet through a Christian social event or are introduced by a mutual friend. They get to know each other. They fall madly in love. They get married in a dream wedding, escape on a romantic honeymoon trip to the Bahamas, and live happily ever after. End of story.

Isn't there something wrong with this picture? Certainly, most Christian singles who have "come into their own" are looking for their life partner. And there are Christian singles who have gone through most of the steps towards marriage and are now living in wholesome marriage relationships with a fair and balanced approach to life, trusting in God for grace and guidance every step of the way. We should praise God for those who have

found their ministry partner as a result of their faithful journey towards this all-important life goal.

The reality of the single life in today's culture couldn't be further from this fairy tale. Millions of Christian singles have found this area of their lives very challenging. Many have gone in search of happiness only to find frustration in the end. Many have looked tirelessly within the church and have come up empty, bearing little or nothing in return as a result of their search. And for other significant reasons, many Christian singles have not been able to walk down the aisle and say "I do." It would seem that with every passing season the date for the wedding is pushed forward into the unknown future.



## The Stats

To put singles in perspective, a study by the Barna Research Group, a Christian research firm, was performed and documented on singles in the United States. The qualified team of researchers discovered that in the 2000 US Census, 28% of the United States population, which is 60 million strong, are considered singles—those who have never been married before—with 32 million being men and 28 million being women.<sup>1</sup> This percentage is up approximately 5% from figures done in the 1950s.

The study also includes figures on the differences in the median age of singles who do get married. George Barna said: “In the past, there was a social stigma associated with reaching your 20s and not being married. Today, however, the median age of a first marriage has risen to 25 among women and 27 among men.”<sup>2</sup> One could only imagine the statistics from a Canadian perspective. And by the way, for women who articulate that there are no single men out there, you would be delighted to know that Barna discovered that there are four million more males who have never been married than there are single females!<sup>3</sup> Why are there so many available singles?

## The Reasons

There are numerous reasons why young adult singles have not taken this sacred step, several of them are observable. For one thing, singles have experienced pressures that delay their commitment to a relationship of this manner. Singles are pressured to be competitive in their educational pursuits. Constantly bombarded with society’s quest for excellence, singles who have a desire to live full, prosperous and productive lives have no choice but to be competitive in their interests and goals. Society frowns on individuals who cannot make up their minds because they are too busy “weighing their options.”

Singles then graduate from the pressures of education to the pressures of profession. This creates a two-fold



sense of anxiety and demands as singles move from the classroom to the boardroom. Always driven to meet deadlines; to succeed above and beyond co-workers; to set goals and reach them, ultimately to be promoted to higher positions and given substantial rewards, singles are forever conscious of the need to succeed in their field of interest. After all, singles want to succeed and do well in their profession. While educational, vocational and other life pursuits are positive and important goals to attain, could they be contributing factors as to why singles have not taken the marriage step?

Singles are also the sounding boards for attitudes towards themselves and their station in life. Although friendly introductions, prayerful considerations, and creative environments suited for multiple set-ups are welcome, such comments as “Eligible bachelor man and you’re not married!”; “Lady like you and you’re not snatched yet?” and “Don’t you know that your clock is ticking?” are “turn off” comments.

I have often wondered to myself if the individuals making similar comments to me have my best interests at heart or if they want their misery to have some company. The average single who is looking for his or her life partner already knows that time is of the essence. A rush to marriage because of the ticking of the clock is not of itself a wise choice to make. And with the divorce rate skyrocketing, not only within this pluralistic secular society at large, but even in the Christian church community, a rush down the aisle with the wrong person is neither a healthy move nor a spiritually wise decision to embrace.

There is also a sense that if one is single his or her wholeness is in question, and it is almost suggested that if one is not married then the end of the world

is in sight! Thus, instead of feeling content in one’s station in life, feelings of inadequacy and, sometimes, self-pity set in. Yet how could singles make wise choices for their future when these attitudes surround them?

Finally, Christian singles debate what God’s ultimate purpose for their lives is. There are some singles who debate God’s timing and choosing—when and with whom? There are quite a few singles who are simply “waiting on the Lord.” Others are hoping that Mr. Right or Ms. Right will somehow fall from the

desires of the heart?

## The Resolve

For Christian singles who have been waiting faithfully on God, I encourage you. Do not be discouraged and overwhelmed by the pressures of life nor the whimsical attitudes of people. And I ask this of you: Do not be locked into a debate with God. Stop for a moment. Consider some valuable ideas out there that can answer the single question. What can I do?

“Don’t think that something is wrong with you because you are single. Singleness is a powerful place to be.”

sky with little or no work. There are those who have made this issue a matter of prayer, placing the top 10 qualities of someone they can envision themselves living with on a sheet of paper, and every day communing with God according to their heart’s desires.

Yet it would seem that some singles have waited on the Lord in vain and they have also come to that dreaded realization that perfect Mr. or Ms. Right will never fall from the sky. Furthermore, it would appear that the individuals they meet from time to time score high on the least of the 10 qualities they look for in a life partner, and have the lowest score in the greatest of the qualities they have outlined. And is God so cruel as to not answer prayers and provide the

First, you need to find your purpose in life. God’s purpose is that all would take this sacred step towards marriage and be faithful in it. He says in the book of Genesis that “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”<sup>iv</sup>

Thus God set about creating an opportunity for the first single individuals to have a marriage relationship. God created us for that purpose, and if this is your desire, stay faithful towards that goal. However, there are singles who believe that they were called to remain single for a specific purpose. If this is your calling, then you too stay faithful to God in all aspects.

Be clear of your purpose as a child of God. Whatever goal you have set for

your life, and if and when your state changes, live it to the fullest in relationship to Him. Don't think that something is wrong with you because you are single. Singleness is a powerful place to be. Accept your singleness; accept each stage in your life and live it holistically.

Secondly, purpose also involves ministry. Search for opportunities to avail yourself to Him in service. Whether marriage is for you or not, be cognizant of the fact that as a Christian single God has blessed you with the gift of time. Be mindful that this gift must be used wisely. Some of us spend most of God's valuable time whining and complaining instead of utilizing it creatively. I like how Holly Virden and Michelle McKinney Hammond, singles ministry gurus, put it. They said: "We have so much potential with our time but often carelessly let the days slip through our fingers waiting, pining, hoping—anything but acting."<sup>v</sup>

Our valuable time should be used actively in ministry. That is our God-ordained task as stewards of the gospel and our time. Even Paul hoped that some in the Corinthian church were single just like him so that they could dedicate their free time to the work of the gospel.<sup>vi</sup> Because of this gift, we should find every opportunity to turn this world upside down for Jesus Christ. Find a ministry that embraces your talents, and if there aren't any and people's needs are still outstanding, then create one. Your life will, in turn, develop and have more meaning than you initially realized.

Thirdly, create a vision and mission statement for your life. Vision and mission statements aren't only reserved for big corporations, organizations and mega churches. Every human being should have personal statements that drive what they do and hope to accomplish in their future. If your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit,<sup>vii</sup> albeit, a human church, then with His help you need to create your own vision and mission statement that serves as fundamental guides to your existence. You may have some dreams. You may

have some desires.

Chart the most important goals you wish to achieve. List those goals next to some timelines. Make sure they are reasonable, measurable, and achievable. The proverb expressed by the wise man Solomon is true: "Where there is no vision, the people perish . . ." <sup>viii</sup> Where there is no personal vision for your life, you will sit around feeling sorry for yourself and invite unneeded, inquisitive sympathizers to your pity-party.

Fourthly, utilize all the options available to form and preserve enduring friendships. Do not be afraid to join other Christian singles at bowling nights, concerts, socials, small groups and retreats to meet new people and to form new ties and networks. Not every friendship will lead to marriage. However, every true friendship would have the potential to teach you something new about yourself. Every true friendship will open your eyes to what you want in life, what you need to develop as a person, what you need to nurture, and what you need to remove out of your present reality. Who knows, perhaps one of those friendships could be the impetus to an introduction, a referral or a meet-up only in God's timing.

Finally, seek God's guidance as you contemplate marriage. Don't make decisions without God in the lead. It's careless and even tragic. You don't want to live the rest of your life in an unhappy position. Put your desires in an envelope and mail them to the Lord in prayer. Even more than that, because God knows your desires, and because God is your Father, you could go boldly, with confidence to Him on

this challenging issue. Outline the top 10 qualities or the top 20 qualities you wish for in a life partner. Write them down on paper. You know what you want. God knows what you want. During your devotional moments, provide ample time to allow for quality communion with God on this matter.

I have come to realize the significance of communing with God in my own single life. My prayer life has gone to another level simply because I have come to consider this journey a critical part of my life. I cannot afford to be haphazard or lazy when it comes to this sacred decision. Prayer is so critical an issue that Ellen G. White urges doubled efforts in prayer. She very passionately counsels: "If men and women are in the habit of praying twice a day before they contemplate marriage, they should pray four times a day when such a step is anticipated."<sup>ix</sup> She goes on to suggest that, "Marriage is something that will influence and affect your life, both in this world and in the world to come."<sup>x</sup> Doubled prayer is that crucial to this decision.

Therefore, Christian singles, put the pressures of life into perspective. Put the attitudes of others into reality, and put your debating sessions with God in check. When you have put these five points of resolve into action, you would have no need to be overcome by any of the negatives. Stay within God's purpose. Live within God's will. You are guaranteed happiness if you do. ■

John Scott is pastor of Kanisa Fellowship and the Toronto North Company in Toronto, Ontario.



i George Barna, *Single Focus: Understanding Single Adults* (Ventura, Ca: Regal Books, 2003), 13, 14.

ii Ibid.

iii Ibid., 7

iv New King James Version, Genesis 2:18.

v Holly Virden with Michelle McKinney Hammond, *If Singleness is a Gift, What's the Return Policy?* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2003), 106.

vi New King James Version, 1 Corinthians 7:6-8.

vii Ibid., 3:16; 6:19.

viii King James Version, Proverbs 29:18.

ix Ellen G. White, *Messages to Young People* (Hagerstown, MD: Review & Herald Publishing, 1958), 460.



I WAVED TO MY YOUNGEST CHILD as she disappeared into her Sabbath school room that morning. As I turned to walk down the hall of the children's division in the basement of our church, \*Lola, another young mom smiled and waved to me as she delivered her children to their rooms. We exchanged quick hugs and greetings, and then it began . . .

She gently touched my elbow and pulled me closer to the wall and leaned towards me. She smiled and cupped her hand close to my ear and said, "You won't believe what I heard about \*Jim and \*Michelle . . ." I listened intently as she efficiently filled me in on all the sordid details of the messy divorce situation of a family in our church. I was shocked by what I heard. Our intent to attend the adult Sabbath school class was short-lived, and before I knew it, we had spent the entire hour chatting in the hallway of the church. We were startled out of our conversation only once, when Michelle (the topic of our conversation) made her unexpected appearance with her two children in tow. We smiled and greeted her warmly when she passed us in the hall.

During church I had the sensation of being full. I knew that I was one of a privy few who had the inside track on the comings and goings of many church members. I felt important, but most of all, righteous. I sat in the church pew with my four well-behaved children and my faithful husband, confident of my position of superiority and security in my church family.

# Gossip



## “You won’t believe what I heard!”

Over Sabbath dinner that day, I shared the details of Jim and Michelle’s situation with my husband. He was disgusted, not at the details of the divorce, but of my desire to elevate myself by degrading others with my words. He asked me, “Why do you find it necessary to gossip about other people? Do you think you are better than they are?” I was quiet for the rest of the day, angry that he would not indulge my need to discuss Jim and Michelle.

That summer, we went camping with several families from our church. We had a wonderful time. We spent hours enjoying nature and the fellowship of Christian friends. The last evening of the trip was cool. After putting the children to bed, the adults gathered around the campfire. I snuggled under a blanket and moved a little closer to the fire. The pitch-black sky made the stars appear brilliant. Our campfire conversation quickly turned to the people we all had in common, other church members. The conversation took on a life of its own. We casually swapped our opinions as fact, eagerly trading information about other people. It got late, and my husband remained quiet. Suddenly he stood up, bid everyone around the fire good-night, and abruptly returned to our tent. The campfire conversation continued; no rock was left unturned. Many church members were discussed, and the weaknesses and shortcomings of others became our Saturday evening entertainment.

When I finally returned to our tent, my husband greeted me with these words: “I have never seen you look so ugly as you did tonight when you were gossiping about everyone at church!” I was stunned. Gossip? I wasn’t a gossip. I cared for the people we had discussed. They mattered to me. I went to bed that night troubled by my husband’s accusations and the words that had come out of my mouth.

Over the course of the next several months, I thought about the way I conducted myself in the presence of other Christians. I started to remember sayings from my childhood—“If you can’t say anything nice, then don’t say anything at all,” and “Pride goeth before a fall.” Little did I know that I was soon to reap all that I had sown.

When it was my turn to stumble in life, I became the new hot topic of conversation, not in my direct presence of course, but in the discussions of the church family. The stories about me took on a life of their own. Gossip, full of lies and fabrication swirled with my every step. I became frozen with the pain of knowing that the people who had professed their friendship to me were now fueling controversy in my name. I felt at times like I was gasping for air. I talked to no one, trusted no one, and felt betrayed by those I loved. I was at my lowest, feeling utterly abandoned within the family of God.

I had experienced the reality of human relationships within the church. Left on our own, we judge others, we take sides, we actively seek out those that will support our opinion. We build ourselves up by degrading others. Through our gossip, we increase our personal value by labeling and devaluing others. We build ourselves unstable pedestals; the more we gossip about others to elevate ourselves, the higher distance we have to fall. The false bonds felt between those who gossip are only as strong as the last story told. The only truth to gossip is that the person who is willing to share gossip with you, will certainly gossip about you. The dictionary defines gossip like this: “Idle, often malicious talk, especially about others.”<sup>1</sup>

In my pain, I made a decision. I would not gossip again. Then a miracle started to take place—the miracle of grace, God’s grace. God’s grace is void of judgment and blame. It doesn’t take sides. God’s grace allows for human error and is unconditional in every way. I finally understood the lesson I must learn. By travelling the road of self-righteousness and the road of failure, I was experiencing both sides of the realities of life and gossip within the church. I knew both the immediate satisfaction of gossiping about others and the devastating long-term results of being the topic of gossip.

The Bible councils a church full of sinners, “Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.”<sup>2</sup> Gossip, in any form, is the road to destruction and has no place in the family of God. The next time someone says, “You know what I heard?” remember Psalms 34:13 and fill your conversation with love, forgiveness and purpose. ■

\*not their real names

*THIS STORY IS THE RESULT of a four-year journey in my life. Unfortunately, this journey is all too familiar with many church members. It is my hope that by reading my experience, others can benefit, and change their behaviour too. It is my prayer that Christian fellowship become a catalyst for good, not the opportunity to tell a good story and gossip.*

*I am not interested in revealing my identity. I speak for many. If the discussion generated by this story is about the author, then the story is a waste of time. If the discussion generated by this story is about changing behaviour within the church family, then my story has done what I intended it to do.*

1 Funk & Wagnall, (1977). Standard Desk Dictionary. Funk & Wagnall, Inc., New York, N.Y.

2 (Lawson, J. (Chief Editor), 1972. New Marked Reference Bible. Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI.

This month we reprint with his permission an article by David Marshall, editor of the Stanborough Press in Grantham, Lincolnshire, England, and editor of the sister publication Messenger published by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. ADRA Canada exists for the very reasons Dr. Marshall highlights so lucidly. Your support of this ministry not only positively touches the lives of hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged people, it also serves the Lord who gave us the commission.

# Mankind is your business

## It's not as big a job as you might think.

by David N. Marshall



Rarely has a man taken his marriage vows as lightly as Albert Edward, Prince of Wales. When his mother, Queen Victoria, was in extreme old age, one of his friends made a serious attempt to focus his mind on something other than the carnal. He took the prince to “the worst and poorest” slums in Clerkenwell and St. Pancras in London, England.

The prince was astonished by what he found in the slums. Going from alley to alley, his unescorted party of friends discovered entire families, each living in a single unfurnished room. A gaunt, shivering woman lay on a heap of rags with three nearly naked children too dazed by cold and hunger to make any response to the prince and his friends.<sup>1</sup>

The prince returned to his palace enraged. Four days later he was still angry enough to make a speech in the House of Lords. He was amazed and alarmed. He had read no Dickens. For decades Charles Dickens had described the conditions of the poor in books that were read in the homes of the rich. In *A Christmas Carol* he had caricatured a hard, selfish man of business who needed to be told “Mankind is your business!”

The Prince of Wales lost interest within a month or two and returned to the arms of the amazing number of women who populated his life. When he discovered that he, among others, owned the freehold of some of the slum districts he had visited, he discovered that he had never been interested at all—so much for all the righteous anger he had worked up.

<sup>1</sup> Stanley Weintraub, *The Importance of Being Edward* (London: John Murray, 2000), pp. 285-289, 377.



## What About Our Righteous Anger?

“Mankind is your business” is quite a mission statement. How do we relate to it? You take in the images on television and become seriously concerned. But what do you do with your concern?

At heart we know that mankind is our business, but the images fade, the comfort zone beckons, and our vested interests conflict. We desperately search for some wriggle room—just in case we might have to spend some of our money, our time, or ourselves on mankind’s business.

“I saw the Ethiopian famine images on television,” said a man, “and I decided on the DIY approach: Don’t Involve Yourself. Get it?” I got it, but I didn’t want it. Thankfully, millions of others who saw the same images on television did involve themselves. People as diverse as the very wealthy and the attendees of the Live Aid pop concert, they all decided that mankind was their business, and everyone was astonished by their self-sacrifice.

Dickens did not originate the concept “Mankind is your business.” It is a foundation stone of Christianity. Do these words ring any bells? “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me . . . I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matt. 25:35-40, NIV).

The words of Jesus are chilling when they are expressed in the negative. “Depart from me . . . For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat . . . Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me” (Matt. 25:41-45, NIV). Up close and personal, aren’t they? Do you remember the context of these words of Jesus? He had been talking about the signs of His coming in Matthew 24 (Adventists like that part). Then in Matthew 25, Jesus tells three stories that illustrate what constitutes readiness for His coming.<sup>2</sup>

Jesus’ final call for readiness is in the story of the sheep and the goats. His second coming is at the beginning of



the story, and the setting is the last judgment. The point of the story, in part, is to demonstrate that “the union between Christ and his people is the most tender and endearing of all connections . . . He considers favours shown to his people as shown to himself.”<sup>3</sup> The point of the story is, in part, that the criterion of judgment is how we relate to these little ones, the least of these, the brothers and sisters of Jesus: the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned. And that is the point over which some people get alarmed. They are at home with theology and prophetic scenarios, but pained by the idea that to make theology real, you have to translate it into life.

There is something slightly indecent about the glee with which we rub our hands over the signs of the Second Coming. Why? Because many of the signs of the end concern the frequency and scale of disasters that impact negatively upon the lives of millions. Could that be the reason Jesus called upon His people to demonstrate their readiness for His return by serving these little ones, the least of these, His brothers and sisters—victims of disaster and displacement?

## God-talk and God-acts

“Dear friends, do you think you’ll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything?” asks the apostle James. “Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? . . . Isn’t it obvious that

God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?” (James 2:14-17, Message)

When Jesus said, “Then the righteous will answer [the Judge upon His throne], ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?’” (Matt. 25:37, NIV), the word translated “righteous” denotes both character (behaviour) and the fact that the person has been acquitted, has received a favorable verdict from the judge.<sup>4</sup> In short, “the righteous”—those who serve the person of Jesus in the least of these, His brothers and sisters—are those who have been saved by grace through faith and who have demonstrated that faith through service.

The best way to delight a parent’s heart is to help his or her child. That’s how it is with Jesus and “the least of these.”

Francis was highborn, high-spirited, and rich. But he was not happy. His life was incomplete. Then one day he met a lame and loathsome leper. Something moved Francis to dismount and fling his arms around the sufferer. As he did so, the face of the leper changed into the face of Christ.

## One and the Same

The statements “Jesus is my business” and “Mankind is my business” are not two; they are one and the same. When we grasp that, the impetus to serve will not weaken as the images of suffering fade from our memories. It will fade only if the image of Jesus fades from our hearts. ■

2 R. T. France, *New Testament Commentaries: Matthew* (Tyndale), p. 354.

3 Albert Barnes, *A Popular Family Commentary on the New Testament: Matthew and Mark* (Gresham, 1832), vol. 1, p. 271.

4 France, p. 357.

# Mission: Helping Others



Matt brucks at work.



**“And the King will tell them, ‘I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’” (Matthew 25:40 NLT).**

Over the course of the school year, there has been an overwhelming response to helping those in need. Whether it is a random act of kindness on campus or going on a mission trip, Canadian University College students, faculty and staff have made helping others their mission. As you read the experiences shared below, ask yourself what you have done today to help someone else. It doesn't have to be going away on a mission trip; it could just be holding the door open for someone else. Whatever you do, remember that we are not only doing it for others, but also for Christ.

**Sarah Picknell**, 3rd year Biology student

**Location:** Santa Elena, Belize

**Dates:** December 21, 2005 - January 6, 2006

**Project:** Vacation Bible School program; building project to accommodate mission groups; run the radio program in the evening at the Adventist radio station.

**Organizers:** Manitoba-Saskatchewan and Maritime Conferences

**My experience:** “I have never felt so dirty or sweaty in my life. It was great! I enjoyed working with my hands and getting dirty instead of sitting in class all day. Going to the orphanage on Christmas day and playing with the kids, seeing their smiling faces, and providing attention to them that they so often lack was good experience. I was inspired by seeing how hard others worked because they were so giving. I saw Jesus work through others and I drew closer to God and others on the trip.”

**Bonnie McLeod**, Food Services secretary

**Location:** Lacombe, Louisiana—our sister town

**When:** January 25 - February 2, 2006

**Project:** Gut and rebuild a flooded mobile home

**Organizer:** A Better World

**My experience:** “We went with the thought that whatever the Lord wanted us to do, we would do. When we arrived, it pulled at my heart to see the destruction, how lives were changed, and to see how it is taking so long to put back together. Jean, the homeowner of our first project, didn't think she would ever move back into her home, but when we showed up to help her, she just cried out and said, ‘You are my angels.’ That brought tears to my eyes and impressed on me that we did what God wanted us to do.”

**Cathie Trenchuk**, Student Services administrative secretary

**Location:** Valley of Peace, Belize

**When:** February 8-22, 2006

**Project:** Set up a water purification system; building project; help run a dental clinic

**Organizer:** Alberta Conference Men's Ministries

**My experience:** “I have been able to watch the whole project unfold over the past four years and have been amazed and humbled at how the Lord blesses in spite of all the challenges. Finally being able to visit the project, I was blessed by meeting many beautiful and loving people. The timing of my visit gave me the opportunity to feel the excitement of the local school board as they met with government officials from the Belizean Education Office there for evaluation. I look forward to more

excitement as the Lord works out His will in the lives of all the volunteers and of those touched by this mission service in Belize and at home.”

**Nathan Lehman**, 3rd year Adventure Based Counseling student

**Location:** Lacombe, Louisiana—our sister town

**When:** February 12-20, 2006

**Project:** Gut two mobile homes and prepare them to be rebuilt (by another team); put up drywall and vinyl siding; install carpet and trim

**Organizers:** A Better World and CUC Campus Ministries

**My experience:** “The work that I was required to do was not necessarily hard or out of my realm of experience or knowledge, but it felt good to be doing it for a worthy cause. Through the time on our trip, I got to know some people that I would have otherwise never known or been close to. Working together so closely with the group and getting to know them was a real blessing for me.”

**Elise Leblanc**, 1st year Adventure Based Counseling student

**My experience:** “Our team returned after a day of work dirty, sweaty, and itching from insulation fibres only to find the water had been cut off. After driving 45 minutes to a local pool, we discovered it was actually an upscale fitness club that charged an arm-and-a-leg just to get through the door. Fortunately, when the receptionist found out we were volunteers from Canada, she offered us free use of the showers! Despite our small hardships, however, I received a blessing from meeting the people of Louisiana, experiencing their gratitude and hospitality, and witnessing the power of love and hope in the midst of pain and devastation.”

**Matt Brucks**, 3rd year Biology student

**My experience:** “At first I didn't think I should go on the trip. I was missing out on a relaxing reading break, I had midterms right after the trip, and I didn't feel like I was qualified for the job. But the trip to Katrina's disaster zone made me realize that you don't always need to be qualified (at least with my definition of being qualified), you just need to be willing to help out and God will use your efforts to make the best of your abilities. I'm glad I didn't waste the break on myself; it was a great experience that I'd recommend to anyone.” ■

*Compiled by Myla Ferrer, communications officer at Canadian University College.*



## british columbia

### All Power Baptism at Aldergrove/ Langley

Following the conclusion of Leo Schreven's All Power Seminar in the Aldergrove/Langley Adventist Church, one evening was set aside for baptisms. On February 13, 2006, 22 people were baptized. Sima Sremac, pastor of the Richmond church baptized three of these individuals—Susana Hanjo, Slavko Milutinovic and Milan Spremic.

The Aldergrove/Langley pastors, David Jamieson, Frances Douville and Massiel Davila, baptized the remaining new members— Peter and Claudette Berdusco, Don and Dorothy Campbell, John Gibson, Chris and Freda Gregorig, Valerie Johnstone, Rory and Anita MacDonald, Cristine Naranjo, Sean Posanski, Debbie Reynolds, Thikalmathy Selvendran, Steve, Karen, and their daughter Dominique Shore, Susanne Solyom, and Helena Wnuk.

Adam Kemp, Gary MacMillan,



Kneeling in front of the new members are, from left, pastors Francis Douville, Massiel Davila, Leo Schreven, David Jamieson, and Sima Sremac.

Pastor Dennis, Giselle Southworth, and Doris Lombana were accepted on profession of faith.

Just prior to this, on Sabbath, Feb. 10, 2006, Pastor David Jamieson baptized Iasmin Balaj, Brett Hammill, and Avis Morgan who had also attended the All Power Seminars.

The Langley Adventist Church and the Aldergrove Adventist Church have merged together and are in the process of building a new church. The church will be renamed later, but for now they are called the Aldergrove/Langley Adventist Church. ■

### Mike Tataryn Family Reunion

In the summer of 2005, the children of Mike and Francis Tataryn met at Kelowna, B.C. for a family reunion. What made the reunion special was that all 15 of the children were present, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 1945, Mike and Francis Tataryn moved from Hazel Dell, Saskatchewan with their family to Kelowna, B.C. They desired that their children would be able to receive a Christian

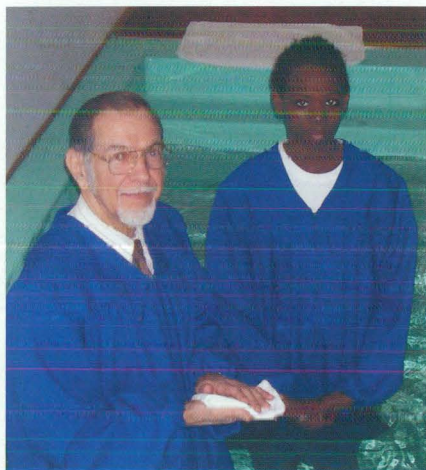
education. The majority of the children attended Okanagan Academy which is located in Kelowna. Although Mike and Francis now sleep, their desire was that their children would continue to faithfully serve the Lord.

The children, 12 of whom live in British Columbia, have sought to make every family reunion a time to renew their commitment to the Lord. ■



The Tataryn family, from left, Barbara, Sylvia, Gloria, Lillian, Esther, Ruth, Joe, Aaron, John, Peter, Steven, Mary, William, Pauline and Helen.

## Dulu Modi's Wait Is Over



**T**welve-year-old Dulu Modi is part of a loving Christian family who emigrated from the Sudan to Langley,

B.C. in 2001. She is now a vibrant young woman who always wears a smile as big as all outdoors, just like her mother, and who shares her love in many ways. She is a student at Coralwood Academy, which she loves attending. She has a beautiful soprano voice which she loves lifting up to sing God's praise, both in the choir and in the congregation. Dulu is a good friend to others her own age as well as to the "little ones."

Dulu's dad, Abraham, is a deacon who also sings in the choir. Her mom Rose can usually be found in the kitchen or the nursery, and all three of them are kept busy with Yugu, her six-year-old brother, and Juwa, her

four-year-old sister.

Dulu had been studying the baptismal requirements as part of her education at Coralwood Academy and desperately wanted to give her life to Jesus. Nagging her dad to make the arrangements for her baptism, his quiet reply was always "It will happen in God's time." Well, God's time was on February 4, 2006. What a marvellous Sabbath for Dulu, her family, and the congregation of Sherwood Park Adventist Church. We thank God for the Modi family, and especially for this very special young woman, Dulu. ■

— Lesley Bishton-Fox

## ontario

### Metro Police Top Brass Join Toronto West for a Day of Worship

**T**oronto Chief of Police Bill Blair and Deputy Chief of Police Keith Forde joined the Toronto West congregation for services on January 28, 2006.

Unable to meet a previous invitation extended by the church last fall to attend our Community Guest Day, they expressed a desire to join us at a later date for a day of worship without media or fanfare. Both men brought greetings from the police services and talked about the need to work with the Toronto West community and other faith leaders to deal with the gun violence plaguing the city.

Deputy Chief of Police Keith Forde spoke frankly about his faith in God and his optimistic outlook without which he could not face each day. A plaque of appreciation was awarded to each officer.



From left, Pastor Allen Chichester, Toronto Chief of Police Bill Blair, Deputy Chief of Police Keith Forde, Pastor Andrew King.

Both guests, along with friends, family and staff, joined the congregation in a luncheon to honour the newly baptized members. ■

### Long Time Solicitor for ADRA Receives Award



Rhoda Thompson receives award from Bancroft Lopez, personal ministries leader at the Malton church.

**O**n Sabbath February 25, 2006, Rhoda Thompson was congratulated by the Malton Adventist Church on her excellent work done for ADRA. Rhoda has been a faithful servant in collecting ADRA funds throughout the years. This year she raised \$1,400 for ADRA projects.

"Inasmuch as you have done it for the least of these my daughter, you have done it for me. Well done." ■

It was a blessed Sabbath day for the members and many visitors of the Malton Seventh-day Adventist Church, culminating with the baptism of three individuals. The church was packed to the legal limit of regular worshippers and well wishers of the candidates, all praising God and giving Him glory for these three people who decided to renounce the world and follow Him all the way.

Valerie Raymond is a young adult who had been introduced to the Adventist church as a child. Although all her family worshipped on Sunday, there was one uncle whom they called an “odd ball” as he went to church on Saturday. He often took her to church with him on Saturdays. He would tell her many stories about the love of God for mankind. Growing up, she pondered these things in her heart and often wondered which day was the real day to worship God while continuing to worship on Sundays.

Five years ago when Valerie came to Canada, she went to church on Sunday as usual but felt very uncomfortable there. About four years ago, she was going through a difficult time in her life. She had many friends, but felt very friendless and alone. She cried out to God and asked Him to see her through. She promised that if He helped her she would serve Him. Shortly after that time she met a new set of friends, including a Pentecostal lady at work who proved to be a real Christian. This lady talked to her often about the love of God. Last August she met Melissa Apaw, a recently baptized member of the Malton church who invited her to come church with her.

Valerie found a deep warmth and comfort as she worshipped in the church, and felt that God was telling her to stay there. The idea of Saturday

worship was still unfamiliar to her, however. She prayed that God would show her the right thing to do. She continued to visit Malton on Saturday and another church on Sunday.

One Sunday at the church she was visiting, there was an extensive Halloween display in the church lobby which disturbed her greatly. She asked the minister about it but he brushed her off telling her he knew it was pagan but he had to entertain the kids. He went on to say that he did not believe in celebrating Christmas either. It seemed that thereafter every thing and every one was telling her to stand up

## As the Spirit Leads



From left, Pastor Ray Llewellyn, Valerie Raymond, Josephine Lake and Candice Henry.

for God. She decided to stand up for Him at the Malton church. Sybil and Mark Lake gave her Bible studies and led her to baptism.

Teenager Candice Henry was the next person to be baptized. When she was in Grade 3 her brother was baptized and following his example she did likewise. She had no idea of what she was doing but thought it might be the right thing to do. Candice had no Bible studies and no knowledge of the church or its teachings and found herself falling away from the church after awhile. As she grew older she felt she was going down the wrong path in her life and felt an inner tugging telling her she needed to

go to church.

One day at school she met a new friend, Katherine Lopez, who invited her to her church. She did not go with her, but one day at her sister’s house she broke down and cried due to an unknown weight and pressure she was carrying. Katherine again invited her but this time only to her church youth choir group. She accepted the invitation in October and has not looked back since. She was introduced to the pastor and they talked extensively about her life and her desire for baptism. She started having Bible studies with Jean and Bancroft Lopez. Candice was baptized with the approval of her non-Adventist parents. She says now the pressure in her heart is no longer there and she feels very happy about the decision she made to serve God.

Ten-year-old Josephine Lake could have been baptized at the age of five years, but at age eight she started to seriously talk about it. One day her mom saw her crying and asked her what was wrong. She replied, “I love the Lord and want to be baptized.”

At about that time the family moved to St. Maartin, West Indies

for a time. Josie attended an Adventist academy and never lost her desire to be baptized. Upon their return to Canada she asked her parents to go and talk to the pastor’s wife, Alice Llewellyn, about baptism. She told them not to hinder her, but allow her to give her young life to God. Sybil Lake, the church’s Bible worker, prepared her for baptism, and Madge Jackson now has Bible studies with her.

When Josie was four-years-old she prayed and asked God to give her a voice to sing. Her prayer was answered and Josie is a frequent featured soloist at the church at various functions. ■

## Family Life Day at Bronte Church



Pastor Cyril Millett

The Bronte church hosted its annual Family Life Day on February 11, 2006. Pastor Cyril Millett, Youth Ministries Director for the Ontario Conference, was the guest speaker and put on an excellent program that appealed to members of all ages.

The music group N'Vision performed their songs for both Sabbath school and the worship service, followed by Pastor Millett's sermon "Dust of a Rabbi," a thought-provoking message regarding the importance of building and maintaining strong relationships within our families.

Denzil Brown started off the afternoon program with a Bible game, followed by two sessions by Pastor Millett entitled "Your Family and God's Church" and "Principles of Christian Dating." Monica Kapusi, provided the special music for the afternoon. The day turned out to be a great blessing for all who attended. ■

## Young Enough to be Baptized?



Ninety-four-year-old Henry Miller and his 82-year-old wife Lena Miller were baptized together at the Toronto West church on January 28.

Lena has been a Christian for many years but felt convinced that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was the place to be. After studying for several months with Bible Worker Bernice McDonald and Pastor Andrew King, Lena and Henry requested baptism to demonstrate their new direction. ■

## alberta

### In His Time

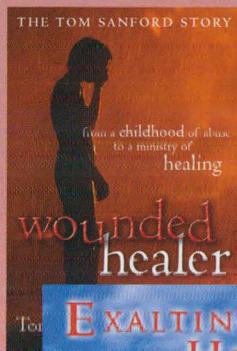
Pastor Warren Kay had the joy of baptizing two people on November 26, 2005. Greg Fairbrother was first introduced to the Sylvan Lake church through a men's study group many years ago. During that time he had to go to Calgary to have surgery to remove a brain tumor. The men's group traveled to Calgary to be with him through the ordeal, and that love and concern made a strong impact on him. Through the years he attended church whenever it was possible, and gradually his heart was given to the Lord.

When Frank Webb first moved to Sylvan Lake, he came across the street to the church one day and asked the pastor if he could attend the services since they wouldn't interfere with his regular church. The pastor welcomed him, and after going to both churches for a long time, he finally asked for Bible studies and took the Discover Bible School lessons. He then asked to study for baptism and after completing the studies he committed his life completely to God.



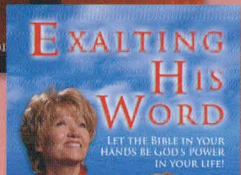
From left, Pastor Warren Kay, Frank Webb, Greg Fairbrother.

The Sylvan Lake church family is thankful to have both Greg and Frank a part of their fellowship. ■



## For God's Wounded Children

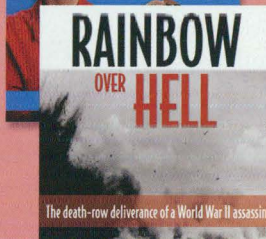
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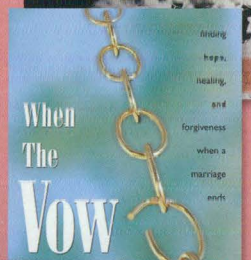
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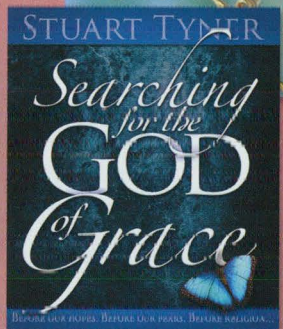
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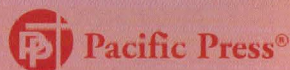
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■ **Announcements**

**Richmond Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church** is looking for current information on the following missing members: Yuong Jin Cha, Mee Ja Cha, Sung Kyung Cha, Sung Min Cha, Byron Hamilton, Hae Ji Kim, Hae Kyung Kim, Lionel Linconier, Yulia Molchnack, Natasha Ramberan. If you have any information that may help, please contact Ritva Croughan, church clerk, at 905/895-9652, or email richmondhillclerk@adventistontario.org.

**Toronto Perth Avenue Church's 35th Anniversary**—All former members and friends of the Toronto Perth Avenue Adventist Church are invited to attend their 35th Anniversary/Homecoming weekend of celebrations, May 19-21, 2006. The following is an outline of the celebratory programs and speakers for this week-end: Friday evening vespers, 7 p.m., Dr. Steve Cassimy, pastor of the Grand Concourse Adventist Church, New York, and former pastor of the Toronto Perth Church; Sabbath worship service, 11 a.m., Dr. James Doggette, senior pastor of the Madison Mission Adventist Church, Alabama, International Bible Expositor and Professor of Religion at Oakwood College; Sabbath evening dedication service, 6 p.m., Pastor Orville Parchment, assistant to the president of the General Conference and former pastor of the Toronto Perth Church; Sunday evening, formal banquet, guest speaker, Jean Parchment. For further information, please contact Daisy Morgan at 905/454-2827, or email daisy morgan301@hotmail.com.

■ **Births**

**Michael John Julius Clarke** was born Jan. 25, 2006, to Bill and Christine (Mueller) Clarke of Chilliwack, B.C.

**Rhyzel Amethyst S. Velasquez** was born Jan. 12, 2006, to Reggy and Rosel (Suarez) Velasquez of Regina, Sask.

■ **Weddings**

**Denise Chabot and Evan Duncan** were married on Oct 9, 2005, in Rutland, B.C. Denise is the daughter of Norman and Cecile Chabot and Evan is the son of Normand and Lenore Duncan.

**Lori Koppel and David Kindopp** were married Aug. 6, 2005, in

Lacombe, Alta., and are making their home in Red Deer, Alta. Lori is the daughter of Steve and Lucille Koppel of Lacombe, and David is the son of Jerry and Janet Kindopp of Red Deer.

**Janice Van Petten and Jerryn Schmidt** were married Dec. 18, 2005, in Olds, Alta. Janice is the daughter of Barry and Pam Van Petten of Bowden, Alta., and Jerryn is the son of Gary and Betty Schmidt of Maple Creek, Sask.

■ **Obituaries**

**Gertrude Bielski** was born July 10, 1909, in East Prussia, Germany, and died Jan. 13, 2006, in Kitchener, Ont. Gertrude worked at North York Branson Hospital in Ontario for 15 years. She also served her church as a deaconess and head deaconess, and was a supporter of Kingsway College, and Andrews University. She was predeceased by her daughter, Gabrielle.

**Bertha Lillian Boutilier** was born Dec. 10, 1925, in Indian Harbour, N.S., and died Feb. 20, 2006, in Halifax, N.S. Although Bertha never married, she loved and cared for many children. She loved the Lord, and enjoyed singing with sunshine band groups when they visited her. Surviving: brother Raymond of Halifax; sister Colleen (Roy) Wheeler of Cornerbrook, Nfld.

**Mark Busch** was born Apr. 3, 1946, in St. Boniface, Man., and died Feb. 9, 2006, in Lethbridge, Alta. He was predeceased by his parents Frederic and Freda Busch, and his brother Frederic. Surviving: wife Kathryn; son Adam of Lethbridge, daughter Chelsea Busch of Lethbridge; and sister Virginia (Bob) Fadoo.

**William (Bill) Ernest Goddard** was born Aug. 22, 1920, in Vancouver, B.C., and died Feb. 7, 2006, in Langley, B.C. William was passionate about the outdoors, enjoying hiking, camping, and his involvement with Scouting. He was a wonderful teacher and mentor, reaching out and touching many lives. He was a man of great faith who lived what he believed. He leaves a legacy of love. He was predeceased by his wife, Easter. Surviving: sons Paul (Bernice) of Langley, and Phil (Camille) of Chilliwack; daughter Kathryn Harrison of Langley; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Alice Honora (Rottke) Hoffman** was born Nov. 28, 1923, in Wilkow, Poland, and died Feb. 7, 2006, in

Peterborough, Ont. She was predeceased by her husband, Erich. Surviving: son Mario (Linda) Steppacher of Woodville, Ont.; brother Richard Rottke; and brother-in-law Harry (Myrna) Hoffman.

**Margaret Horricks** was born Apr. 2, 1922, in Renfrew, Ont., and died Feb. 15, 2006, in Bowmanville, Ont. Margaret worked for many years as a nurse in Ottawa. She actively participated in church life and worked diligently in a number of community service programs in the Ottawa community. Surviving: sons Harry (Debbie) of Oshawa, Ont., Donald (Faye) of Sarnia, Ont., and Peter (Renay) of Fredericksburg, Va.; daughter Linda (John) Gilbert of Abbotsford, B.C.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Geneva (Prosser) Kozak** was born Feb. 13, 1909, in Flagstaff, Alta., and died Jan. 31, 2006, in Kelowna, B.C. Geneva served her church through her participation in the Pathfinder program as well as through the church's community services program—sewing quilts was her specialty. She was predeceased by her husband Paul, son Earl, and an infant daughter. Surviving: daughter Sheila (Jerry) of Michigan; daughter-in-law Phylliss of Williams Lake, B.C.; sisters Bertha Reiten and Hazel Bodenchuck; five grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

**Mary Whamond Nicks** was born Apr. 28, 1920, and died Feb. 23, 2006. She was predeceased by her husband Orie, and son Ormand. Surviving: sons Douglas (Karin) of Sherwood Park, Alta., and Murvin (Carol) of Lacombe, Alta.; brothers Dave Shaw, and Angus (Mary) Shaw; sister Agnes (Glen) Braum; four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Lucy Oshust** was born Feb. 25, 1932, and died Feb. 11, 2006, in Edmonton, Alta. Surviving: son Kevin (Gladys) of Edmonton; and a brother and two sisters all of Edmonton.

**Athol V. Piper** was born in Perth, Australia, and died unexpectedly Oct. 27, 2005, at his home in Victoria, B.C. Athol served as a pastor in New South Wales, Australia and New Zealand for several years. He moved to North America where he pursued an education in the medical field, opening a medical practice in Victoria, B.C. in 1960, and maintaining that practice until 1984. He worked as a surgical assistant in local hospitals until the day before his death. Surviving: wife Kathleen Clarice (Kent); sons Haydn

(Elizabeth), and Lawrence (Fay); daughter Frances (Peter) DeVries; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Lauralyn Dawn Proud** was born Mar. 27, 1963, in Lacombe, Alta., and died Feb. 20, 2006, in Red Deer, Alta. Lauralyn participated in church life at many levels, pursuing her passion for music in many venues, most recently as a member of "Highest Praise," a women's acappella ensemble. Surviving: parents Ted and Ruth Proud; brothers Quentin (Darlene) of Nanaimo, B.C.; sister Heather (Jeffrey) Calkins; and two nieces and one nephew.

**Robert J. Radcliff** was born June 8, 1918, in Rivers, Man., and died Jan. 21, 2006, in Loma Linda, Calif. Robert began his life service for the church in 1947 as a literature evangelist in British Columbia. In 1947-52, he taught English literature and business at Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ontario, then became comptroller for Kingsway Publishing House in 1952. In 1955, he served as treasurer of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference for four years and then transferred to the Ontario-Quebec Conference where he served as treasurer for one year. He was auditor at the Pacific Union Conference in 1960, and in 1964 became chief auditor at the General Conference. He became vice-president for finance of Loma Linda University in 1969. He served the Loma Linda Foundation until his retirement in 1983. He was predeceased by his first wife, Gladys. Surviving: wife Irene; son Robert Jr.; daughter Ruth; and three grandchildren.

**Albert Reimche** was born Aug. 24, 1909, in Bushui Eli, Crimea, Russia, and died Jan. 29, 2006, in Lacombe, Alta. He was predeceased by his daughters Zella Clark and Edna Burr. Surviving: wife Emma; children Edward and Marion, Sue and Raleigh Flint, Rose and Herb Stickle, Alberta and John Blake, Darlene, Leo and Cheryl; sons-in-law Dennis Burr and Ralph Clark; brothers Herb (Dorothea), Oscar (Alma), and Harold (Mary); step-brothers Bud (Marlene), Ray (Barbara), and Gary (Karen) Leadbetter; sisters Martha Toews, Claire (Don) Ritchey, Gail (David) Morris, and Brenda Bui; 22 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

**Helen (Hawryskewich) Skwarchuk** was born June 18, 1922, in Lipowitz, Poland, and died Feb. 24, 2006, in Toronto, Ont. Helen was a regular, contributing member of her church and

enjoyed working with children in Pathfinders. She was predeceased by her husband, Sam. Surviving: sons Joseph (Linda), William (Joan), Leonard (Diana), and Russell; daughters Ruthann MacDonald, Esther (William) Nichiporik, and Marie (James) Blakeley; 15 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-granddaughters.

**Sigrid (Johnson) Timms** was born June 16, 1928, in Port Alberni, B.C., and died Dec. 3, 2005, in Powell River, B.C. Sigrid was dedicated to the Adventist church and served in a variety of ways. She was known for her kindness and was loved by all who knew her. She was predeceased by her daughter Cathy, and four brothers. Surviving: husband James; sons David (Sandra), and Jonathan; sister Tess; and one grandchild.

**Mary Woodworth** was born Mar. 10, 1916, in Saskatchewan, and died Nov. 12, 2005. Mary's strong faith, love of family and generosity did much to welcome all to her home, and especially her table. She became a second mom to many. She was predeceased by her husband George, and daughters-in-law Jan Rancier, and Theresa Woodworth. Surviving: sons Everett, Doug and David (Woody); daughter Lynda (Chris) Burnett; and three grandchildren.

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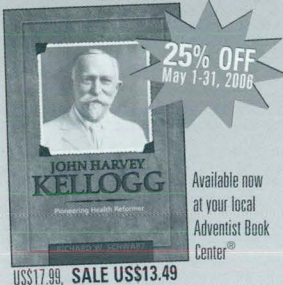
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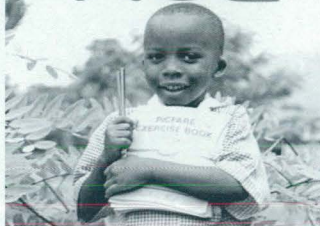
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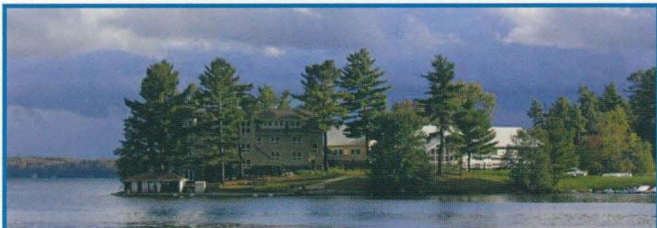
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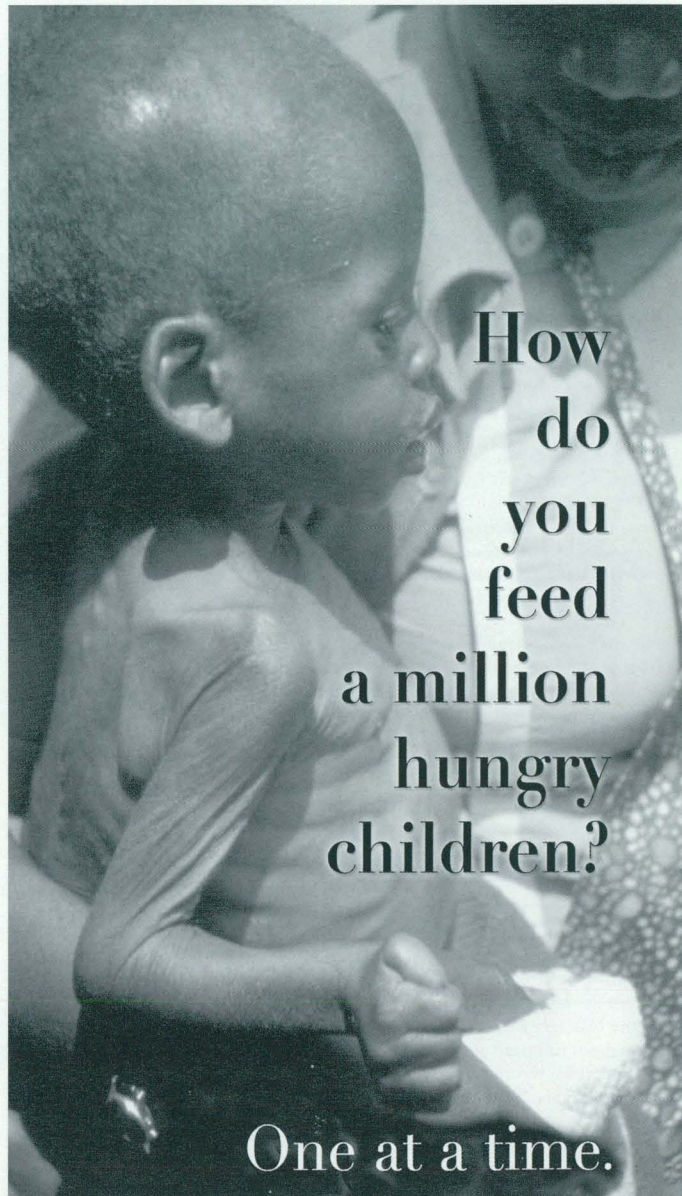
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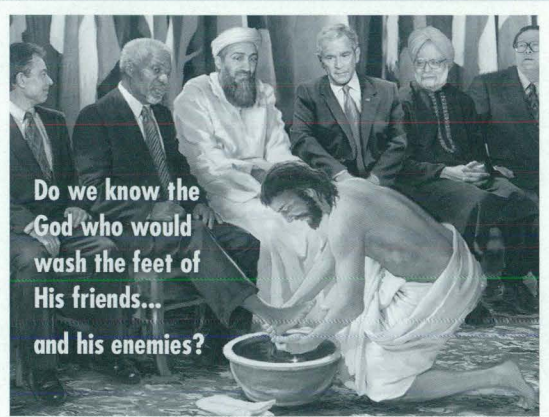
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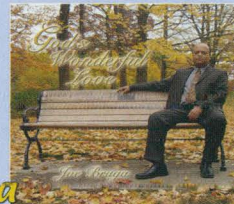
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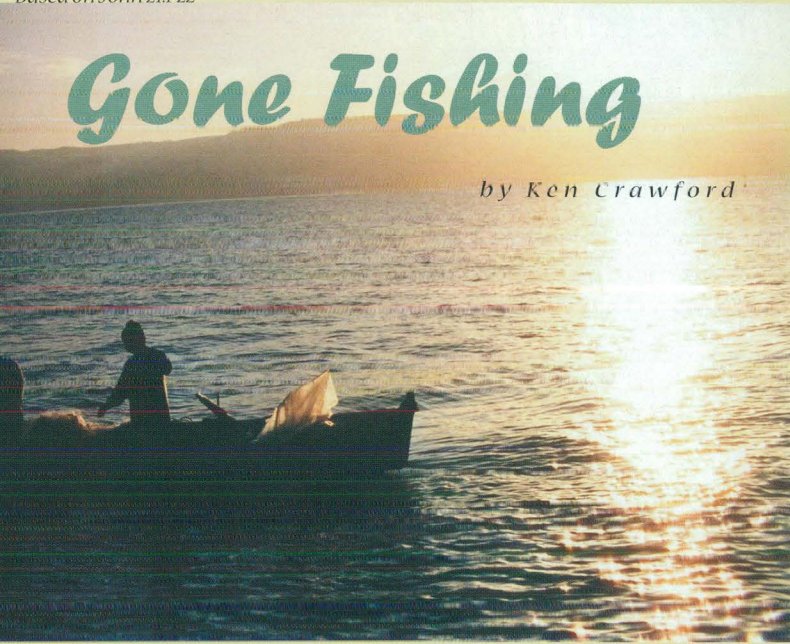
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Based on John 21:1-22

# Gone Fishing

by Ken Crawford



He flings the rounded net into the shadowy waters of the night. The placid, murky waters are no darker than his soul. In his mind self-condemnation is nudged on by the accusing voices of demons. “You have denied Jesus. Sure you have repented, but this time you have gone too far. There is no repentance.”

His brothers and comrades of the last three years work alongside him, but Peter is alone. No one tries to break into his solitude with words of comfort for there is no consolation for Peter. The conversation ebbs and flows with the work. “What now?” “Where is the kingdom He promised?” “I thought we were going to sit on thrones.” Peter works encased in his own silent misery.

They row from favourite spot to favourite spot in the blackness of the Galilee and cast their nets, looking for anything tangible that will stop the endless tapes playing in their heads. “We thought that He was going to bring the Kingdom of God.”

The faint orange glow in the eastern sky casts eerie shadows on the rocks of the shore. The night is almost spent, the day is coming, yet they have caught nothing. Time after time they have cast the nets, and yet the dark empty waters mock them. Is this not symbolic of their future? Is this not an omen of their lives? Is this not a harbinger of the prospect before them?

On the distant shore an unseen figure stands in the shadow against the orange glow of the rising sun. Through the dark hours of the night He has watched over this precious cargo for they are His church of the future. He has listened to their talk, their confusion and their doubts. Cynical Nathaniel, doubting Thomas, loving John, excitable Mark, gentle Bartholomew, but

mostly he watches impetuous Peter. His searching eyes are rarely off Peter. He knows the heart of this man; he feels his agony and self-condemnation.

As the boat slowly works its way closer to shore, the form of a stranger emerges from the glow of the rising sun. Children, have you caught anything? They should have recognized the tender salutation, but they are engulfed in their misery. “No” someone replies, “Nothing! It’s all been a waste of our time. There are no fish to be caught.” Voices mutter, “Somehow they have all disappeared, vanished. Like our hopes, we had such high hopes.”

The stranger is nonplussed. “Before you quit, try on the right side!” What? Try again? We’ve been at this all night! Didn’t you hear what we said? There are no fish to be caught! The night is spent, the morning has arrived and everyone knows there are no fish this time of the morning; they have all gone to deeper waters. *Anyone who knows anything about fishing knows that.*

But there is something in that voice, those words, that have a familiar ring that stirs old memories. It’s not so much authority, but something that stirs their flagging zeal, and a cleansing tide washes over their discouragement. Okay, one more try. They gather the large circular net and with one more half-hearted heave they throw it out on the right side.

The net slowly sinks into the shallow water. Then, there is that first tug, that first hit, another then another—the net is sinking, the water boiling with the churning of flashing silver bodies. Men scramble to help. The boat rocks to the right, the gunwales dipping into the water as revived muscles stretch to pull in the breaking net. Men grunt with the exertion. So many fish! They gawk in silent wonder in the midst of the floundering bodies. So many fish!

John the beloved, ever observant, turns and whispers. “Peter! It’s Jesus! It’s the Lord!” There is no vacillation this time, no hesitation, no questioning. Peter dives into the water, arms reaching, stroking, legs kicking, never taking his eyes off that silhouette on the shore. In moments this dripping figure of a man, standing before his beloved Master, gazing into those smiling eyes, searching their depths. This is no awkward moment for there is no pride. This is the new Peter, who has been baptised with the baptism of repentance. He stands sopping before his Lord, washed of any self-assurance, ready to be forgiven. Ready to be a fisherman of men.

Friend, are you fishing and catching nothing? Why not make one more cast! Cast on the right side; there are fish there. The Master said so. ■

*Ken Crawford, a native of New Brunswick, Canada, is president of the Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*



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