

canadian adventist

august 2007

Messenger

CUC's Centennial celebration

PLUS: Doug Devnich answers Maclean's question "Is God Poison?"; Barry Bussey urges us to watch our step in a "world on edge."

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Editor Crystal Holloway
cholloway@sdacc.org

Production Assistant Joan Tanaslychuk
joant@sdacc.org

Circulation Coordinator Cathy Anderson
messenger@sdacc.org

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Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

1148 King Street East
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

President Dan Jackson
djackson@sdacc.org

VP Administration Nilton Amorim
namorim@sdacc.org

VP Finance John Ramsay
jramsay@sdacc.org

Conferences

Alberta 37541 Hwy 2, Red Deer County, AB T4E 1B1, phone 403/342-5044

British Columbia Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4P5, phone 604/853-5451

Manitoba/Saskatchewan 1004 Victoria Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

Maritime 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E 1A6, phone 506/857/8722

Newfoundland 1041 Topsail Rd., Mount Pearl, NF A1N 5E9, phone 709/745-4051

Ontario 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8, phone 905/571-1022

Quebec 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4H 3M3, phone 450/651-5222

Canadian University College 5415 College Ave., Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5, phone 403/782-3381

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“Remember *THE* Sabbath Day:” What a Difference a Word Makes!

“There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest. . . .” (Hebrews 4:9-11a)

A few months ago, I attended a convention of Christian writers, publishers, and editors, and there I heard a popular Christian author deliver a very important and inspirational message. I was blessed and encouraged by her testimony, but, after the passage of time, what I remember most about that meeting was the question and answer session she held at the close of her talk. Actually, it is a particular question and its answer that has held my attention for so long: one attendee rose and began her question by listing off the several impressive accomplishments of the speaker—she’s written so many books, she’s pastored a large congregation, she teaches at seminary, she and her husband run a small farm, etc.—and ended her question by saying, “you are so busy, are you still able to keep a Sabbath?”

“Oh, yes,” was the quick reply. “I couldn’t do anything that I do if I didn’t keep a Sabbath.”

My first reaction? Joy. I was thrilled to know that the Sabbath issue, which I’d always been led to believe was the near-exclusive domain of Adventists, was very much on the radar screen of Christians of other denominations. My thoughts since then? Not quite so joyful. Let me tell you why.

I’m not a theologian. Not even a little bit. And I cannot trace any Scriptural text back to whatever ancient language it originated from. But I do believe that God has set His Word apart and blessed it and that, in spite of all the ways humans

have translated and paraphrased it, it still says what He wants it to say. And I know a thing or two about the English language. So, when I read Exodus 20:8 which says, “remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy,” I recognize the ‘the’ as a particular part of speech known as a definite article. ‘The’ is, in fact, the only definite article we have in English, and it is called a definite article because it refers to something specific and definite. When God penned this commandment with His finger, He had a definite day in mind for the Sabbath; Exodus 20:10 tells us which one. “The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.”

When my colleagues at the convention discussed ‘a’ Sabbath, they used what is known as an indefinite article, a part of speech that may refer to any one of a group. The implication of keeping ‘a’ Sabbath day is that it really doesn’t matter which one you choose as long as you keep one.

There are few things as sad as ‘almost,’ and that is why my thoughts about that discussion of Sabbath-keeping have not been joyful ones; my friends were almost right. They had the right concept but the wrong day. My fear is that we, having the right day, have not *almost* but totally lost the concept. ■

Crystal D. Holloway, editor
cholloway@sdacc.org

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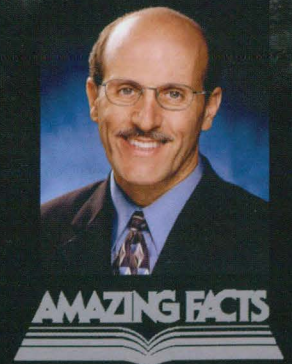
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the Miracle of Unity

Recently, I have had the opportunity to participate in Multicultural Day at some churches here in Ontario. To honour the varied backgrounds and numerous countries of origin represented in the membership, these churches have an annual celebration of the fact that, out of many, we are one in the Lord.

Usually, these celebrations include a display of flags from the various countries represented. In one church, almost forty flags were counted. In other churches, fifty and even sixty nationalities are represented! And following the worship service, there is often a delightful meal featuring foods from the cultures represented. There is laughter and joy as persons of each nationality urge you to sample their cuisine. It is a happy time characterized by warm fellowship and good will to all.

To observe God's children fellowshiping together and displaying Christian love for each other brings a warm feeling to my heart, for although different, we are one, united by Christ Jesus. Revelation 7:9-10 pictures it this way: "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

These are saved individuals from every kindred, nation, tongue and people—from all walks of life. They are saved because Jesus gave His church the sacred commission to go all over the world, reaching men and women in His name, uniting them under the banner of the conquering Christ.

Achieving such unity among fallen human beings is not an easy task. It is difficult because, ever since sin entered

this world, the human race has become separated not only from God but also from each other. This separation is not only nationalistic in nature, but ethnic, gender-based, and even age-related. But members of the church, one with Him, should have an unrelenting compulsion to conquer the great evil of disunity. Divisiveness should not, cannot, must not be a trait of those who are saved by grace.

When Jesus was here on earth, He performed many mighty miracles. However, we tend to forget that one of the mightiest—one He still performs today—is that of uniting "Jew and Gentile, male and female, bond and free." Uniting people from all spheres is a miracle of God's love. He unites people through the covenant of redemption.

It is in Christ that we see a solution to the destructive separation of nation from nation and class from class. We see a pattern for a true Christian community when each "honour[s] one another above [themselves]" (Romans 12:10). In the church of the living God we need to see true Christian universality in which all seek not power over others, not profit at the expense of others, but a multicultural gathering of members sealed by the Spirit of God, joyfully reflecting the universal acceptance of His loving heart. Everything rests on the truth that "God was reconciling the world to Himself through Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:19). Surely in the hierarchy of truths, this one tops all others.

We cannot deny that Jesus is the center of the great drama of unity. Everything in heaven and on earth is to become one in Him. We all must bow to the fact that a Christian must be thoroughly Christian because Christian doctrine, Christian experience, and Christian ethics are inseparable. ■

Derrick Nichols is the president of the Ontario conference.



by Derrick Nichols

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language ..."



Afraid of Doubt

My sister has been diagnosed with leukemia. Many people tell me that I should have faith, that if I believe, God will heal her. That's a lot of pressure! A friend of mine didn't get better even after having the whole church praying for him for months; he died. Now I feel guilty about doubting/rejecting God, because it could cause my sister to die! This weight on my shoulders is too heavy for me.

The opposite of believing is not doubting but rejecting. It is extremely important to understand that to doubt is not the same thing as to reject. We are allowed to doubt! We are allowed to question God! It is OK to hesitate! We are humans. So was David when he cried, "has God forgotten to be merciful?" (Psalms 77:9). So was Moses when he protested five times against God's command to go and save the Israelites from the Egyptians (Exodus 3)!

Believing doesn't resolve the question of suffering, but it helps you to overcome the problem as you wait for a definitive solution. The point is to realize that you already know what will happen at the end: Jesus restores this world, and we can finally live free from sin and illnesses. Doubt comes with the tension between believing that God is ultimately in control, and the overwhelming reality of suffering in this dark world where we live in.

Jesus takes the weight off your shoulders by assuring you that your sister's—eternal—future has already been taken care of. His death and resurrection are the signature of his oath!

Hands on

Take some time to read these verses: Romans 5:1-2, Psalm 42:11, Colossians 1:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Ephesians 1:18.



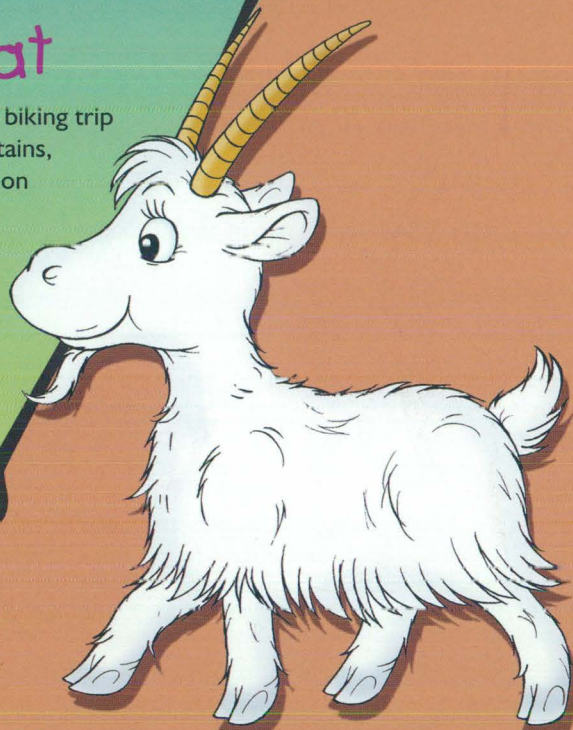
Creation Corner for Kids

"My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped." (Psalm 17:5, NIV).

Mountain Goat

While taking a break during a mountain biking trip along a logging road in the Coast Mountains, we spied some mountain goats high up on a ridge. We watched a while as the adults basked in the sun and the kids frolicked around them.

The mountainside along which the kids were leaping and playing was incredibly steep. I was amazed they didn't slip and fall. The short legs and design of the mountain goat's feet is what makes them such good climbers. The hooves have hard coverings with softer centers, providing sure footing even on the narrowest of ledges.



Think about it.

God built the mountain goat for life on steep slopes and narrow ledges. He has also equipped us to walk in the "narrow way" safely and to arrive at our final high and exalted destination, His heavenly kingdom! What are some of the things God has done for you to ensure your safe arrival? What do you need to do in order to stay on His path?

Do it.

Walk the beam! It's easy to walk a narrow path when it's at ground level. Lay a 2x4 on the floor and walk from one end to the other. Then, put a phone book under each end and walk it again. Notice the adjustments your body makes to walk the beam successfully this time!

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



WORLD ON edge

“I do not mean to be a pessimist, but, to be truthful, I sense we are all being lulled to sleep with a lie that all is well.”

by Barry W. Bussey

I have the distinct privilege of living in the country. At night, I hear frogs. In the morning, I hear birds. Over the last couple of days, I have taken the opportunity to listen and look at my surroundings. It is simply beautiful. If I never turned on the TV or radio, I would think I was living in paradise.

But, it is part of my job to keep in touch with the goings on of the world. The happenings are not encouraging. We live in a world on edge. While we go about our daily routines, there are storm clouds of trouble building. I do not mean to be a pessimist, but, to be truthful, I sense we are all being lulled to sleep with a lie that all is well. Consider the following examples:

Russia/USA relations: Not since Gorbachev and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 have we seen such high tensions between the United States and Russia. Russia has declared a “new round of the arms race” as a result of US action to establish a missile defence in Poland and the Czech Republic. The war in Iraq and the threats being made against Iran by the US are both actions condemned by Russia as examples of “imperialism.” President Bush’s announcement that he supports a Kosovo independent from Serbian rule has further irritated Russia who sees it as still more evidence of US interference.

Middle East: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has warned the world that his people are on the verge of civil war. He even suggested that the infighting is worse than living under Israeli military rule. Lebanon is facing its own internal turmoil over the jihad terrorists living within its borders. Every day news is given of yet another car bomb in Iraq. In Turkey, the army has rolled across the northern Iraq border to confront its alleged Kurdish threat. Israel remains on edge over Iranian possession of nuclear capability, especially so following

Iran’s reaffirmation of its quest for Israel’s demise. Meanwhile the war of attrition in Afghanistan continues.

Far East: Political unrest is growing in Pakistan as the military rule is being challenged by the populace and members of the legal system. In its northern enclaves, Al-Qaeda operatives are planning their next attack. China and India are re-arming at a ferocious pace.

I have not even mentioned the rising anti-American sentiment in other parts of the world nor the rising sense of insecurity in North America which is trying to avoid any more terrorist attacks.

To say that the world is in turmoil would not be accurate; the fact is that most of us are still living in relative peace. I do not wake up to falling bombs or missiles. Around my house, the frogs still croak, and the birds still chirp. However, there are ominous signs about. We do live in a world on edge.

Some ask, “why even bother being worried about such things; you cannot change what happens anyway?” And, there is some truth to that statement. It reminds me of the statement of Jesus: “Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life... Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matt 6:27-34). He also warned us to “be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him” (Matt 24:44).

The events of the world, then, become important not as they raise my level of fear but as they heighten my own regard for the imminent coming of Jesus. That is not to deny my responsibility to speak out against injustice and war but to understand that this world is bigger than I am and that there is One who will ultimately deal with it in His own time. ■

Barry W. Bussey is General Counsel and director of Public Affairs for the Adventist Church in Canada. bbussey@sdacc.org



EarthTalk

▶ Dear EarthTalk: I've seen those images of polar bears stranded on small islands of ice and heard that some are now drowning. How are other wildlife populations affected by global warming?

— Jessie Walters, via email

Most researchers agree that even small changes in temperature are enough to send hundreds if not thousands of already struggling species into extinction unless we can stem the tide of global warming. And time may be of the essence; a 2003 study published in the journal *Nature* concluded that 80 percent of some 1,500 wildlife species sampled are already showing signs of stress from climate change.

The key impact of global warming on wildlife is habitat displacement. Ice giving way to water in polar bear habitat is just one example of this. Another, according to *The Washington Post*, is the possibility that warmer spring temperatures could dry up critical breeding habitat for waterfowl in the prairie pothole region, a stretch of land between northern Iowa and central Alberta.

Affected wildlife populations can sometimes move into new spaces and continue to thrive. But concurrent human population growth means that many land areas that might be suitable for such "refugee wildlife" are already taken and cluttered with residential and industrial development.

Beyond habitat displacement, many scientists agree that global warming is causing a shift in the timing of various natural cyclical events in the lives of animals. Many birds have altered the timing of long-held migratory and reproductive routines to better sync up with a warming climate. And some hibernating animals are ending their slumbers earlier each year, perhaps due to warmer spring temperatures. To make

matters worse, recent research contradicts the long-held hypothesis that different species coexisting in a particular ecosystem respond to global warming as a single entity. Instead, different species sharing like habitat are responding in dissimilar ways, tearing apart divinely established ecological communities.

And as wildlife species go their separate ways, humans can also feel the impact. A World Wildlife Fund study found that a northern exodus from the United States to Canada by some types of warblers led to a spread of mountain pine beetles that destroy economically productive balsam

fir trees. Similarly, a northward migration of caterpillars in the Netherlands has eroded some forests there.

According to Defenders of Wildlife, some of the wildlife species hardest hit so far by global warming include caribou (reindeer), arctic foxes, toads, polar bears, penguins, gray wolves, tree swallows, painted turtles and salmon. Unless we take decisive steps to reverse global warming, more and more species will join the list of wildlife populations pushed to the brink of extinction by a changing climate. ■



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BETTER LIFE—THROUGH ADRA





Twenty-seven year old Gladys Dzimkambani is married with two children. She lives with her family in Khudu village in Kalumba in Lilongwe District of Malawi. As far back as Gladys can remember, life has been difficult for her. She has always lived in extreme poverty without sufficient food. In her community, women have a very low status, so even marriage did not improve her lot. She lacked the resources necessary to make her farm succeed: basic farming tools and even seed. Besides, the care of children and sick ones—numerous because of the HIV/AIDS scourge in her country—often took her away from farm work. There seemed to her to be no solution to her poverty, and she was left trying to survive one day at a time.

Then ADRA came to Gladys' community with the Kalumba Agricultural Training and Improved Storage (KATIS) project. It was exactly what she needed, so she quickly stepped forward when the project clubs were being formed. Many people were sceptical about the project, but Gladys had heard of ADRA before: from friends and relatives in other parts of Malawi, from their *Tikuferanji* (*Why are We Dying?*) radio program about the AIDS epidemic, and from a friend who reminded her that some villages in their area had been receiving food from ADRA for many months. So, she knew that if ADRA was coming to her region in Kalumba, she would not want to miss out.

Gladys was glad to receive basic farm training and felt for the first time that her garden was going to flourish. However, as the crops were increasing, rains were decreasing. Her lack of fertilizer was a problem made worse by the lack of moisture. Eventually the rains stopped completely, and the crops started drying up. Unfortunately for Gladys, she had planted only maize which depends heavily on water.

All the progress gained from the ADRA project disappeared in a flash. What would the village do? The club leaders gathered together to discuss the situation. As the men made decisions, the women prayed that they would make the right ones and save them from starvation. And so it was decided to request food assistance from ADRA of the type that was being given to other people. ADRA responded, and for nine months, 800 vulnerable households, including Gladys', received 250 kg ration of maize each month. It was sufficient to feed her family.

And so they had hope of surviving the crisis. But the two-year KATIS project was coming to an end. What would happen to the people after that? Another meeting brought the decision to write a letter to "Dr. Tayo," the ADRA Malawi Director. It was a pleasant surprise for them when Dr. Tayo visited their community personally to assess the need. By the end of the visit, Dr. Tayo had agreed to plead the community's case before ADRA Canada, asking for a continuation of the KATIS project. Just two months later, ADRA Malawi announced the approval of the Kalumba Food Security project by ADRA Canada.

With tears in her eyes, Gladys tells of a good maize harvest this year, sufficient to last till the next harvest. She reports a thriving vegetable garden which has improved her family's nutritional status and even provided for some cash. She rejoices over the availability of clean water this dry season—courtesy of the wells dug by the new ADRA project. She shares the hope of a women's maize mill, which will give the clubs money for investment in other income generating activities.

Though she received goods like tools and fertilizer, what makes Gladys most happy is the training that opened her mind to things she did not know before. "If the project ended today," she says, "my family could not go hungry again, because I have received the training I need for survival." ■

Dorcas Kanthenga is the manager of the Kalumba Food Security Project for ADRA Malawi.



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Our Picture of God

A recentⁱ article in *Maclean's* magazine is very likely the boldest literary eye-opener Adventist Christians have read in recent decades. The article is entitled “Is God Poison?” and has a sub-heading that says “A new movement blames God for every social problem from Darfur to child abuse”—unusual words indeed for the print news media which some 40 years ago asked, “Is God Dead?”ⁱⁱ

The *Maclean's* article, by author Brian Bethune, is a distillation of four books written by four atheists (Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and Michel Onfray) who write that religion—including Christianity—is at the root of all harm that is in our world. *Maclean's*' cover inscription labels the popularization of that sentiment a ‘movement.’ The entire piece of writing does a good job causing the Adventist mind to remember a prophetic prediction of such a time as this.

Messenger readers will, most likely, rush to assert that such accusations against Christianity are totally misguided and that Christianity is the undeserving victim of outside forces such as Islamic extremism, historic religious war mongering, and stark atheism. We even might think that, as a Church, we have not been involved with the ideologies that the four books identify as foundational to the conclusion that God and religion are poisonous. But are we sure that none of our actions have contributed to the problem?

i April 16, 2007
ii *Time* magazine, April 8, 1966.
iii *The Great Controversy*, p.614

We need to be front and center in telling
the world that God is more like Jesus than
He is like what many have made Him out to be.

Hitchens writes, “The argument between faith and non-faith is cresting again in a way that’s not been seen since the Scopes monkey trial. Whether we’re arguing about intervening in Darfur or about the recognition of gay marriage, underneath we’re always arguing about religion.” Bethune adds that the fight to teach “. . . intelligent design, creationism’s latest incarnation, in the nation’s (USA) schools is a religious fight. Angry debates over the permissibility of abortion, euthanasia, stem-cell research, and the public display of religious symbols and icons are all essentially faith-based.”

The events of 9/11 seem to overarch this new barrage against religion. The article states that atheists like the four authors “were already uneasy with trends in their own Western societies when they awoke to the rude shock of Islamic terrorism—the attacks in New York, London and Madrid, the murderous Sunni-Shia civil war in Iraq.” The result is the claim that we are now in a battle between the rationality of atheism and the superstition of religion. In fact, Dawkins and Harris are primarily devoted to battling Christianity. Perhaps it is only a matter of time before the focus will be on those who still hold to the verity of the Decalogue.

Ellen G. White wrote: “Those who honor the law of God have been accused of bringing judgments upon the world, and they will be regarded as the cause of the fearful convulsions of nature and the strife and bloodshed among men that are filling the earth with woe. The power attending the last warning has enraged the wicked; their anger is kindled

against all who have received the message, and Satan will excite to still greater intensity the spirit of hatred and persecution.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Centuries earlier, in the context of predicting religious troubles ahead, Jesus Christ said, “They will put you out of the synagogues; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me” (John 16:2,3) Amazing, is it not? In all of time—past, present, and future—the derision of believers in God is rooted in the perpetrators’ not knowing Jesus Christ.

In the fray, there is a significant reality that deserves our urgent attention (along with a readiness to elevate our own religious perspective, particularly as it relates to our picture of God): Christianity is still very far short of where it should be in telling and showing the world that what we believe about God is exactly contrary to how our accusers characterize our message about God.

The most cogent paragraph in Bethune’s article becomes a dramatic call to Adventists to start doing a better job of articulating who God is. Bethune writes: “The thrust of all four books is a common assault on the world’s three great monotheisms. They have a field day with the soft targets Judaism, Christianity and Islam present: the sexual obsession, the dizzying array of contradictions between and within the faiths and, above all, with the violence they’ve unleashed on humanity. The common God of the Old Testament is painted as a terrifying, murderous tyrant—a God whose followers can

find ample precedent for their most homicidal impulses.

How’s that for a reality check? According to the “atheists,” the God of love we believe in is the same God who has caused and now inspires unspeakable atrocities.

The time is now for Seventh day Adventists to step up to the plate and tell the world that notwithstanding misunderstandings of God in times past, Jesus Christ is the full revelation of who God is, and the story of His life shows clearly that God does not have anything to do with inspiring, causing or permitting violence, murder, death and fighting. God is Love. He cannot be un-love. The apostle John says, “God is Light and in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). How can anyone continue to think that the dark works of this world are attributable to Jesus Christ—God in the flesh?

Yet, confusion prevails even in our circles, let alone in Christendom and around the secular globe. It would be well for us to give serious study toward a clearer expression on how ancient thinking about God is profoundly superseded by Jesus Christ in whom we believe. We need to be front and center in telling the world that God is more like Jesus than He is like what many have made Him out to be. ■

Douglas Devnich has served the Church in a number of capacities. As a retiree he spends some of his time volunteering in the community where he lives near Owen Sound, Ontario.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

by Crystal Holloway



ROY JAMIESON, CUC ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR, (PICTURED HERE WITH VICTOR FITCH, HIS FORMER DEAN WHO LATER BECAME COLLEGE PRESIDENT), SUMMED UP HIS ALMA MATER WITH WORDS THAT MANY ALUMNI THOUGHT APT. "CUC HAS ALWAYS BEEN," HE SAID, "ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT POLICIES."

Canadian University College's centennial celebration

> As Roy Jamieson gave his acceptance speech for CUC's Alumnus of the Year award, he recounted an experience from his younger days when he was a student and lived in the dorm at CUC. One of the rules at that time was that students who had vehicles were only permitted to use them to come and go between home and school, but, in spite of that policy, Jamieson and his buddies, in a fit of spring fever and restlessness, decided to ask Victor Fitch, dean of men at the time of Jamieson's attendance, for permission to take Jamieson's car into town to buy some pop.

"Well, Roy. You know the rules," Jamieson remembered Fitch saying that day when faced with the request. "You know the rules say that I can't give you the keys to your car."

I can imagine the crestfallen look on a young Roy's face as he turned to leave.

"However," Fitch said, and Roy stopped and turned around again, "there is no rule against me letting you borrow my car." Fitch handed Roy the keys to his own car adding, "You boys go and have a good time."

As Jamieson told this story, he summed up his, and my, experience at CUC. It is, as he said, about "people, not policies."

1. Ken Fox (left) and Andrea Luxton (right), former and current presidents respectively, presented the PAA Alumnus of the Year award to Crystal Saylor, an educator who shares her love of music with students at College Park Elementary School in Ontario.
2. The fresh Alberta air and the company of good friends always makes a meal more enjoyable, and never was the air fresher and the company as enjoyable as it was for our picnic.
3. College Heights church was filled to capacity for two consecutive services as alumni converged for worship.
4. Wendy Markosky, professor of music, led interested participants in an crawl through College Heights church's Cassavant organ, just one of the many seminars and activities from which alumni could choose on Friday afternoon.



It was “people, not policies” that took center-stage on the weekend of June 7-10 as alumni and friends gathered to celebrate CUC’s centennial. Yes, tours were offered that reminded us of the buildings as they were and as they’ve become. Yes, dorm-style worship, with women restricted to sitting on one side and men restricted to the other, reminded us of policies that once governed—in this case many might say “interfered with”—our lives. But as the weekend wore on, it became evident that the buildings and policies were important only as they provided the background for the lives that were lived on campus.

It’s a reality felt by Denise Herr, chair of the department of English and co-author of CUC’s centennial book, *Changing Lives—The Hilltop Story*. As I spoke with her briefly during the weekend’s festivities, she smiled as she looked over the crowd gathered and remembered the comment she often made to Edith Fitch as they worked together to represent history on those pages. “We’ve got to get people in these buildings, Edith,” she would say to Fitch who not only co-authored the book but is also well-known for remembering the campus of long-ago. “It’s all about the people.”

As the crowds gathered to celebrate their *alma mater*, it was obvious that what was really being celebrated was the connections that had been made, some long ago, some more recent, but all worth remembering. In fact, as I wandered amidst the groups of long-lost friends reuniting, I wondered if organizers couldn’t have just as easily forgone the events, left everyone to chat amongst themselves, and called the weekend a success.

As it was, however, the successful celebration was filled with events from start to finish. As registration opened on Thursday afternoon, alumni gathered and let it be known that they

5. Participating in the old time march brought back happy memories for many and was a brand-new experience for some of us.



1. Joyce VanSheik (center) was one of the retiring members of the faculty and staff honoured at the banquet. The others were Joanne Andersson and Diane Pierson.
2. Just one of the many colourful floats in CUC's parade of the century!
3. The Booth Brothers, Gospel Trio of the Year in 2002 and Male Gospel Group of the Year in 2006, shown here with organizer Ron Schafer, chair of the Physical Education department at CUC, entertained alumni and guests at their Sunday evening concert.
4. Dan Jackson (left), president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, and Lee Patterson, pastor of the Vernon church in B.C., were indeed amusing in their roles as hosts of the Amateur Hour.
5. Friday night's gala banquet was a time for fun and friends.



were there to celebrate. They didn't have long to wait; before the day ended, they had enjoyed a picnic and participated in an old-time march such as this writer has never before seen!

For those of us not inclined to join the early morning nature walk, Friday began with a dorm-style worship with a twist that undoubtedly brought back memories for most: the women could sit only on the left of the room, and the boys could sit only on the right. Not considering the rules something to be taken lightly, Eric Rajah, host of the worship, conscientiously patrolled the aisle, ready to excuse to the woodshed any couple attempting to breach the divide. In spite of the inspirational thoughts offered by former deans Sharon (Cliffe) Nelkenbrecher and Harold Reimche, there were many couples glad when worship ended and they could again be together attending on of the many seminars planned for the rest of the day.

There was great excitement in the evening as the gala banquet was opened for all to enjoy. For many who either worked or travelled from a distance, this was the first event of the reunion in which they would participate. The food was great and the fun was better as even more alumni reconnected. The brief program included an honouring of retiring faculty and staff members Joanne Andersson, Diane Pierson, and Joyce VanSheik. A heritage vespers followed the banquet and provided a peaceful close to a busy day.

Sabbath was packed—with events and people. Recent memory cannot recall a time when the College Heights church was filled to capacity for both the early and late church services. But those who found a seat or could hear the program above the din of visiting happening in the foyer were truly blessed, first by Sabbath School's play depicting the "humble origins" of CUC and PAA, and then by the worship service which included Dan Jackson, president of the SDACC, figuring the schools firmly within the larger "community of grace." So apt was the message and so stirring was the speaker that we could scarcely believe him to be the same person who hosted the amateur hour later that night, clad in an orange jumpsuit and rubber boots, cracking jokes about "dragon milk," which is, of course, given from cows with short legs!



Sunday brought a blur of activity: a pancake breakfast, a classic car show, a model railroading display, a golf tournament, a dedication of the Emilie Schafer Music Room, a softball tournament, an open house, and—as if all that were not enough—a parade through the streets of Lacombe and up College Avenue. There was no shortage of things to do. And that evening, after we all had caught our breath and were ready for the next thing, the Booth Brothers, Male Gospel Group of the Year in 2006, entertained alumni in an impressive vocal concert. With all of this whirlwind of activity, you could hardly help but close the whole celebration with a fantastic fireworks display, which we did with joy.

Yet, in spite of all the activity, in spite of all careful planning and preparation to put together an event like no other Alumni Weekend I've ever witnessed, the highlight for me was not any specific item on the itinerary. Not the parade—though I caught as much candy as the swiftest of young parade watchers. Not the old-time march—though I was interested to see how close the old-timers came to dancing without actually displaying any rhythm. Not the amateur hour—though it allowed me to see some of those who performed (or hosted!) in a whole new light. No, the highlight of the weekend for me was connecting and reconnecting with people with whom I somehow already share something.

Truly Jamieson had it right. CUC—whether it celebrates its 100th or 1000th year—is and always will be about people. ■

Crystal Holloway is the editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger and a proud alumnus of both Canadian University College and Parkview Adventist Academy.



1. An historical play during Sabbath School traced the development of CUC: from its days as a three-month canvassers' school, through its time as Alberta Industrial Academy, to its present day.
2. Acronaires past and present wowed bystanders at the parade.
3. Denise Herr (seated, foreground) and Edith Fitch (seated behind), co-authors of CUC's centennial book *Changing Lives—the Hilltop Story*, signed books and greeted guests at the book launch on Thursday evening.

counting miracles *from* India

BY ED TERANSKI



W

hen I was a child living in Saskatchewan, my favorite time of year was harvest time. It seemed to me that this time of year was the climax to all the hard work, the daily effort, the constant attention given to the fields during the spring and summer.

Planting a crop of grain may be exciting, but it is nothing compared to harvesting souls for the Kingdom—especially in areas where past harvests have been discouraging in spite of the investment of much hard work. Today, miracles are occurring in India such as their pioneer labourers could only have dreamed. For the third year in a row, the India-China Evangelistic Outreach Team, under Operation Director Russell Schultz, conducted reaping meetings in India. The team consisted of Victor and Nettie Gill, Nettie Kilba, Barry Mills, Marion Schoeler, Melissa Miranda, Aileen Miranda, Cherri Manzon, and Dave and Jordan Dubyna.

MIRACLE ONE

The group reported that times have changed in India. There is now no shortage of people to whom to preach; people are keenly interested in listening. The November 2006 campaign was planned for 10 villages, but, by the time the meetings ended, 18 villages were involved at two different sites, and up to 2,200 people attended the evening meetings. “Even more people would have come to the evening meetings had we not run out of vehicles to transport them in,” reported one participant. From these 18 villages, there were over 1,800 baptisms—including the baptism of the entire adult population of two of the villages! These are in addition to the 1,200 baptisms we had from our 2004 series and the 1,765 baptisms following our 2005 series!

MIRACLE TWO

There is a great religious awakening taking place in this part of India—especially among those who call themselves “non-denominational.” The leader of a group of 300 churches totaling 60,000 members has asked that the message be shared with them next time our team visits. The people in these churches are eager to learn; they are spiritual and excited about the message.

MIRACLE THREE

In another thrilling development, a doctor, who is also a minister from another state where Christianity is frowned upon, came to see the evangelistic team. He spent some time talking with Victor Gill about, among other topics, the Sabbath. This doctor admitted that the Saturday Sabbath was indeed Biblical, and he asked for more literature. This man is the leader of a group of 105 independent ministers who, in turn, lead 100,000 members. He wants to understand this Bible truth and then train these ministers to spread the message to his people.

This doctor-minister and his wife came to Canada and spent the month of March living with the Gills while they conducted evangelistic meetings in Alberta. The couple attended every meeting and thrilled to the truths they heard.

Eager to learn everything he could, the man also read through *The Great Controversy*, *Desire of Ages*, and *Christ's Object Lessons* during his month-long stay. Further employing his time, he began the work of translating Pastor Gill's sermon outlines into his local Indian dialect in preparation for conducting his own meetings. (Recently reports are that this worker for God had conducted a series of 10 meetings with 60-70 pastors. On the tenth day, a group of Hindu radicals broke into the meeting, smashed the computer donated by the Gills, beat the speaker and attendees, and threatened their lives if the meetings continued. May God help them through this modern-day re-enactment of the book of Acts.)

MIRACLE FOUR

God is working miracles in the great land of India and impressing the hearts of the people. The team met a man who held a job

as a suit maker and thereby earned over R40,000 (rupees) a month. After his conversion, he left his well-paying job and became a pastor in the poorest region of Hyderabad. Now he makes only R2,000 (rupees) a month. But such is the spirit and commitment of many. One village, evangelized just three years ago, is home to a 12-year-old boy who has memorized the entire book of Revelation.

KEEP COUNTING

In order to strengthen new converts, the Southern Asia Division has a plan in place that requires a church to be built in each village where a congregation has formed as a result of the meetings. In addition, a Bible worker is to be hired who will remain in the village for two or three years. The Division feels that these steps will ensure that the people become well-grounded in doctrine and that they will have a place to worship.

As a result of this effective plan, the Church grows and prospers. Most of the villages donate land for a church building, and in cases where the village does not donate land, the conference arranges a purchase. The India-China Evangelistic Outreach Team is proud to have financed the erection of 10 church buildings in 2004, 15 church buildings in 2005 and 18 church buildings in 2006.

This work is not without opposition. There are often disruptions while our evening meetings are in progress, and, at times, there are issues with the villages surrounding the meeting grounds. But, as we've seen, God has worked miracles in India and will continue to do so for the more than one billion people living there who have never been introduced to Jesus and the beautiful truth that we love and enjoy. ■

Ed Teranski is pastor of the Winfield Seventh-day Adventist Church.



This is a picture of the India-China Evangelistic Outreach Team. In the middle of the back row is Pastor Vic Gill, one of the speakers, and to the extreme left of him at the end of the back row is Russell Schultz, the Operation Director.



Lighting the world

In the Bible, God says, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth" (Acts 13:47). We must be the light, the light that reflects Jesus.

The It Is Written team spent the month of June devoted to this work, to being a light reflecting the bigger Light, Jesus Christ. As we prepared the new season of television programs, we felt the powerful hand of God guiding us.

The preparation that goes into each program is enormous. First, Pastor Bill Santos chooses themes that will be of practical value in people's lives. Then he writes scripts based on those themes. The preparation of the studio then begins, and includes designing and readying the set and lighting. Taping the 54 programs that will air in a season takes about two weeks—an amount of time we try to minimize of the high cost of studio time: \$1,000 an hour!

After the programs are taped, postproduction begins. Each program needs to be edited, Bible texts and other graphics have to be added, background music gets in the mix along with the music of guest musicians and the closed captioning. We are grateful to volunteers who make much of this happen. Even with their help, the costs come in around \$10,000 dollars (not including the cost of air time: \$30,000 a month.)

It Is Written programs are produced at the highest quality so that they will be appealing to a wider audience. We long to reach the souls that are thirsty for Christ's love. We know that God has many ways of reaching people, and we are grateful that one way He does work is through our television broadcast. We are grateful that He has empowered us to break barriers, build bridges and reach further distances. Join us in this effort to enlarge the frontiers to announce the end time message. Help us to share Jesus with the world. ■

Call to Action
Pray for Douglas
Pereira (evangelism
coordinator/
Portuguese ministry
coordinator) and his
wife Rebeca.

*Rebeca Pereira is responsible for
communications at It Is Written Canada.*

British Columbia

OKAA Teacher Honoured at Parliament

Okanagan Adventist Academy was honoured to have one of its well-deserving teachers selected by the BC Ministry of Education to participate in the British Columbia government's Institute for Parliamentary Procedure. The five day event would not only allow the group of teachers to experience all aspects of parliament for themselves, but also, more importantly, represent schools from around BC. Kevin Littlechilds was one of the 18 teachers selected from public and private schools around British Columbia and the only teacher from the Okanagan area!

During this amazing experience, the teachers were allowed access to all areas of the parliament buildings, learning about the history, culture, and procedure of provincial government. The teachers were split into small groups. The concept was to learn together, experience together, and create curriculum activities together.

Littlechilds reports that an evening social with BC MLAs suddenly became a time of sharing and questions about Okanagan Adventist Academy. "Okanagan Adventist Academy, sure I know that school. I have heard great things about that school!" Kelowna-Winfield MLA Al Homing said. Liberal Minister for Children's Services, Ida Chong, was quite interested in OKAA and the type of community service and mission work the school is involved with.

The highlight of the week was the unexpected invitation to Government



Kevin Littlechilds (middle), was one of several teachers honoured at BC parliament by Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnola and Speaker of the House Bill Barisoff.

House for a formal banquet with the Queen's representative, Lt.-Gov. Iona Campagnola. "What an experience!" exclaimed Littlechilds. "I felt out of place, humbled, and honoured all at once." Campagnola surprised the teachers with awards at a pre-banquet official ceremony. After the Lieutenant Governor's address, each teacher, including Littlechilds, was presented with an award of Teaching Excellence. The Speaker of the House, Hon. Bill Barisoff, of Oliver, BC, helped with the presentation.

"It was such a Canadian moment for me," shared Littlechilds. "As each person's name was called for their award,

a picture of education in Canada was painted. One teacher was a recent immigrant from communist China; one was a single woman teaching on Salt-Springs Island; another was a man who had been teaching for 35 years in Smithers, and yet another was a teacher in trendy Yale-town Vancouver. Adventist Education was recognized that evening as being valuable and diverse. Our school was seen as an important asset to education in British Columbia, and I am proud to have been there to represent my school and the Seventh-day Adventist church." ■

Alberta

MANS Praises God for Special Gift

"There's no way they'll fit all of that in their van," the husband in the COSTCO parking lot whispered loudly to his wife. "Do you want to bet?" she replied. "They've done this before; I can tell." "You're on," he answered.



The keys to the new van were presented to Julie Bancarz, School Principal, by Pastor Romulo Daquila, Alberta Conference Vice President for Administration, on behalf of ADRA and the generous private donor. Ken Fox, Development Committee Chair and Pastor Ian Hartley, School Board Chair, looked on with appreciation.



The tired and aging volunteer van, relieved to turn over its duties to the new van, returned from its final shopping trip with yet another full load of food for the feeding program.

As the man's wife had astutely noted, we had done this before. And so, with our tires nearly scraping the wheel wells, we pulled away in the old van. Loaded with groceries for the breakfast and lunch program at the Alberta conference's Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS), we left a disappointed husband to settle his losses.

The cost of the groceries to feed our 130 First Nations students is mainly supported by local Adventist churches who forward ADRA rebate grants to MANS. Until recently, these frequent food purchases were transported with the help of a volunteer couple and their aging van. As the principal of the school, I am truly thankful to them, as one van-full would have required four or five 110 km return trips in my own vehicle.

After several years of operating this way, early this spring, the new MANS development committee, chaired by layman Ken Fox, decided to prioritize the acquisition of a new van, primarily for the school's feeding program. ADRA was contacted and approval was received for a matching grant. An anonymous

private donor, who wishes to give the praise to God, contributed the matching funds to make the van possible. After negotiations between Ken and Red Deer Motors, the price of the van was lowered because of its planned use, and our dream of a school van was a reality.

The praise certainly does go to God for everything that was accomplished. With His blessing, ADRA and the anonymous private donor have already made life a lot easier. In the two weeks we have owned the van, it has already made several trips for food and school supplies. The appreciation we feel to the Lord and to these donors is endless.

We look forward to experiencing other results as the new MANS development committee studies ways to make Alberta conference members and church members across Canada more aware of the mission of the only Canadian Adventist First Nations school. We thank them for their dedication and hard work toward making Mamawi Atosketan Native School a success, all in the name of Christ. ■

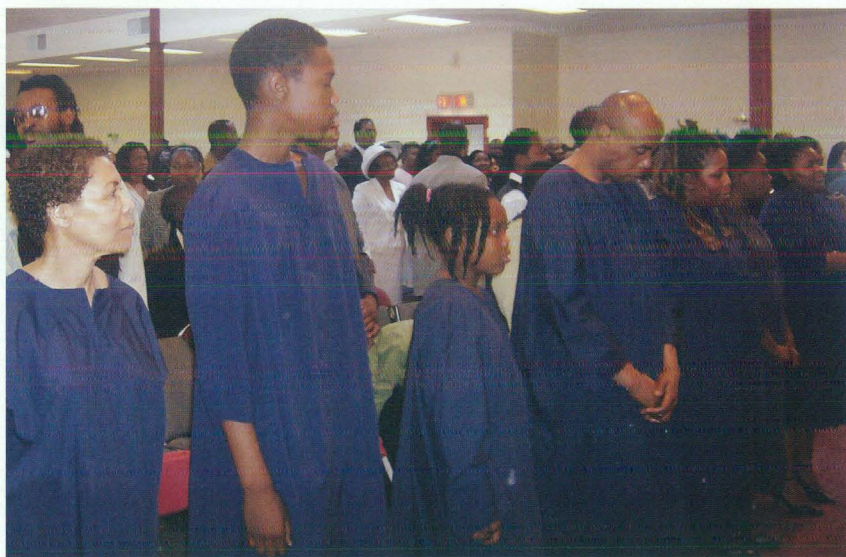
Branson Nursing School 35th Reunion

The Branson Hospital grads of 1972 came together on the May long weekend at the home of Darlene Rachul in Clive, Alberta. Eighteen of the 29 grads were present for the fun, coming from various cities in Canada and the U.S. Several of the classmates had not seen each other since graduation day on July 30th of 1972 and had a wonderful time rekindling friendships. Sabbath evening was spent laughing as we revisited memories of life in residence and class. Other events over the four days included an evening spent reminiscing with Janet Toop Kindopp, our house mother; a great trip through the mountains; eating great food; and having a pajama party, chatting late into the night. The entire weekend was such a success there are plans in place for a repeat next year. ■



Ontario

Let's Get Ready To Rumble!"



A few of the 31 baptismal candidates from the recent evangelistic series.

From May 19-June 9, the Toronto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted the "Let's Get Ready To Rumble" evangelistic series with evangelist Carlos Ming. The meetings were held five evenings per week. Throughout the series, Ming not only preached but also led the praise team in inspirational and uplifting music. Prayer warriors prayed earnestly each night, and at the conclusion of the series, 31 individuals took the step of entering the watery grave. To God be the glory! ■

Thunder Bay Campmeeting

*It was a campmeeting
to remember!*

Guests from the Ontario conference Derrick Nichols, Antonio Bucno, Ulysees Guarin, and Cyril Millet—were on-hand to lead various services and group meetings. Our main speakers, Geoff and Alicia Patterson, travelled from Marietta, Georgia to inspire us for five sessions—particularly on opening night when Alicia presented a dramatic monologue entitled "Mary of Magdela."

Other features of the campmeeting included the children's program, which kept the little ones busy and delighted, and the Sabbath afternoon musical concert with The King's Highway musical group and a variety of local talent.

We praise God for the spiritual experience we shared with Him—the tremendous success of the 2007 campmeeting. We already look forward to next year's event. ■

Lindsay Company Organized

Sabbath, May 26th was a very happy occasion for us in Lindsay. On that day, we officially became the “Lindsay Seventh-day Adventist Company.” It all began in April of 1995. Three people—Loury and Nina Forsey, and Jerry Collieran—had a mission to create a Seventh-day Adventist presence in Lindsay, Ontario. At that time, Enid Davis was canvassing the Lindsay area for the ADRA Annual Appeal. The four decided to meet together and rented a local church for Sabbath mornings. Cindy Laird-Wesley soon joined the tiny group, and so began the steady growth of our church in Lindsay.

It has been a real challenge, at times, to keep the small group active, but the core group never lost the vision of being witnesses to the people of Lindsay and area. It was a joy to celebrate this evidence of their perseverance.

A service of celebration and declaration was held, and we had the great pleasure of having conference president Derrick Nichols with us to conduct the service and to make the



Members of the newly-formed Lindsay company along with the conference administrators who joined the celebration.

“Declaration of Company Status.” We owe him and the other conference administrators a debt of gratitude for being with us on the happy occasion. Similarly we owe gratitude to the many, many guest speakers and Bible workers and friends who have been with us over the years, assisting us in many ways. Mostly, of course, we are grateful to our great God for all that He has done for His little group in Lindsay. ■

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

Former Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Administrator Receives Award



Lowell Bock

Lowell Bock, a pastor and conference administrator in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada for twenty years (1946-1966), received the prestigious Charles E. Weniger award on Saturday, May 12 at the Loma Linda University Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The award was presented to him in recognition of his accomplishments during his professional career. Prior

to his retirement, he had served his Church as a pastor and administrator for more than 45 years, including a five-year period of service as a vice-president of the General Conference. Even after retirement he continued his life of service, serving as made vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees of Loma Linda University.

The Charles E. Weniger award is given to persons in Adventist education and denominational work who best exemplify the professional excellence and Christian commitment of its name-sake. ■

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Announcements

The Greater Boston Academy Alumni Association will hold its annual reunion on Sept. 28-29, 2007 at the academy located at 108 Pond St., Stoneham, MA. Honor classes are those ending in "2" or "7." For further information, contact alumni president, Arthur Barnaby, at 951/359-4344 or email at afbarnaby@juno.com. Also see the alumni website at gba.myfamily.com. Guest speaker will be former teacher Matt Lombard. Special feature—Laurie Redmer choir reunion. (8/07)

Come and reminisce with old school friends from DAA/PVA/SRA at the alumni gathering at Dakota Adventist Academy, Bismarck, N.D. on Oct. 5-7, 2007. Honor classes—'03, '98, '88, '83, '78, '68, '58, '53, '48. Contact Robin Weisz, Alumni President, at 701/962-3799, or email rweisz@state.nd.us, if you have any questions. (8/07)

Baptisms

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Amanda Jeider, Zoltan Pop, and **Cyndy Lou Nielson** were baptized in Kelowna, B.C. They are now members of the Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ONTARIO

Mitchell Potok was baptized and **Victor Aliu** and **Sheryl Grant** (husband and wife) and **Geoff Roberts** were rebaptized in Scarborough, Ont. on June 2, 2007. Pastor Orville Browne studied with them and also performed their baptisms. They are now members of the Latter Rain Seventh-day Adventist Church.

MARITIMES

Brandon Francis was baptized in Moncton, N.B. on June 16, 2007 by Pastor Stéphane Beaulieu. He is now a member of the Moncton Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Births

Michael Marion Smallwood was born May 1, 2007 to Yvonne Maidment and Marlon Smallwood of Hamilton, Ont.

Weddings

Alicia Anderson and **Nathan Zinner** were married May 20, 2007 in Collegedale, Tenn. and are making their home in Collegedale. Alicia is the daughter of Howard and Kathy

Anderson of Athens, Ga., and Nathan is the son of Dirk and Jeanice Zinner of Kitchener, Ont.

Anniversaries

Paul and Alice (Eliuk) Chaikowsky celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 28, 2007 with



a family dinner at a restaurant in Abbotsford, B.C. The Chaikowskys were married on June 27, 1937 in Derwent, Alta., moving to Abbotsford, B.C. after retiring from farming and trucking. Paul, 92, still drives to the Aldergrove Adventist Church every Sabbath and Alice, 87, enjoys cooking Ukrainian delights. The Chaikowskys have one son, Wally (Lee-Ann), four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Ellen Gould (Toop) Bourne was born in 1927 and died Dec. 25, 2006 in Pella, Wisc. She was predeceased by her husband John, infant daughter Elizabeth, and brother Harold Toop. Surviving: daughter Linda Averil (Eldon) Heling of Pella; sisters Esther Campbell of Whitby, Ont. and Margaret (Frits) Wortman of Sherwood Park, Alta.; sister-in-law Dorothy Toop of Carleton Place, Ont.; and one granddaughter.

Blanche (White) Chant was born Jan. 26, 1921 in Soperton, Ont. and died May 26, 2007 in Athens, Ont. She was predeceased by her husband Maurice. Surviving: sons Eli (Frances) of Blackfalds, Alta., and Victor (Yvonne) of Bedford, N.S.; daughter Dorothy (Steve) of Lyndhurst, Ont; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

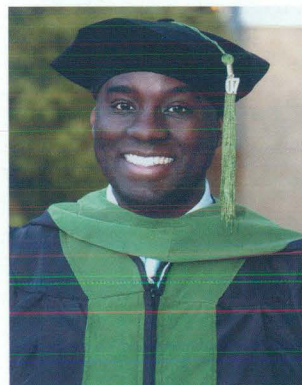
Edith May (Kierstead-McMackin) Daley was born Feb. 10, 1928 in Norton, N.B. and died May 30, 2007 in Moncton, N.B. Edith faithfully served her church in the Sabbath School department. She was predeceased by her first husband Fred Kierstead, her second husband Michael Harold McMackin, son

Michael John McMackin, daughter-in-law Kathy (Wyman) McMackin, grandson Michael Steven McMackin, and brother Russel Kierstead. Surviving: husband Steve Daley; son Ed McMackin of Creston, B.C.; daughter Heather (Elliott) Tam of Wardner, B.C.; brother Gordon Kierstead; five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Audley Rogers was born May 24, 1916 near Freemont (Neilburg), Sask. and died Apr. 25, 2007 in Hafford, Sask. He was predeceased by his son Ernest, granddaughter Evelyn, and his brothers Walter, Harry, Ray, and Mark. Surviving: wife Phoebe (Schafer) of Mayfair, Sask.; sons Earl (Joan), Dale, and Dave (Greta); daughter-in-law Edna Rogers; 11 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Tribute

Derron E. Allen, BS, MS, MD, graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. Derron



has accepted a surgical internship in Atlanta, Ga. Congratulations! May the Lord continue to bless you. Love, Mom, Dad, brother Kurt, family and friends.

Advertisements

For rent: 2-storey, detached 4-spacious-bedroom home for rent. South end of Barrie. 2 1/2 bathrooms, master with jet tub. Family, den, dining and living rooms. Spacious kitchen with eating area. Central air and central vac. Patio at front, spacious private back yard. Please call Natalee at (705)737-9373. (8/07)

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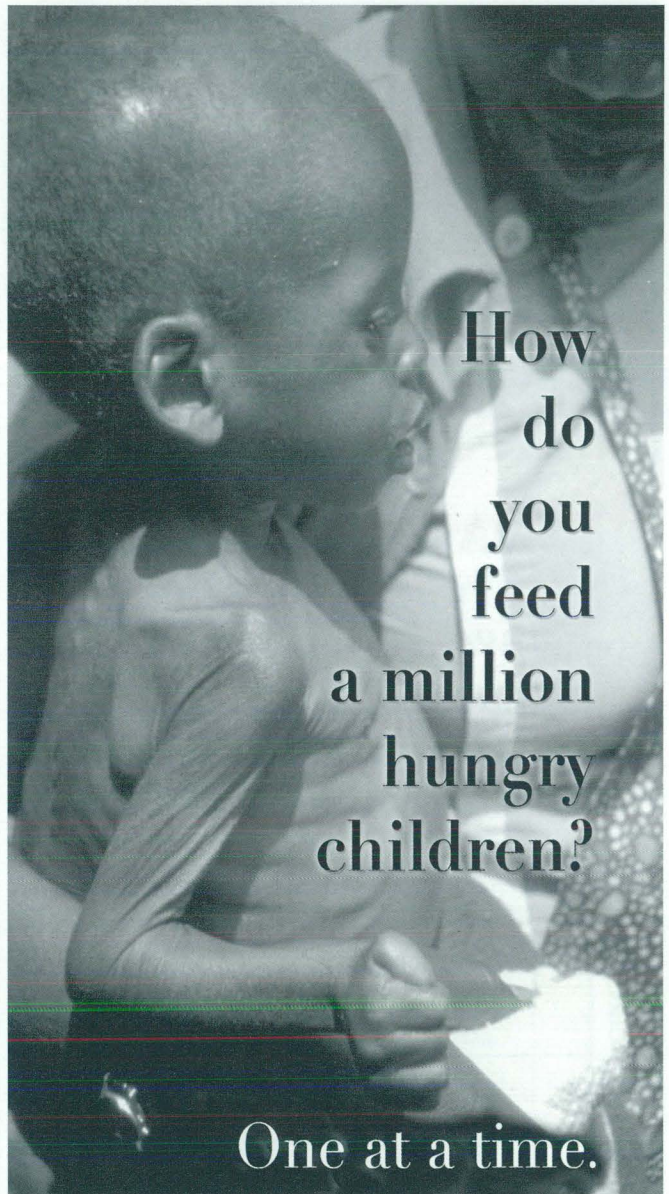
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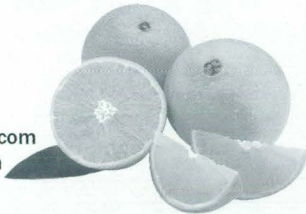
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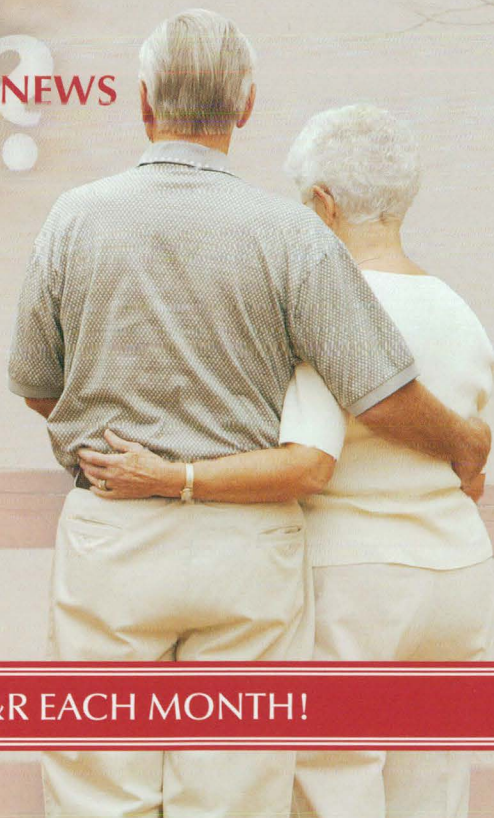
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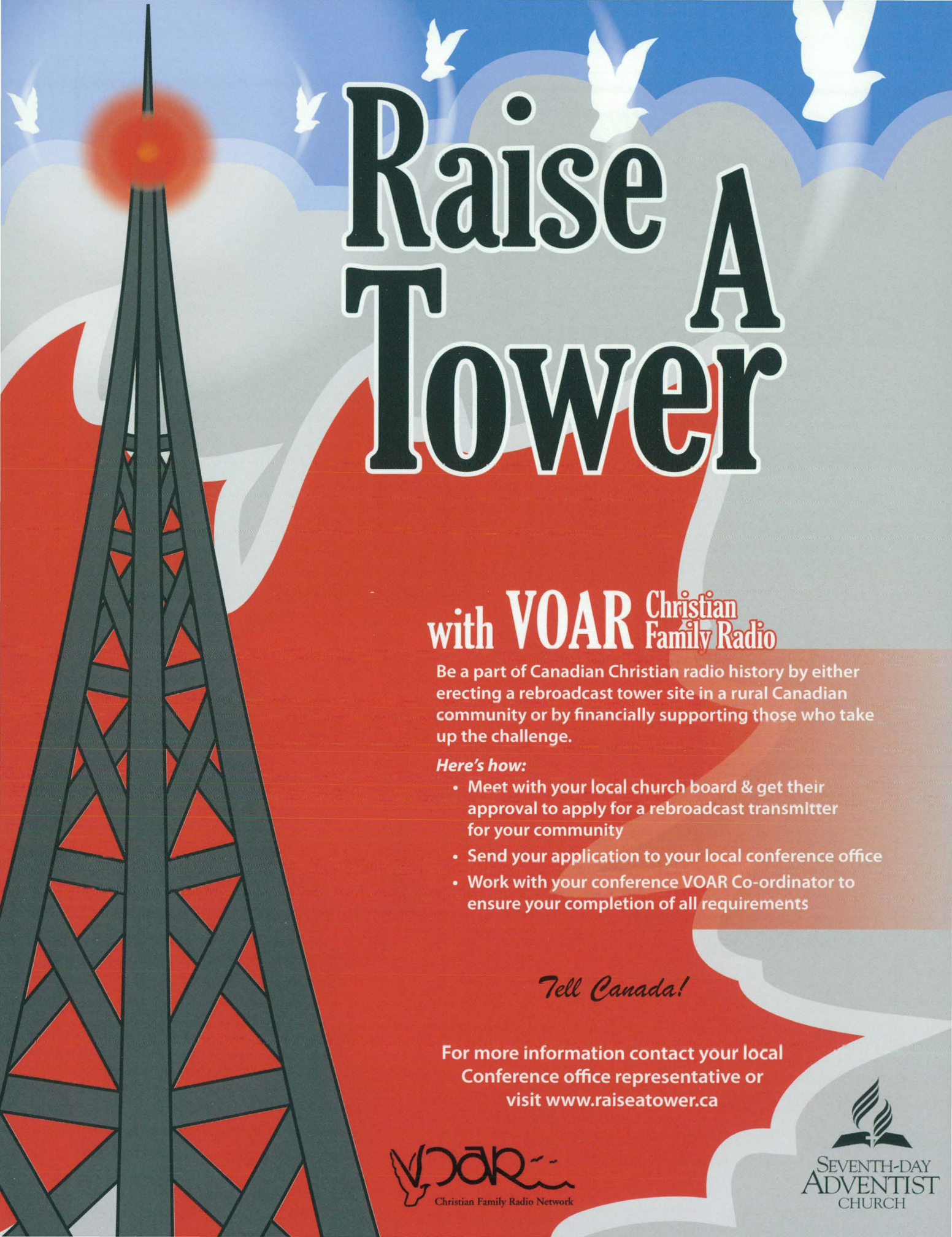
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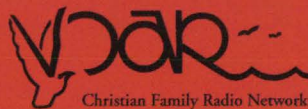
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■ BY JOHN FISCHER

Witnessing in a Postmodern Age

Effective witnessing

in a postmodern age takes some knowledge of the culture and a good deal of respect both for the freedom of the individual to choose and for the business of God in the process. Without this, our words can carry the duress of merely one opinion over another. We become experts with an agenda instead of facilitators of change.

The key is to develop an open discourse with an atmosphere of dignity, acceptance, and worth. We won't be able to do this until we truly trust in the role God plays in this process. We need to remember that God, as always, is perfectly capable of taking care of the consequences of a person's decision, whether it is in line with our beliefs or not. This is where our responsibility ends and God's responsibility continues.

Any decision-making is painful, but it can be made less painful in a context of openness and love. We are not responsible for someone else's decision or reaction to truth. There is no place for false guilt over failing to persuade or false pride over some perception of success. Our business is not to make a sale or a convert but to speak openly of what we know and have experienced and to genuinely care about others regardless of their choices.

“And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way.” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

This leaves us free to offer information and discuss things from a fact-forming point of view according to a person's philosophy without fear of “giving up ground” or “watering down the truth.” We are not trying to get someone to agree with us. We are facilitators of change, at all times open to our own process and seeking what we can learn from others along the way. If we are not open to change, how can we expect someone else to be?

It's all in knowing the difference between our business and God's business. God reveals. God opens eyes. God blinds eyes. God turns on the light. Remember how he did it for you. You can give another person credit for accepting you, giving you worth, and introducing you to Jesus, but you can't give another person credit for changing your mind. You made the decision and God turned on the light. We need to give others, and God, plenty of room to work. ■

John Fischer, formerly of The Purpose Driven Life, now writes The Catch of the Day devotional on his own website, www.fischtank.com.



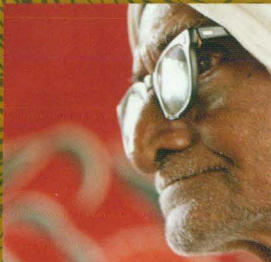
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