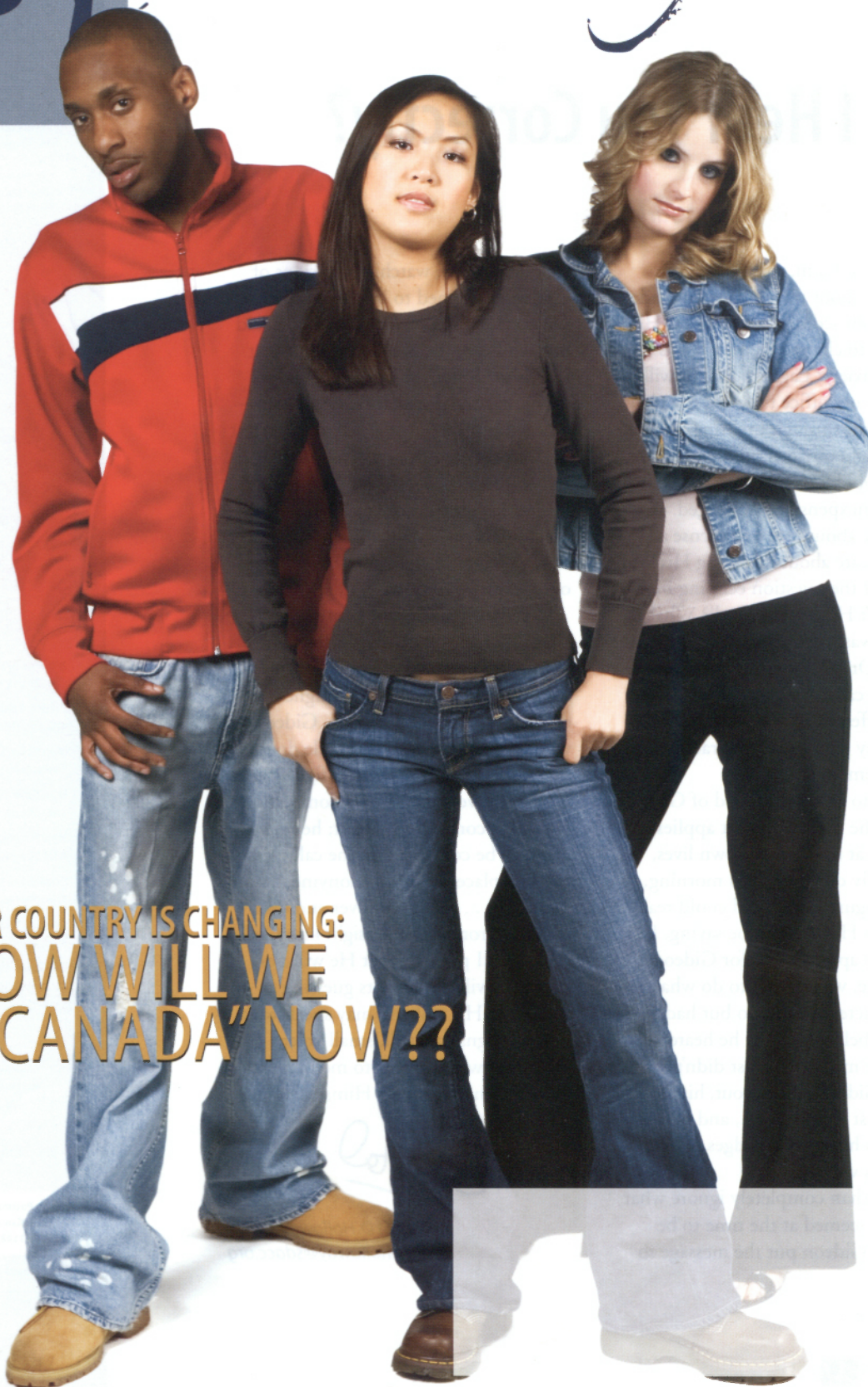


canadian adventist

october 2007

Messenger



OUR COUNTRY IS CHANGING:
HOW WILL WE
"TELL CANADA" NOW??

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The Canadian Adventist Messenger—the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—is published 12 times per year. Free to SDACC members. Annual foreign subscription price: US\$10.00. Printed by Maracle Press Limited. ISSN 0702-5084. Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index. Member of the Associated Church Press.



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Deadlines

December issue	October 1
January issue	November 1
February issue	December 3

>> View this issue online at www.sdacc.org/messenger

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Messenger subscriptions, 1148 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8

Canada Post agreement number 40069337.

Did I Hear You Correctly?

What does God's voice sound like?

I awoke at 4 a.m. this morning, uneasy about travel plans I'd made for a soon-coming trip. Was it Him telling me to change them? Or was it my own anxiety? Eager to do His will, I charged to my office to revise my plans, but as I went through my itinerary, I could find no obvious problems, and worse, I could find no way for it to be easily (or inexpensively) changed. Now, I don't care about ease or expense as much as I care about following His lead, but what if the question echoing in my head wasn't His lead, after all? What if this truly was my own anxiety coming through? Or what if it was His voice I heard, but calling me to do something slightly different than I perceived? To confirm my plans, perhaps, rather than change them?

Trying to know the mind of God, even just the piece of it that applies to a question at hand in our own lives, can be really difficult. This morning, trying to figure out if God could really mean what He seems to be saying, I have a new appreciation for Gideon. He, like me, was willing to do what God instructed him to do but had a hard time believing what he heard to be a divine message. It just didn't make sense. As Gideon pointed out, his family was the least in Manasseh, and he was the least in his family (Judges 6:15). Yet, he was willing.

Rather than completely ignore what must have seemed at the time to be crazy talk, Gideon put the message to

the test. In fact, watching for signs of God's will seemed to be the motif of Gideon's entire life. Even before he laid out the fleece, he asked for a sign that his visitor really was the Lord (Judges 6:17). He laid out that famous fleece—twice (Judges 6:37-40). He weeded out his soldiers according to their drinking styles (Judges 7:5-7). And, by the time he and his men got around to attacking the Midianites, God had gotten so used to his asking for signs that He supplied one before he could ask (Judges 7:10,11)!

I believe that part of the reason God was so patient with Gideon and continued to give these signs to him was to honour Gideon's willingness to do what he was told. I mean, Gideon was up for the task. He's a little doubtful, yes, but ready to go and fight if that is what proved to be God's command. He didn't complain or resist; he only asked to be convinced of the calling in the first place. And God convinced him with signs . . . over and over and over.

I take from that an insight into God's character; I perceive that He will not keep His willing servants guessing as to what is His will. He may speak with obvious signs or a still, small voice, but either way it seems to me that He doesn't mind repeating Himself. ■

Crystal

Crystal D. Holloway, editor
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Your Words

“...we, as Christians, need to be well-informed and show leadership on conservation as God’s faithful stewards of the earth.”

RE: “Earth Talk” August 2007

How can we save the planet? The methods proposed by scientists and philosophers are numerous. Reading “Earth Talk” in the August, 2007 *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, I found another statement with the same general non-Christian slant: “Unless we take decisive steps to reverse global warming . . .”

As a Christian, I believe we can reverse global warming in the same way we can prevent a local rain shower: it’s humanly impossible. As I study the Bible, the cause and solution to our planet’s demise stands out more and more clearly. The cause came in Eden by humanity’s wanting to become like God. We are perpetuating this by believing we can reverse global warming; we are gods who will save the planet for future generations. Bah!

The whole planet began to fracture back then and is still groaning under the strain. Jesus talked about it: floods, earthquakes . . . I believe that we as Christians can and must continue to be faithful stewards of our environment. But there is a limit to what we can do locally or globally.

Shall we, then, throw up our hands and let it go? In one way, we cannot do otherwise. We are not gods. In another way, we can do something useful: Trust in God and teach the world that God is the only one who will put an end to the mess we are in.

We cannot save the planet. But we

can do our part in pointing to Creator God who can and will.

—Caesar N., Ponoka, Alberta

Re: this and that

Something marvelous happened to the *Messenger* this year. The covers started grabbing my attention. The editorials suddenly spark with pizzazz. The graphics and the page layout are professional-looking. The editorials are thought provoking, intelligently written and relevant for today. Suddenly, there were articles about global warming and what we should do to protect the environment. Despite some letter writers who think climate change is a misnomer, the fact is that our atmosphere now contains 32 per cent more carbon dioxide today than at the start of the industrial era. Credible scientists are reporting the facts; they are alarmed by the toxic build-up in our atmosphere. And we, as Christians, need to be well-informed and show leadership on conservation as God’s faithful stewards of the earth. We owe it to our children and grandchildren; we owe it to our Creator.

One recent snappy editorial in the *Messenger* pointed out that the church

must start getting serious about addressing sexism. I liked the article because it wasn’t written in a negative, depressing way, but in an honest and kind manner. Obviously, someone with a vibrant and close connection with God’s Spirit was drumming away at those computer keys. The stories in the *Messenger* are well-edited and balanced. And, something different started happening to me: I started reading the *Messenger* once again. I actually look forward to receiving it.

Not only are the editorials and stories classy and contemporary, but the new editor is gritty yet gracious. Crystal Holloway is Christ-centered, using the sword of the word and the convicting power of the Spirit to back up her punchy statements.

Crystal, you are one talented, courageous, and wonderful writer and editor. We, in Canada, are so blessed to be in your writing range. Thank you for your creative edge. Thank you for your dedication to God. You’re inspiring. If ever there’s pressure to shut you down, I hope you’ll stand tall. You’re exactly where God needs you to be. You’re exactly the person to fill those editor’s shoes. ■

—Trudy B., via email

E-mail comments to cholloway@sdacc.org or mail them to Editor, *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8. Be sure to include your name, contact information, and the name and date of the article(s) you are referencing. 200 words maximum. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Not all letters will be published.



by Gary Hodder

Seek Ye First

There are so many things to do, so many appointments to keep ...so many burdens to carry.

While reading 1 Kings, I came across an unusual verse that goes like this: “And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone” (1 Kings 20:40). The story that gives rise to this verse concerns a soldier who was given a prisoner to guard. It seems that the guard became preoccupied with other things and forgot his prisoner. The prisoner took the opportunity to escape. Needless to say, there were consequences to the guard for his neglect.

I am interested in how the guard lost his prisoner. It wasn't because of any of the usual reasons. The guard was not overwhelmed by superior force. He was not surprised in the night. It wasn't because he was uncertain of his duties. It was not because he was inadequately armed. He was not incapable, nor was he lazy.

The prisoner escaped because the guard was distracted by other things. He was simply too busy to watch his prisoner. Perhaps he had people he needed to see or guard meetings to attend. Maybe he was preoccupied with guard training school or shopping for a new sword. Maybe there were gladiator games to take in.

The distraction of the guard on duty reminds me of an incident that occurred in my family. When I was still young, my brother, Cliff, who is 16 years older than I am, was at his house, caring for his children while his wife was out shopping. Her last words to him were to make sure he kept an eye on the children.

Pretty soon, another of my brothers, Wes, came by Cliff's house to visit. It wasn't long before they became engrossed in a game of chess in the living room. Cliff became so distracted that he did not take notice of

what his five children were up to. As the evening wore on, one of the younger girls decided to play house. She pretended to do the dishes and sweep the floor. Not satisfied with merely sweeping the floor, she decided to scrub the floor—with a block of butter! Needless to say, the kitchen floors were gleaming when Cliff's wife returned home.

When asked why he hadn't noticed the little girl's activities, Cliff didn't have a good answer to give. He could not say, “I had a very important phone call” or “She was too far away,” or “I here was another emergency that took my time.” He had to simply acknowledge that he was too busy to care for his children.

Sometimes I wonder if that is not our folly as Christians. We are busy here and there; we go to work six days a week; we are passionate about fitness and entertainment. There are so many things to do, so many appointments to keep, so many functions to attend, so many burdens to carry. And these things may even be helpful or good or useful, but they are not the most important. While we are busy here and there, we must not neglect the weightier matters. We must not neglect Sabbath school or church, nor allow the family unit to collapse. We cannot lose interest in the Word of God or forget the secret stairway to God or lose the sense of God in our lives.

There is but one remedy to the distractions of life. Jesus gives this remedy in Matthew 6:33: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ■

Gary Hodder is president of the Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.

INEVITABLE revolution

Albie Sachs once stated that, “All revolutions are impossible until they happen; then they become inevitable.”¹

by Barry W. Bussey

Some years ago—1993-1997—I acted as legal advisor to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador on the matter of school funding. The province struggled over the future of its educational system at that time. In matter of a few years, Newfoundland went from multiple denominational school systems supported by the state coffers to only one public (non-denominational) system. Suddenly, a system that was in place for over 100 years was gone. Looking back, the change was inevitable due to the unique factors that came together at that point in time.

For Seventh-day Adventists, Pentecostals and Roman Catholics, who wanted to keep their “constitutionally protected” rights to school funding, the Newfoundland experience was bitter. In the political atmosphere of the time, we were publicly taken to task for having the audacity to proclaim a desire to maintain those rights. How dare we claim what the Constitution gave!

The same types of suggestive comments are currently being made about the Roman Catholic community in Ontario. How dare they maintain their constitutional rights? There are some who appear willing to run roughshod over those rights in order to correct the problem of one denomination getting funding for their schools at the expense of others. Some have recently criticized the Catholic schools for not making a public statement on the issue, but surely it is not difficult to understand such reluctance. They are in a no-win situation; if they choose to voice their opinion, they will either be seen as self-serving or selling the shop.

Personally, I am sympathetic to at least three opinions on the matter. First, religious communities ought to be fairly treated by government. There does appear to be something innately unjust about supporting only one faith community but not others. This argument was made by a religious coalition who took the Ontario government to court and lost. The Supreme Court of Canada, in its 1996 *Adler* decision, ruled that the right of Catholic schools to obtain public funds was a “historical compromise.” The court held that while a province was not legally required to fund non-Catholic schools, it could do so of its own volition. Of course, they have not accepted that suggestion.

Recent polling suggests that most Canadians are of the view that there should be no funding to any religious school at all, that even funding to the Catholic system should be eliminated. The actions of Newfoundland and Quebec set precedent for this, those provinces already having amended the Constitution for the removal of all education funding. Ontario may well follow suit, but that surely does not appear to be the outcome that the various players desire.

Second, if funding to religious schools forces them to support social causes and secular values embedded within the curriculum, it would be best for government to keep its money. The gift of these dollars becomes a Trojan horse ultimately leading to our downfall.

Third, though I would like to pay less for my children’s schooling in church school I am not so sure, after experiencing what we did in Newfoundland, whether we are disciplined enough to accept the money. We overextend ourselves to such a degree that our school system, built with government money, is unable to stand when government suddenly pulls its support. It is like a house of cards that just crumbles. The sad reality is that following the government’s withdrawal of its support in Newfoundland, we now have no schools in that province.

I am intrigued by the call for government money for non-Catholic schools and by the Catholic community who currently has funding and is watching with interest the political developments. But, at the end of the day, I think we are best to let the issue play out on its own, taking neither side. If the government offers us money for our schools, we should gladly take it if it comes with no strings attached and we are disciplined enough to not overextend. But, if funding is not offered, we must carry on supporting our schools as we have always done with much prayer and sacrifice.

Whatever the revolution, it will be inevitable. ■

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



Creation Corner for Kids

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”
Isaiah 25:9 (NKJV)



Think about it.

In many ways the elk's bugling makes me think of Christ's return. It can be scary to read about the events that will take place before Jesus comes back (see Matthew 24), but the signs should also remind us of the promises He made. Troublous times will come, but "spring" is right around the corner, and with it new life and relief from the troubles of sin forever!

Do it.

Ask Christian friends and family members to share their favourite promises about the second coming. Mark them in your Bible. See how many you can memorize before spring!



Elk

BULL ELK bugling in the back country on a frosty, starlit night is a clear signal that summer is past and autumn is upon us. The lush green mountain pastures will soon be snow covered. The beautifully-coloured leaves will soon shrivel and clatter to the ground. Though the bugling call is wild and beautiful, it is also full of danger for it serves as an eerie challenge to other bulls in the area. Bull elk will often begin the winter weak from fighting. The long wait for winter's hardships to pass begins when mating season ends.

But the sound of the bull elk's call also points to the promises of spring when new elk calves will be born, food will be abundant again, and the sun will bring warmth and relief from the cold, dark winter.



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

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Celebrating Excellence is the theme we have chosen to recognize outstanding teachers and administrators in our K-12 school system. The Excellence in Teaching Award is given to recognize excellence in our teachers; the Excellence in Educational Administration Award is given to recognize excellence in our school administrators. Each award comes with a cash award of \$500, a certificate and a plaque. We proudly present the following winners of this prestigious award. Congratulations and best wishes.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD



Roxanne McPherson

Roxanne is currently a grade six teacher at Mamawi Atosketan Native School in Ponoka, Alberta. She holds a B.Ed.

degree from Canadian University College.

Roxanne has had a rich teaching career since she began teaching in 1989 at Highview Academy in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. Subsequently, she taught at Montana School in Hobbema, Alberta; Hannah Fry Procter Elementary School in Lumby, British Columbia; Woodlands Adventist School in Ponoka, Alberta, where she was the teaching principal.

Roxanne is a progressive teacher, who demonstrates collegiality and has a passion for professional development.



Edgar Pilapil

Edgar is a Math and Science teacher at Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ontario. He graduated from Adventist University

of the Philippines where he earned his B.Sc. and MA degrees

In describing his love for teaching, Edgar writes: "Teaching... means so much more than teaching a subject. It's educating the whole person, and that to me is a positive experience." Edgar is a person who consistently demonstrates care and respect for his students and shows a willingness to provide extra help when needed. He is a team player

who is well respected by both students and his colleagues.

Edgar has participated in two mission trips and is involved in intramural and social programming of the school. He is also active in his local church, working with the youth department.



Lori-Ann Purchas

Lori-Ann currently teaches grades one and two at Crawford Adventist Academy in Willowdale, Ontario. She holds

a BA in Psychology and Sociology and B.Ed. in Primary-Junior education from York University. She is certified both by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the province of Ontario and is a member of the Ontario College of Teachers.

Lori-Ann began her teaching career as a JK-SK teacher at Peel Adventist School in November, 1994. The following year, she joined the staff at College Park Elementary, where she remained for two years. In 1997, she went to Crawford Adventist Academy.

Lori-Ann is a dedicated teacher, who gets involved in extracurricular activities such as editing the yearbook and serving on several committees. Her principal describes her as 'a teacher par excellence; a teacher with a gentle spirit and a big heart,' who 'imparts knowledge, instills values and makes a concerted effort to ensure that each child feels special and worthwhile.'



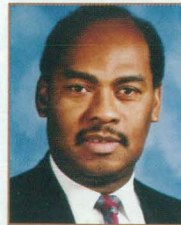
Ward Cottreau

Ward Cottreau began his teaching career at Avalon Adventist Jr. Academy in Port Hardy, British

Columbia after graduating from CUC in 1993. He taught grades seven and eight for three years before moving to Alberta where he did team-teaching with his wife at College Heights Christian School for one year.

The Cottreaus spent a couple of years with family in Nova Scotia and then were invited to return to Avalon Adventist Jr. Academy in 2001. Happily, Ward and April, with their two sons, Ferris and Cameron, came back to stay at their Port Hardy "home".

One of the highlights of Ward's teaching career so far has been discovering that one of his students requested baptism "because of Mr. C's Bible classes." He is most satisfied with his profession when his students recognize that he cares about each one of them personally.



Donald McIntyre

Donald McIntyre is a Math and Physics teacher at Crawford Adventist Academy and also serves as chair of the Science

department. He holds a B.Ed. and B.Sc. from West Indies College (now known as Northern Caribbean University).

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARD

Donald launched his teaching career at the age of 19 when he was given an assignment to teach mathematics at a local high school in Jamaica. In 1980, he came to Canada and found his wife in the person of Angela Picart. The following year, he was given a teaching appointment at Crawford Adventist Academy.

In recommending Donald for this award, his principal states: "Mr. McIntyre is an excellent role model to his students because through him they can truly understand Jesus' love and care. Mr. McIntyre does not teach because it is a job; he teaches because it is his calling and ministry to Adventist education."



Denean Sabot

Denean Sabot currently teaches Math and Social Studies at College Park Elementary School in Oshawa,

Ontario. She graduated from Andrews University in 1991 with a B.Sc. degree.

Denean's first teaching assignment was in Chengdu, China, where she taught English to medical doctors, nurses, and English majors. After that, she returned to Canada and taught, first in the Ottawa Adventist Elementary School, then did substitute teaching at College Park Elementary School, Grandview Adventist Academy, and Crawford Adventist Academy before getting a full-time teaching position at Peel Adventist School in Brampton, Ontario. She remained teaching at Peel until 2005 when she was hired by College Park.

In recommending Denean for the Excellence in Teaching award, her principal described her as a person who "uses innovative teaching strategies." Denean's love and commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education is underpinned by her belief that she is engaged in the ministry for which Jesus has ordained her.



Ellen Bell

Ellen Bell is the principal of College Heights Christian School in Lacombe, Alberta. She holds a B.Ed. from the University of Alberta and is currently working on an MA in Administration and Leadership from La Sierra University.

Her teaching career began 31 years ago when she taught in a public school in Alberta. In 1986, after 10 years in the public system, she joined the staff at College Heights Christian School as a grade two teacher. After three years in the classroom, she became the principal of the school and has kept that position for the past 18 years.

As a teacher and school administrator, Ellen has demonstrated a passion for lifelong learning, special education, and brain-compatible teaching and learning strategies. She has made herself available to serve on various boards and committees, such as the Alberta government's Initiative for School Improvement, the Alberta conference the SDACC board, SDACC Education Council, NAD Year-end meetings, and the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta.

Ellen is community minded. She involves each class at College Heights Christian School in community projects such as campus beautification, random acts of kindness, senior's tea, Operation Christmas Child, and Meals on Wheels. To keep her life in balance, she enjoys reading, walking, traveling, prayer ministry, gardening, and music.



Judy Burgin-Hall

Judy Burgin-Hall is the principal of the JK-8 division of Crawford Adventist Academy in Willowdale, Ontario. Born in St. Vincent and raised in Montreal, Judy is a highly motivated Christian administrator who has dedicated her life to working with young people.

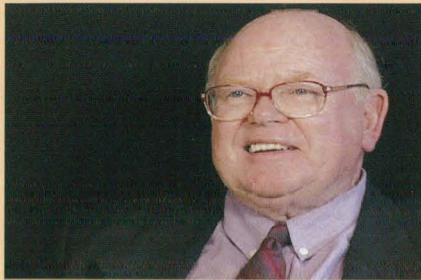
Judy holds a B.Ed. and M.Ed. from McGill University and an Ed.S. in Educational Administration and Supervision from Andrews University. She began her teaching career in 1981 at Greaves Adventist Academy in Montreal. In 1984, she moved to Crawford Adventist Academy to teach a multi-grade class and later transferred to the junior high division. In 1996, she moved into administration.

Judy has served on several committees at the conference, union and division levels of the Church. She is also actively involved in her church having served as Pathfinder director, Sabbath School superintendent and Adventist Youth leader. Currently she is the Adventurer director for the Apple Creek church.

Judy is described as "an effective, efficient and supportive Christian administrator" and "an excellent communicator and mediator" who "constantly displays unattainable levels of professionalism when addressing administrative issues."

Judy is married to Derrick Hall, and together they have two children, L'Mar, 12, and Ki'ana, 8. Judy thanks God for His many blessings as He continues to direct her life in the teaching ministry. ■

AN ADRA CHALLENGE



Founder and former Executive Director of ADRA Canada John Howard is celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife, Millie. To commemorate the occasion, John and Millie are making a donation of \$50 dollars. They challenge all their friends and supporters of ADRA Canada to make a \$50 donation in celebration of this milestone!

News from ADRA Canada!

Happening Abroad—We Choose Life: Anti-Drug Program in Uzbekistan

In a school in the capital of Uzbekistan, a young boy listens intently as a lesson takes place. This is not the kind of lesson that he is used to hearing. The person at the front of the room is not his usual teacher but an ADRA worker, and the subject is not any he is used to learning about; it is about drugs. As the ADRA worker conducts the seminar, this boy asks many questions about the effect drug use could have on his health. He carefully and seriously considers all the information he is given; the information about the effects of drugs obviously troubled him. Finally he says, “I do not want to die young” and promises that he will not use drugs anymore.

For young people living in Uzbekistan, information about the terrible effects of drug use can be surprising. In Canada, many of us have received health education from a young age, but, unfortunately, this is not true for the people of Uzbekistan. This is why, with your generous support, ADRA Canada is running its “We Choose Life” program that gives presentations to students and provides them with books and games that teach them about the consequences of using drugs.

Through discussions with students following the seminars, ADRA found that many students who used drugs in the past, having learned of their often devastating results, will no longer use them. In the schools ADRA has visited, the students were surprised by the information they were given and grateful for being informed.

Your support has and will continue to help us reach young people throughout Uzbekistan and warn them of the dangers of drug use. You have helped to ensure that they have healthier and more prosperous futures. Thank you!

Happening Here—Native New Health

For the past four years, ADRA Canada has been involved in a project addressing health-related issues that affect First Nations communities across Canada—issues like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, depression, suicide, tobacco, alcoholism, and drug abuse. The name of the project is “Native New Health,” and it is a series of 13 health programs composed of 28-minute video presentations, accompanied by a workbook for presenters.

After years of preparation, “Native New Health” is ready to go! By the Autumn of 2007, the first two episodes will be complete. You can view a two-minute introduction on the internet at YouTube. This is the first ever footage from this historic new program. (If you would like your name on the list for a copy of the first episode, please call ADRA Canada to put in your request. We will send it to you free of charge as soon as possible.)

It is the generous gifts to ADRA Canada from people like you that have made this project possible. Thank you! You can continue to give to this project through our gift catalogue. ■

Compiled by Christina Masching, an administrative assistant at ADRA Canada



NOW AVAILABLE!

Our new DVD is now available! It features a selection of our projects and a special feature on the face of HIV/AIDS. For your free copy (within Canada), email pr@adra.ca or call 1.905.433.8004.

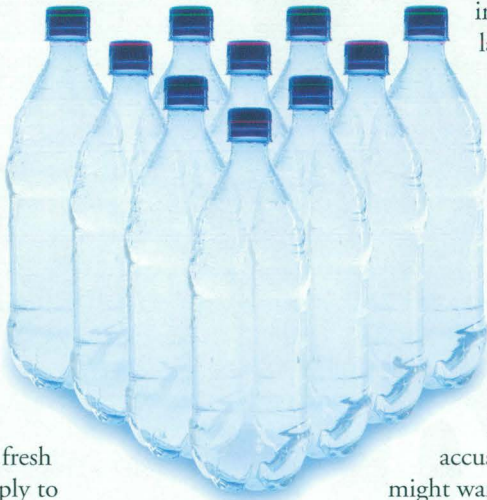
Earth Talk

Turning Water into Grime

Ever since we were young we have been taught the “eight glasses of water a day” rule. That may be good for our health, however, if we want to be good stewards of our environment, there is another thing to consider when it comes to water: how we buy it.

These days, our on-the-go culture is often controlled by consumers’ demand for convenience rather than the manufacturer’s common sense, a trend that has created a massive bottled-water industry. Since 1976, the bottled-water industry has grown by over 2000 percent! This trend is the cause of a growing concern in the environmental community.

According to a study done by Oregon State University, manufacturers are using more than 18 billion barrels of oil and nearly 500 billion litres of fresh water each year simply to make plastic bottles; another 155 billion litres of water is used to actually fill them. By examining the numbers, we can see that we are wasting more than three litres of drinking water for every one litre that we put into our bodies, mostly because we want convenient (500 ml) packaging.



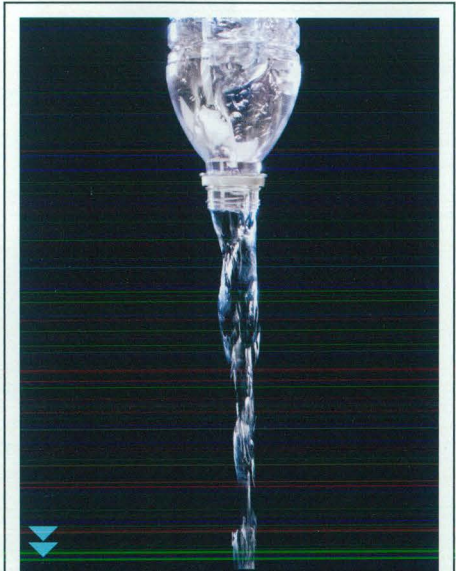
Yes, convenience is nice, but at that price? Are we sure it’s worth it? Yes, recycling used bottles will reduce the impact, but it won’t fix the deeper problem: the amount of resources needed to remanufacture the container. There are other options that make a lot more sense for both you and the environment.

A good way to reduce your ecological impact is to completely remove the use of bottled water from your daily routine. Use filtered tap water or, at least, larger (18.9L) bottles of water as a means of

reducing your impact. (The larger bottles are typically washed and reused in contrast to the smaller bottles which have to be recycled.) And, if you’re still looking for the convenience to which you have become

accustomed, you might want to consider picking up a high-grade plastic bottle, such as a Nalgene, that can last you a lifetime. ■

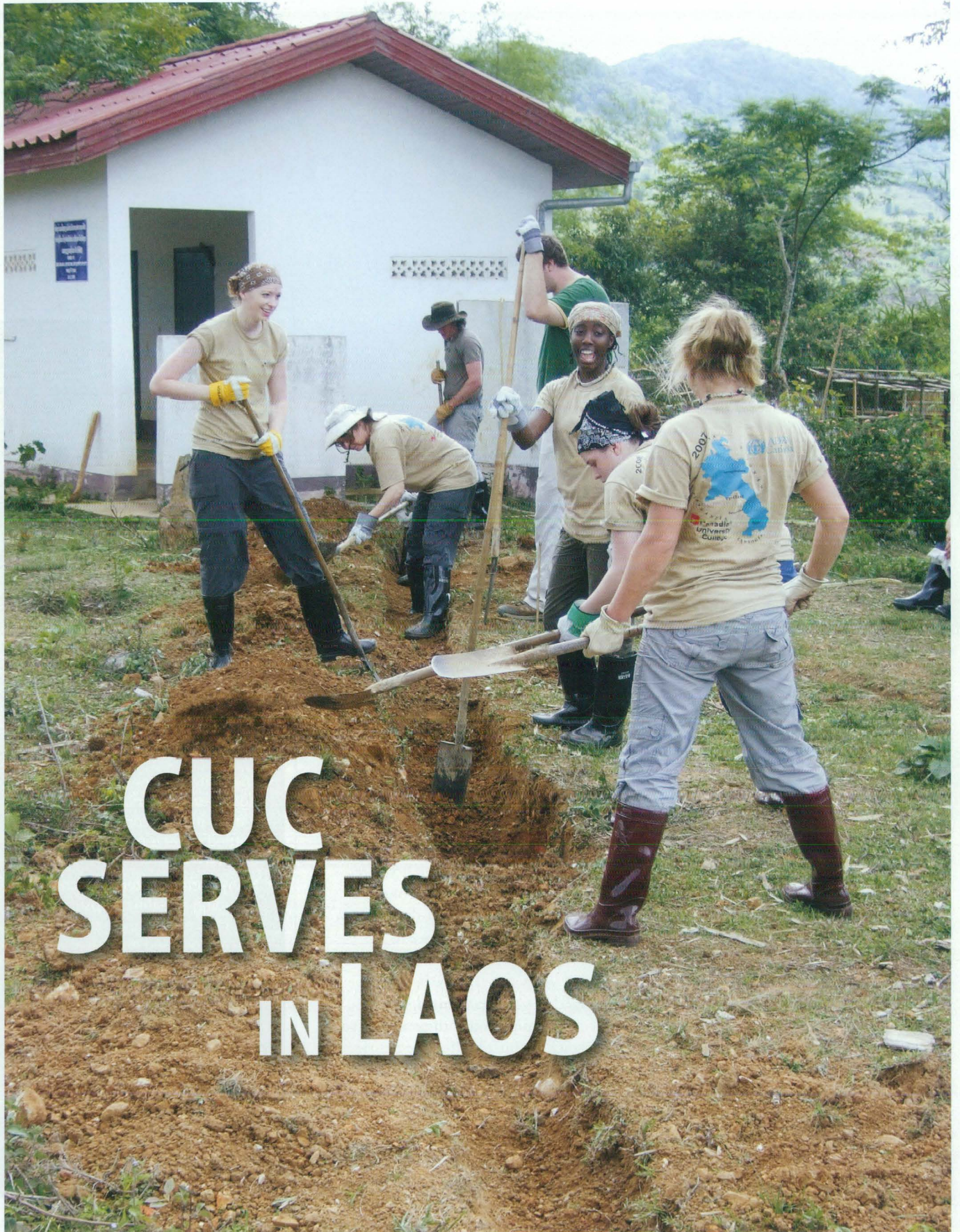
Chad Kettner is a freelance writer who busily writes about a wide variety of topics from his home in Kelowna, BC. He can be reached at kettner@thewritechoice.ca.



Some quick facts about bottled water:

- The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization released a study in 1997 concluding that bottled water is not better for you than tap water.
- Many bottled water companies, including Aquafina (Pepsi-co) and Dasani (Coca Cola) are simply selling you reprocessed municipal water.
- Approximately 22 percent of bottled water brands have been found to contain, in at least one sample, chemical contaminants at levels above governmental health regulations.
- Correlations have been drawn between increased tooth decay and consumption of bottled water, due, some say, to the absence of fluoride in bottled spring water.

—taken from AboutMyPlanet.com



CUC SERVES IN LAOS

A small army of people carefully make their way through the rice paddies of the Khoun District of the Xiengkhuang Province of Laos and up the side of the mountain carrying sand, gravel and steel. There are no motorized vehicles or wheelbarrows to carry the heavy load. Everything is done manually; sand and gravel are carried in sacks while steel bars are balanced on shoulders. Anthony Darocha, a third year Biology major at Canadian University College, pauses to admire the view just as a cool breeze brings a bit of relief from the humid heat. Later, Darocha would recall, "... although it was hard to climb with heavy loads on our backs, it was definitely a highlight of mine. The scenery and the cool breeze that would sometimes blow in your face were also great memories, but especially the smiles on the peoples faces as you passed them on the mountain trail."

Darocha was part of a Canadian University College team that consisted of Stephen Densmore, Steve Garrioch, Krista Gill, Bonnie Holm, Danielle Keane, Leah Kumpolt, Jay Seely, Rob Zama, and faculty sponsors Donnalee and Paul Lehmann. The team partnered with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency to volunteer at the Muang Khoun School Improvement Project in Laos. The team from CUC spent four weeks—from May 13 to June 8, 2007—working on a gravity-fed water system for the local school.

Laos is a landlocked communist country in Southeast Asia, bordered by Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. For some that had never traveled outside of Canada, Laos was quite an inspiring experience. "The trip was eye opening. I've never been to another country, and it was such a thrill to go. We were encouraged to blend in, which was sometimes hard because were so used to being loud and talkative! We tried our best to blend in, and the local community appreciated that," remembers Danielle Keane, a second year General Studies major.

Laos is, unfortunately, contaminated



CUC group at church in Vientiane. Bonnie Holm, Danielle Keane, Leah Kumpolt, Krista Gill, Steve Garrioch, Stephen Densmore, Rob Zama, Anthony Darocha, Paul Lehmann, Donnalee Lehmann, and Jay Seely.

with unexploded ordinances (bombs), remnants of a history of war and bombing. These unexploded ordinances pose a threat to the people of Laos, injuring many and preventing access to land and the natural environment. Paul Lehmann, chair of the Outward Pursuits department at CUC, stressed to his team to stay on the paths when working in the fields. Safety was a main consideration since meetings for the trip began in October 2006—early to make sure that small details like these were not forgotten and that the team would be as ready as possible for all that they encountered.

Unexploded ordinances were not the only reason for the team having their freedom of movement restricted. They were required to travel with a government official when leaving the worksite and were strongly discouraged from any open acts of faith and religion. Still, the team managed to get their worship time in, toned down a bit and without the guitars that had been carried all the way from Canada.

After four weeks, the project began to take shape. The gravity-fed water system (GFS) was built, as well as a number of reservoirs that connected to the toilets in the school. The water for the GFS was piped from a small stream

two kilometers up the mountain and all the way down to the school. An estimated 1500 students, in four buildings and 30 classrooms, benefited from the water the team's work provided, but the project not only helped the people of Muang Khoun, but also the students who took part in it.

The trip changed lives on both sides of the project. Service is part of the CUC experience: service to God, to our campus and church, and to local and global communities. Steve Garrioch, a third year Psychology major states, "It wasn't just an ADRA and CUC project; it was a community effort. Teachers, students, and members of the community and our team were all a part of what happened there. It made the project and its completion that much more important and life changing. God saw my needs before I even had a chance to recognize them myself. He had a huge purpose for me on this trip and, thanks to Him, I have memories that will last me a lifetime." ■

JR Ferrer is the Director of Communications for Canadian University College. He writes from Lacombe, Alberta.



Connecting Canada^{to} Christ and the Church

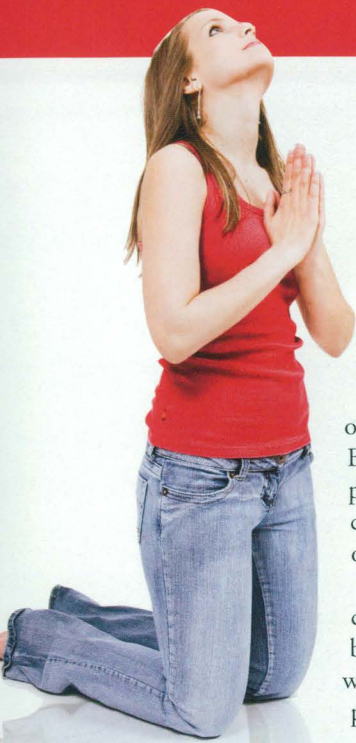
by Doug Matacio

Part 1—Canada Today

When 16 Fathers of Confederation convened in London for a third and final time on Dec 4, 1866, the new “united Canada” was as yet without an official name. Led by John A. Macdonald, most of them favored “The Kingdom of Canada,” but Britain nixed the idea, citing American dissent. What to do?

One of the Fathers was New Brunswick premier Leonard Tilley, a 48-year old pharmacist who had been a leading proponent of confederation since the formal process began. Tilley had accepted Christ as his personal Saviour when he was 21 and had regularly taught Sunday school in his Anglican church. He was well-known as a temperance advocate, having introduced the New Brunswick prohibition bill that included the arrest and imprisonment of intoxicated people until they revealed their source of supply.

As the story is told, Tilley got up one morning at the London conference troubled by the problem of the new country’s name. He opened his Bible to Psalm 72, written by David for his son Solomon. Reading along, he came to verses seven and eight: c(KJV). He went back to the conference and announced in effect, “God has given me a name for our country!” When Tilley suggested “The Dominion of Canada,” he was expressing his hope that Canada would accept the peaceful dominion of Jesus Christ, the second Solomon, from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the St. Lawrence River north to the last inhabited islands of the earth. Later Canada took its motto, “From Sea to Sea,” from Psalm 72:8, and the same text is inscribed at Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.



Christian Spirituality in Canada

That was the hope. But how, in fact, has the nation fared spiritually since confederation?

While only God knows the human heart, sociologists often use church attendance data as one way of gauging national spirituality. In 1945, a Gallup poll found that 60 per cent of Canadians were attending church weekly. But, by the 1970s the figure had dropped to 30 per cent, and in 2000 it reached a low of 20 per cent.¹ Canada seemed to be following Europe on the pathway of secularization.

But, during the first seven years of the new century, surveys have shown that Canada is beginning to go back to church! The first sign was a 2000 poll of teenagers which found 22 per cent attending weekly compared to 18 per cent in 1992. Then, in 2005, a Project Canada survey by Reginald W. Bibby, a University of Lethbridge sociologist, found that weekly church attendance by adults was up five points to 25 per cent.

There are other indicators of spiritual life. For example, 45 per cent of Canadians engage in private prayer either daily or several times a week. Only 25 per cent, however, read the Bible at least once a month—even though 34 per cent consider it to be the literal word of God. Seventy-four per cent identify themselves with a specific Christian denomination even though only 25 per cent are attending weekly services. Additionally, 82 per cent believe in God or a Higher Power and 67 per cent believe in life after death.

Modern and Post-Modern Canada

Since the 18th century Enlightenment, much of Western Christianity has grown in the soils of modernism and—for the last 50 years or so—postmodernism. Modernism holds that human reason is the only way to make sense of the universe. It questions the truth claims of anything that cannot be understood in scientific terms. It values “objective truth,” that which comes forth from observations and experiments based on the “scientific method.” It promised a golden era of progress made possible by scientific discovery and problem-solving technology.

But, in admittedly simplistic terms, World Wars I and II—and many kinds of other ills since 1945—have left many people disillusioned with the promises of

modernism. The idea of unlimited progress has come crashing down, and secular people have had to try to live without hope. So, we are living in a postmodern world where people are rejecting all the big stories that offer salvation or truth or meaning in life.

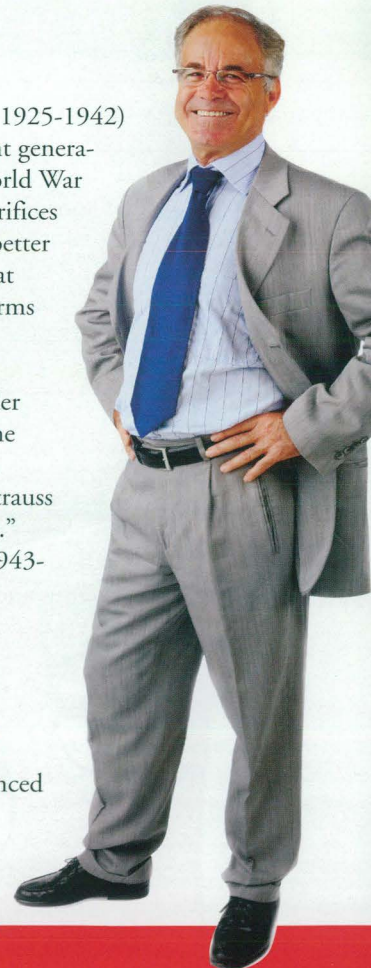
Canada, sitting culturally between Europe and the United States, has embraced postmodernism less than Europeans but more than its American neighbors. According to Bibby, postmodernism in Canada is defined by three core-values: individualism and the focus on the autonomous self, pluralism with its celebration of diversity, and relativism where truth is replaced by personal preference.

Postmodern people tend to distrust authority; instead they seek to construct their own reality. “Let’s live for today, for who knows what tomorrow might bring.” These people long for personal intimacy: Relationships are valued more than propositional truth. And with their rejection of the meta-narratives that haven’t seemed to pan out, many postmoderns are left vaguely seeking a spiritual foundation for their lives. They may be open to hearing about spiritual experiences in the lives of family, close friends, and neighbors.

Generational Canada

Our senior citizens (born 1925-1942) have been called “the silent generation.” Some fought in World War II, believing that their sacrifices would make the world a better place to live. Although that foe was defeated, other forms of totalitarianism have threatened world peace. Today the world lives under the threat of terrorism. The silent generation has been described by Howe and Strauss as “adaptive” and “flexible.”

Baby boomers (born 1943-1960) started out firmly entrenched in idealistic modernist values, but, as a result of the Vietnam war, some boomers began to question the agenda of modernism. They experienced



¹ These figures reflect a drastic drop in Roman Catholic attendance, a drop in mainline Protestant attendance, but a rise for conservative evangelicals.

a paradigm shift that helped to bring on the post-modern era.

Post-baby boomers (born 1961-1981), often called "Generation X," have become the first truly postmodern generation. They reacted strongly to the broken promises of modernism and have been characterized by Howe and Strauss as being "cynical," able to see through the hype. They want to be themselves, but reserve the right to be flexible in their identities. They are often skeptical toward authority holders, but highly value genuine grass-roots unity. They value relationships; fun, family, and flexible working hours are seen as means to balance life and work.

Millennials (born 1982-2000), sometimes called the "Net Gen," comprise our largest generation, the children of the boomers. They have a tendency to reject the notion of expertise, probably because so much information resides at their finger tips on the internet. As consumers, they prefer the freedom to suddenly change their minds; they like many options to be laid out in front of them, and want free trials before committing to buy. They get their own personal, customized newspaper at regular intervals on the internet. Millennials insist on freedom of choice; limits are foreign to their mentality. Rather than being primarily readers or listeners, they are users.

The questions that the generations are asking about religion loom large as the Seventh-day Adventist Church reaches out to these four generational groups with its message of hope.

Multi-Ethnic Canada

So we can analyze our country by generations, but another way to look at Canada today is to examine the various ethnic groups that make up our nation. The estimated total population of Canada in October 2007 is 33 million. The table to the right shows the Canadian population of the ethnicities that comprise the total.

The population of both aboriginals and visible minorities grew much faster than the general population between the 1996 census and the 2001 census data. The aboriginal count was 22 per cent higher in 2001, while the visible minority count was 25 per cent higher. During those same five years, the overall population rose by only 3.3 per cent. In 2001, visible minorities comprised 13 per cent of the total population, but, by 2017, one out of every five Canadians will be a visible

minority, according to a recent study based on immigration trends and birth rates.

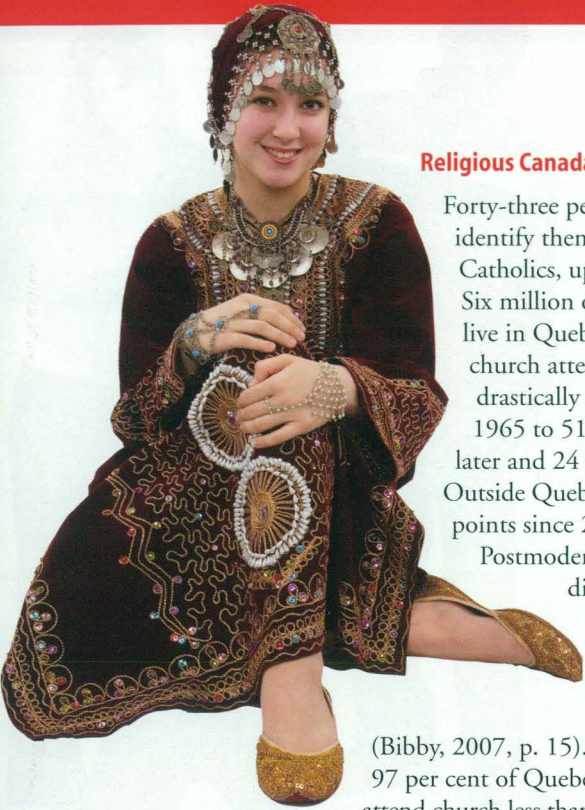
The impact of immigration is huge, particularly in the larger cities. Forty-four per cent of the population of Toronto is foreign-born, the second highest foreign-born resident rate in North America after Miami's 59 per cent. Vancouver is fourth on the list with 37 per cent. (Los Angeles' is third with 41 per cent.)

Of course, many Seventh-day Adventist congregations are multi-cultural, yet the church may wish to develop specific ways to reach aboriginal peoples, French-Canadians, each of the visible minority peoples, along with the 20 million Anglophone and Allophone Canadians of European descent.



First Nations	1,200,000
North American Indians	744,000
Métis	360,000
Inuit	60,000
Other	36,000
European Background	27,000,000
French-Canadian	7,000,000
Other Europeans	20,000,000
Visible Minorities	4,800,000
Chinese	1,200,000
South Asians	1,100,000
Blacks	740,000
Filipinos	390,000
Arab/West Asians	390,000
Latin Americans	260,000
Southeast Asians	260,000
Koreans	150,000
Japanese	100,000
Other	200,000

(The above data is estimated by applying current growth rates to data gathered in the 2001 census. Data regarding ethnicity gathered in the 2006 census will be published in January 2008.)



Religious Canada

Forty-three per cent of Canadians identify themselves as Roman Catholics, up one point since 1871. Six million of these 12.5 million live in Quebec where monthly church attendance has declined drastically from 91 per cent in 1965 to 51 per cent just a decade later and 24 per cent in 2005. Outside Quebec, it has gone up 10 points since 2000 to 53 per cent.

Postmodern Quebecers seem disinclined to attend church simply because it is what “good Catholics” are supposed to do

(Bibby, 2007, p. 15). At the same time, 97 per cent of Quebec Catholics who attend church less than once a week say they have no intention of switching to a Protestant denomination. Their loyalties are staunchly Catholic even though many attend services only at Christmas and Easter or for weddings and funerals.

Twenty per cent of Canadians identify themselves as “mainline” Protestants (United Church, Anglican, Lutheran, and Presbyterian). Their at-least-monthly attendance rate has gone up from 26 per cent in 1995 to 31 per cent in 2005. Evangelicals or “conservative Protestants” (Baptists, Pentecostals, Alliance, Mennonite, Wesleyans, Nazarenes, and others) now include 2,640,000 Canadians (8 per cent of our population). Their at-least-monthly attendance rate is 73 per cent. There are currently more than 50,000 Seventh-day Adventists in Canada. By contrast, Mormons number approximately 160,000.

It is estimated that there are now 800,000 Muslims in Canada, up 38 per cent since the 2001 census. Jews number some 350,000. Other world religions are also on the rise due to Asian immigration; Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism each claim more than 300,000 Canadian adherents today.

Sociologists measure personal religiosity in terms of attendance, identification, and orientation (toward a belief system). Those who consistently reply negatively to these three categories have been called “Nevers,” “Nones,” and “Nots”—which is to say that they never

attend church, answer none on surveys of denominational identification, and say that they do not believe in God, life after death, angels, etc. Reginald Bibby’s 2005 survey produced the following figures pertaining to that group: 23 per cent of Canadians are Nevers, 15 per cent are Nones, and seven per cent are Nots. However, only four per cent are all three. Many people believe in God who never attend church. British Columbia leads all four of these categories (38 per cent Nevers, 34 per cent Nones, 11 per cent Nots, and eight per cent all three), making it the most secular province in Canada. By the same criteria, Alberta is the second most secular province.

Psalm 72 Applied to Canada Today

“Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king’s son. He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth” (Ps 72:1-8 KJV).

Even though David was not thinking of Canada when he penned these lines, Leonard Tilley was impressed to apply this psalm to the new nation in December 1866. How can we apply this psalm to Canada today?

David was celebrating the future reign of his son Solomon. First, we may pray and work to create a nation that compares with Israel during Solomon’s reign, when it reached the zenith of its spirituality, prosperity, administrative wisdom, and peace. It was enough to impress the queen of Sheba who declared, “Blessed be the Lord thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore [he] made . . . thee king, to do judgment and justice” (1 Kings 10:9). Our prayer is that Canada will be just as impressive—a place where natives, long-time dwellers, and recent immigrants will be led to worship the true God!

Second, we may pray that Canada will be a “dominion” where Christ, the second Solomon, is allowed to continue on the throne, succeeding where Solomon failed and bringing righteousness and spiritual peace to the hearts of all who live here. Jesus said, “The queen of the South . . . came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here” (Mt 12:42).

Third, Solomon’s name meant “peace,” or shalom in Hebrew. His was a reign of peace. Let us pray and work for peace among the peoples who are living in Canada. Verse three of Psalm 72 specifically mentions the mountains in connection with peace. We are thankful for our majestic mountains; we pray that they may continue to inspire peace as we invite the world to come and marvel at their beauty. Even as the leaves of the tree of life are “for the healing of the nations” (Rev 22:2), we may pray that the Canadian maple leaf may symbolize international peace in the world today.

Fourth, we find the theme of justice for the poor and oppressed in Psalm 72. Canada has been a place where the downtrodden could find relief. May Seventh-day Adventist church members continue to contribute to that tradition through community service centers, support for parliamentary justice, and personal neighborhood projects.

Fifth, Psalm 72 points to the eternity of the reign of the second Solomon, “They shall fear thee for as long as the sun and the moon endure, throughout all generations” (verse five). Verse seven promises peace for “as long as the moon endures.” Our desire and prayer is that the people of Canada will find eternal, peaceful life through belief in Jesus Christ the Savior of the world. ■

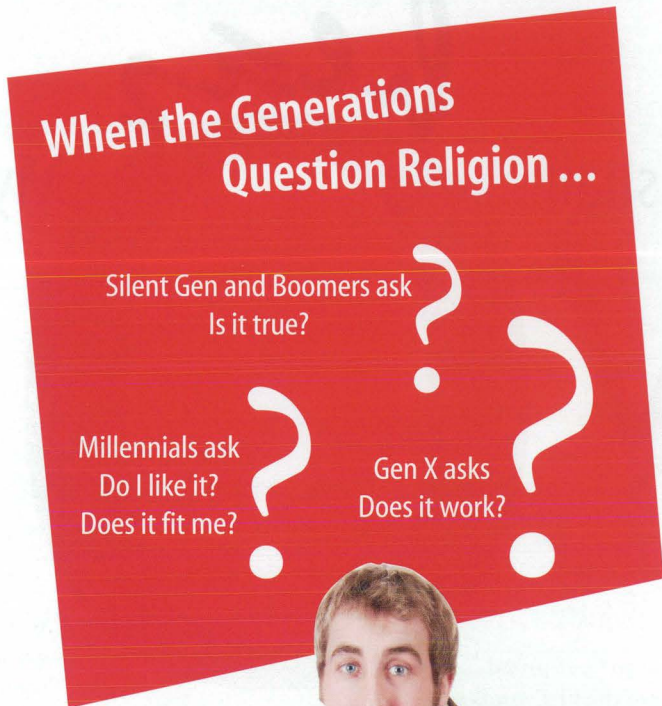
Doug Matacio is an associate Professor of Religion and chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Canadian University College.

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>> COMING NEXT MONTH:

Part II of this series will examine the question “What practical approach shall we, the Church, take to connect the Canada that we know to Christ and church?”

They shall *hear* My **voice**

Mario and Maria

“We want to be baptized.”

These were the first words spoken by Mario and Maria, originally from Portugal, when they stepped into the Toronto Portuguese Seventh-day Adventist Church. More than eight years ago, they started watching *It Is Written* in Portuguese and have watched faithfully since. Watching allowed them to learn the truths contained in God’s Word. Even better, each Sunday they would delve deeper into the Bible. And they became absolutely sure that the Seventh-day Adventist Church had the truth.

In spite of their conviction, something kept them from going to church: soccer games were on Saturday mornings. Soccer is a passion for many Portuguese people, and certainly was so for Mario. Maria, with strong willpower and the seeds of truth growing in her heart, insisted that Mario give up soccer for his salvation. They could not, she said, put off their decision for baptism. Mario agreed.

It was then that they went to church and asked to be baptized. They are now preparing for the great day when they will publicly make their stand. Mario’s words: “We need to be baptized to be part of church of Christ, the true church.”

Margaret and Jackie

In mid-April, the It Is Written team began an evangelistic effort in Winnipeg. Two close friends, Margaret and Jackie, decided to come to the meetings in an effort to prove that what was being presented was not the truth.

As the series went on, the two ladies would often get together to listen to CDs of the sermons and to study the printed lessons. It did not take long for them to realize that

they could not argue against what was being taught. Their get-togethers lost the original purpose of exposing error and soon became moments of surrender, as their hearts were touched by the truth.

When the meetings were over, Pastor Don Stoyanowski, the lead evangelist, left the area without Margaret and Jackie having made a decision. They wanted a sign from God, they said, a clear indication of what God wanted them to do. So they prayed, “Lord, if Pastor Don calls us now, it means that the Seventh-day Adventist church is the true church.”

A few moments later they heard the telephone ring. Guess who was calling? Pastor Don, of course! The prayer of these ladies was heard and answered immediately. It just so happened that Pastor Don had returned to Winnipeg for a short visit and felt impressed to contact them. As a result, there is soon to be another baptism.

God wants to see people make decisions for Him. He wants to use us to help Him in this work. The It Is Written team is privileged to witness the work of the Holy Spirit, to see miracles in peoples’ lives, as we simply practice the preaching of the Word of God. And the Kingdom of Heaven rejoices when someone makes a decision for Jesus.

You have a part to play. You can become an agent of the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to save souls through you. You can tell your neighbor, your co-worker or your friend about the “It Is Written” program. You can help people with a Bible Study course offered by It Is Written. You can dedicate some of your resources to help It Is Written preach the gospel. Let’s work together in this wonderful purpose. ■

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

Alberta

Avalanche Ranch in Yellowknife

“A cowboy ranch in Yellowknife?” someone asked. “That’s unheard of! How can one keep a ranch in a rocky place like Yellowknife?” But it is true! Ask the 45 children who spent a week participating in this year’s Avalanche Ranch Vacation Bible School in the Yellowknife Seventh-day Adventist Church’s gymnasium on July 9-13, and they will tell you that there is truly a cowboy ranch in Yellowknife.

About 15 members of the Yellowknife church transformed the gymnasium into a ranch. Sheila Cruz, children’s ministry leader and director of the Vacation Bible School, took two weeks off of work to lead out in the preparation and the actual programs.

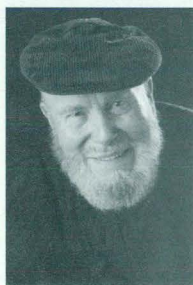
The activities began daily at 2 p.m. and ended at 5 p.m. and included, as do most VBS programs, praise and prayer time, scripture memorization, Bible stories, crafts, games and snacks. The children were divided into four groups, each one led by two leaders, and rotated through the various stations.



A few of the 45 “dudes” who moseyed over to Yellowknife’s Avalanche Ranch VBS.

On Friday’s closing ceremony, 36 children who hadn’t had any absences received certificates and awards in the presence of their parents and other relatives. They had learned to work as a team, had memorized at least five verses of Scripture, had made crafts to enjoy at home, and they had made new friends. ■

91 Years Young—Boris Pache Publishes Second Book



Ninety-one year old retired professor Boris N. Pache of Lacombe, Alberta is currently publishing a second inspirational storybook. *In the Shadow of Thy Wings* is a collection of thrilling, moving, real-life stories for young people and for those young at heart. It is excellent reading for Friday evening or Sabbath afternoon, but can be enjoyed anytime.

Professor Pache’s previous book, *By Ways I Knew Not*, is an account of his miraculous adventures during World War II. Copies can often be found at Amazon.com and other online booksellers. His large-print second book is no less captivating as he shares Christian stories of his own and others, gleaned from experiences of abiding under God’s wings.

See the advertisement on page 27 for information on how to obtain your copy of this intriguing work ■

Peace River VBS

It's hard to say who receives the greater blessing at our VBS, the kids who come or those who work with the kids. For the young at heart "Avalanche Ranch" Vacation Bible School was the place to be in Peace River this past July. This year 50 beautiful enthusiastic children came to take "A Wild Ride Through God's Word."

Many of the kids who have gone through our VBS program over the years are now volunteers, helping to make this a very exciting and anticipated program for the Peace River community.

Some have said this was the best year ever. The energy was high, and the kids had a great time. Crafts, songs, friends, snacks, and learning about God's Word and His awesome love,



Fifty children of all ages took a "Wild Ride" through the Word at VBS.

were the excitement and adventures of the week.

The VBS concluded with a supper and program for the kids and their families on Friday evening, and everyone left with

a sense that we care for them and their children. Only God knows how far reaching the impact of VBS ministry will have. ■

Quebec

Farewell to Elder Gray

On June 25, about 60 workers and their families met at the Lafontaine church to bid farewell to Pastor Gordon Gray, newly-retired president of the fédération du Québec (Quebec conference)

Throughout the afternoon, several pastors expressed their appreciation to Gray for his passion for evangelism and the various outreach projects that he had established. His closest associate, Pastor Hector Jurado, acknowledged his contribution to the constituency. Pastor O'neil Madden commented that Gray had inspired him to dream of a day when he could preach in French. Pastor Herold Norelus spoke of the president's kind personality; Brenda Rowe of the education board emphasized his humility; and Pastor Metard Salomon confessed that Gray had been like a father to him. Irvin Alexis and Monique Lemay



The Grays proudly display the beautiful painting that Pastor Bermudez created just for them on behalf of the conference.

presented special music.

Mrs. Gray was not forgotten. Nivo Razakaria expressed her admiration for the soft-spoken lady who established the

Shepherdess ministry among the pastor's wives, and Denise Nadeau brought her a bouquet of roses and a gift.

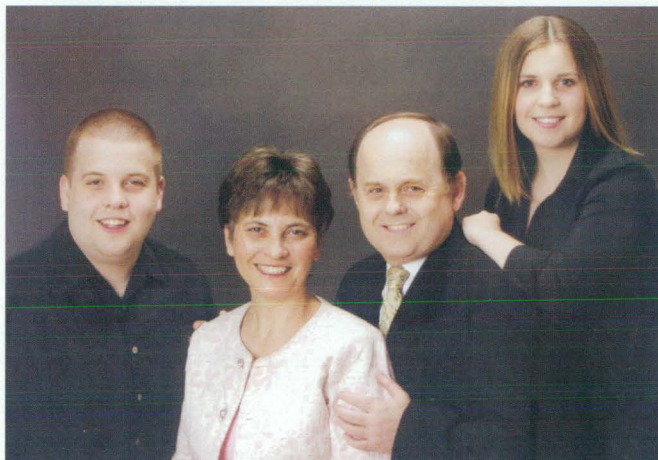
We will long remember the Grays. ■

New President for the Fédération du Québec

Early in May, the board of directors of the Quebec conference voted to invite Dragan Stojanovic to be the next president.

The call came as a surprise to Stojanovic, but he knows that God works in mysterious ways and said “yes” to the challenge in spite of his shock. He has already spent long preparatory hours at the office and filled his calendar with speaking appointments. He’s done very well with remembering the names and faces of his new co-workers and constituents who were happy to hear his presentation on worship during campmeeting.

Pastor Stojanovic and his wife Slavi have been married for 29 years and have two grown children, Sonja and David. Prior to coming to Canada, the Stojanovics spent many years serving the Church—Dragan as a pastor, Sabbath School director and radio personality in Europe. His work as a minister in Chicago for the past five years, his degrees in music, and his skills in graphic arts will serve him well in his new assignment.



The Stojanovics are happy to be serving God’s people in the Quebec conference.

The *Messenger*, on behalf of all of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, prays for blessings on the Stojanovics as they serve God’s people in Quebec. ■

Ontario

New Program Trains Girls to Become Women of God

Often one hears complaints about the lowered standards in the church—members wearing inappropriate clothing, being rude to others, or not respecting God’s house. The women’s ministry department at Kingsview Village Seventh-day Adventist Church is taking a proactive approach to address the issue. Instead of criticizing, they are training young girls how to become women of God through the Rosebuds program.

Every other Sabbath afternoon, girls

aged four to 12 are invited to Kingsview Village church for a Rosebuds meeting, a time spent teaching them how to be well-mannered and respectful young women. Through a fun mix of discussions, skits, games, story-telling, songs and other activities, the children learn how to have a closer relationship with God.

“The girls are excited and eager to learn,” says Norma Husbands-Franks, a women’s ministry member. “Sometimes they would like the meetings to be longer.”

Currently, these young Christians are studying reverence and manners in God’s house. “We are thankful to God that there is already a marked improvement in the behaviour of the Rosebuds,” says Husbands-Franks.

The Rosebuds motto is “We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us” (Philippians 4:13), and through this unique program, these little girls will learn how become strong women for Christ. ■

The Breakthrough Experience

The first annual Mount Olive Women’s Retreat was held Friday, July 13-Sunday, July 15 at Tyrolean Village Resorts in the blue hills of Collingwood, Ontario. Women of all ages left Toronto and the hectic demands of their daily lives to have the experience of a lifetime.

The assembled group held different faces, different ages and different circumstances but one commonality was

the love for Christ. To Him songs and prayers were lifted.

Sabbath morning came and, believe it or not, all 33 attendees were ready and out the door by 8:45 to unite with the Barrie church in worship. By Sabbath evening, the group could be found in the sitting area of the chateau to enjoy sumptuous food and a surprise graciously prepared by sister Gill: letters from spouses or other relatives or friends,

written for each of us. It was a lovely introduction to the evenings discussion about relationships—about being criticized, misjudged, unforgiving, and hurt—and overcoming relationships’ challenges united as women of God. It was in that moment that most experienced a breakthrough.

Women of God. Women of power. Women of strength. Women of service. May God bless us all. ■

■ Announcements

The Edmonton South SDA Church is looking for the following "missing" members: Andrew Ferguson, Linda Kiefluk, Betti Kindl, Allen Larsen, Trevor and Kelly Nadrozny, Amy Rogers, Bonnie Saylor, Nicole Saylor, Desmond Scott, Anita Watters. If you have contact information for anyone on the above list, please forward this information to the church clerk, Cindy Yaceyko, via email cyaceyko@cpsa.ab.ca or phone 780/461-0249.

The Garden Road SDA Church is looking for current information on the following members: Jose Amurao, Melsidis Bailey, Richard Bailey, Kirk Bailey, Andre Boodhan, Nicole Boodhan, Stella Bugden, Mila Calugay, Rosaura Cervantes, Cathy Cervantes, Wes Christensen, Sandra Clark, Natacha DeJesus, Lynne Dennis, Suzanne DiRocco, Maria Drake, Fred Ducharme, Terrance Dunning, Eric Eldon, Elaine Eldon, Bonnie Falls, Larry Gerard, Lloyd Gerard, Ray Gunn, Don Harris, Kelly Harris, Michael Harris, Karen Holt, Chris Huntley, Nicole Huntley, Gregory Jacobson, Baldwin Jarvis, Belen Jeremic Jr., Belen Jeremic Sr., John Jeremic, Betty Jokuda, Cheryl Jones, Manny Kanwal, Meena Kanwal, Carmen Kelly, Wilbert Knopp, Ivan Kusnezoff, Seete Kusnezoff, Meva Laing, Maria Lazo Jr., Diane Lewis, Villorita Ligsay, Michael Limages, Trudy Limages, Maryanna Lowid, Sharon Marglin, Robin Marshall, Michael Mayerchak, Brenda Mayerchak, Danny Mazac, Andy McGlynn, Ryan McGlynn, Sharon McIntyre, Claudette McKenzie, Rodney McLeod, Lily Millard-Grams, Bobby Mitrovic, Brian Mitrovic, Doreen Mroch, John Mroch, Sara Outh, Dval Panall, Lorraine Pernigoni, Jamieson Pierre, Lamya Pierre, Audrey Plante, Cole Plante, Alice Qually, Candace Reilly, Karen Robanske, Ben Santos, Luz Santos, Errol Saunders, Luz Saunders, Basil Saunders, Gail Saunders, Ron Schlender, Mary Schneider, Valerie Sikora, Vernice Sinnott, Bill Smart, Carol Stern, Margaret Stern, Daryl Streick, Yvonne Sutherland, Betty Thompson, Sara VanDiesen, Darren Walters, Jackie Walters, Roman Wazacki, Teresa Wazacki, Cher White, Lynn Withell, Rayvon Woods, Harold Woods Jr. If you have contact information for any of these individuals, please contact the Garden Road Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243017 Garden Rd. SE, Site 17, Box 5, RR 7, Calgary, AB T2P 2G7, or email gardenroadsda@gmail.com.

■ Legal Notices

CHER International Canada

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General meeting for CHER International Canada will be held on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007 at the Kingsway Pioneer Homes located at 1250 King St. E., Oshawa, Ont. The meeting will be held from 5-7 p.m. and will include a complimentary dinner as well as a presentation by a guest speaker.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect officers and board members for the coming year, to appoint an auditor, to consider possible changes to the constitution and bylaws, and to transact any other business that may properly come before the Board. All members (sponsors or general donors) are encouraged to attend. Please confirm your attendance by calling 905/434-7474 or 888/520-7474.

ADRA Canada Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the ADRA Canada Corporation will be held on Fri., Nov. 16, 2006 from 9 am to noon. The meeting will take place in the Board Room of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada at 1148 King St. E., Oshawa, Ont.

The purpose of the AGM is to receive reports; appoint Corporation Officers, the Board of Directors and members of the Bylaws and Nominating Committees; approve bylaws changes; appoint the auditor; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting. All members of the ADRA Canada Corporation are invited and urged to attend.

*Dan Jackson, Chair
K. Oliver Lofion-Brook,
Executive Director*

NB: The ADRA Canada Board of Directors will meet at the conclusion of the AGM.

■ Baptisms

ONTARIO

Anne Kaarid and her sons **Tristan** and **Simon**, were baptized in a local river outside Owen Sound on Oct. 7, 2006. Elizabeth Rossen studied with the family. They are now members of the Owen Sound Church.

Catherine and **Fred Wreaks** were baptized at the Owen Sound Church on May 12, 2007. They are now members of the Owen Sound Church.

Ralph Weisher was baptized at the Owen Sound Church on May 12, 2007. He is now a member of the Harriston Church.

June Keeling and her brother **Michael** were baptized together in a local river outside Owen Sound on July 14, 2007 by Pastor Peter Caran.

ALBERTA

Kaila Koperski, Kristina Bedard, and **Amanda** and **Henry Klassen** were baptized in the Edmonton South Church on June 16, 2007 by Pastor Samuel Millen.

Lola Abiola, Timi Abiola, Grace Achieng Ayoo, Kennedy Otieno Ayoo, Stephanie Broomfield, Daniela Burla, Kealeboga (Kelly) Chirambo, Jendayi Ferary, Sheadene Morrison, Kristal Nurse, Shane Richards, Shantea Richards, Maureen Mcneo Roberts, Brigitte Robinson, Lisa Robinson, Tori Rowe, Kimberly Sikhosana, and **Brent Smith** were baptized following a "Happy Family Bible Seminar" held May 4-June 2, 2007 at the Bridgeland SDA Church. The seminar was presented by Pastor Reynold Ferary.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Josephine Siano-Coppel was re-baptized, and **Lorna Tina,** and **Janet Majares** were baptized in Courtenay, B.C. on Aug. 25, 2007 by Pastor Normand Cote. They are now members of the Comox Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church.

■ Births

Cayden Tyler Bochinski was born June 19, 2007 to Ralph and Angie (Braun) Bochinski of Ponoka, Alta.

Hudson Henry Gallant was born Nov. 29, 2006 to Blaine and Darla (Holm) Gallant of Watson, Sask.

Noah Stephen Rein Hannes was born Aug. 19, 2007 to Stephen Hannes and Rachel Adema-Hannes of Ancaster, Ont.

■ Weddings

Tina Astleford and **Ken Cooke** were married on July 7, 2007 in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C., and are making their home in Langley, BC.

Terri Lynn Thomas and **Christopher Futcher** were married April 6, 2007 in Kauai, Hawaii and are currently living in Japan. Terri Lynn is the daughter of David and Sandra Thomas of Courtyce, Ont., and

Chris is the son of Dave and Joanne Futcher of Litchfield, Ariz.

Tiffany Blankenship and **Ronald Odiyar** were married on June 17, 2007 in Spangle, Wash., and are making their home in Orlando, Fla. Tiffany is the daughter of Peter and Verna Blankenship, and Ronald is the son of Hector and Beth Odiyar of Kelowna B.C.

Lisa Kapiniak and **Jayd Reimche** were married June 17, 2007 in Lacombe, Alta., and are making their home in Edmonton, Alta. Lisa is the daughter of Arthur and Yvonne Kapiniak of Lacombe, and Jayd is the son of Leo Reimche of Portland, Ore. and Orlene (Skoretz) Reimche of Edmonton.

Wendy Thomas and **Jeremy Wageman** were married on July 14, 2007 in Tyrone, Ont. and are making their home in 100 Mile House, B.C. Wendy is the daughter of David and Sandra Thomas of Courtyce, Ont., and Jeremy is the son of Robert and Nancy Wageman of Kelowna, B.C.

Catherine and **Fred Wreaks** were married on May 5, 2007 in Owen Sound, Ont., and are making their home in the Owen Sound area.

■ Anniversaries

George and **Rose Holdal** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 10, 2007. Family and friends



celebrated together on July 15, 2007. George has been a building contractor; Rose a school teacher, wife, and mother. Both have been active in their church throughout the years and have traveled the world building churches with Maranatha and Upper Columbia Conference. The Holdals have six children: Terry (Bev), Sandy (Stewart) Langner, Shelley, Darlyne (Kelly) Lessard, Darren (Twyla) and Loring (Christine). They have eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. George and Rose are retired and currently live in Calgary, Alta.

Stephen and **Eunice McKenzie** of Scarborough, Ont. celebrated their





60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 5, 2007 with a "Renewal of Vows" ceremony at the Apple Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their children hosted a reception in their honour. The McKenzies were married on Sept. 6, 1946 in Port Antonio, Jamaica. They enjoy witnessing, Bible studies and intercessory prayer. The McKenzies have nine children: Faye Townsend, Sheila Barnswell, Jackie Walsh, Sonia Anderson, Maxine Stamp, Zenna McKenzie, Michael McKenzie, Dahlia McKenzie and Paul McKenzie; 18 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Eric Royston Allman was born Feb. 28, 1941 in St. Catherine, Jamaica and died Apr. 24, 2007 in Toronto, Ont. Eric was a caring person who was always ready to lend a helping hand; he lived true to his convictions and readily shared his faith. He was predeceased by his parents Lillian and Augustus Allman, and his brother Uton. Surviving: wife Betty; son Sheldon; brothers Laurie of England, and Leaford and Albert of Toronto; sisters Avis, Delva, and Madge of Toronto, and Daisy and Sylvia of Florida; numerous nieces, nephews and close friends.

Dorothy Muriel Barber was born July 26, 1920 in River John, N.S. and died July 29, 2007 in Ingersoll, Ont. She was predeceased by her husband Melvin, daughter Carole Grbac, and son-in-law Tomo Grbac. Surviving: children Bev (Wayne) West, Ted, John, Betty and Melva Barber, Frank Durham, and Kathy (Mark) Brunner; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Frederick Best was born July 25, 1925 in St. John's, Nfld. and died July 25, 2007 in Port Hope, Ont. Fred and his first wife, Audrey, often sang on VOAR as requested by listeners. He solicited funds and was instrumental in purchasing a church in Peterborough, Ont. He was predeceased by his son Randy, grandson Troy, and brother John. Surviving: wife Gloria (March); sons Edward (Virginia) of Omemece, Ont., Wayne (Lynne) of Omemece,

Garfield (Lori) of Conception Bay, Nfld, Richard (Lisa) of Port Coquitlam, B.C., Robert (Terri) of Courtice, Ont., and Leonard (Joseé) of Cantley, Que.; daughters Janis (John) McDonald of Shelburne, Ont., Mary-Jane Petrus of Kansas City, Kan., and Gail (Daniele) Ciurlia of Oshawa, Ont.; 24 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

John Earl Edwards was born July 7, 1927 at Lonesome Lake, B.C. and died July 16, 2007 in Bella Coola, B.C. Surviving: sister Gertrude (Trudy) Turner and niece Susan (Tom) Loosemore and their two sons.

Lloyd Alfred Walter Fisher was born July 15, 1932 in Moose Jaw, Sask., and died Aug. 15, 2007 in Riverside, Calif. Lloyd was a former principal of the CUC high school and served as a band teacher and administrator in several schools in the U.S.A. He was predeceased by his sister, Clara Fisher. Surviving: wife Dorothy; son Byron (Marcia) Fisher of Edmonton, Alta.; daughters Lavon (Robbin) Barton of Colorado, and Julie (Wally) Smith of Chilliwack, B.C.; sister Margaret Maddock of Armstrong, B.C.; and seven grandchildren.

Robert John Geates was born May 7, 1925 in North Battleford, Sask. and died Aug. 29, 2007 in Lacombe, Alta. He was predeceased by his brother, Harold. Surviving: wife Bona (Mildred); sons Barry (Faye), and Terry (Brenda); daughter Pearl (Adi) Tuerk; and three grandchildren.

Heimo Heghesan was born Feb. 20, 1936 in Oulainen, Finland and died July 11, 2007 in Sorrento, B.C. Heimo pastored in Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia and also taught theology at Canadian University College, then known as Canadian Union College. He will be remembered for his love for people, optimism, love for nature and music, and love for God. Surviving: wife Myrna; son Michael (Tricia); brother Helmer (Lanny) Heghesan; sisters Helia (Star) Kemperle, Henna (Sakan) Stenfors, and Heidi (Bill) Bardsley; and one grandson.

Ann LeGresley was born Nov. 28, 1910 in Niagara Falls, Ont. and died May 28, 2007 in Kelowna, B.C. Ann loved her church and church family. She served as a deaconess and participated in the ADRA Annual Appeal. She was predeceased by her husband, Reginald. Surviving: daughters Jane Stefanovic of Kelowna, Alice (Esteban) Meijia of Yauatepec, Mexico, Joan (Otto) Scheffler of Williams Lake, B.C., and Nancy (Ken) Walker of Lacombe, Alta.; 15 grandchildren,

39 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Marjorie (Jones) Luchak was born June 19, 1919 in Lebanon, Ind. and died July 23, 2007 in Lillooet, B.C. Marjorie was a former Dean of Women at Canadian University College, then known as Canadian Union College, where she also taught Bible and Art classes. At Fountainview Academy in B.C., she was a home head, and taught Bible and English. She also served in Illinois, Utah, and California. She served her church as Sabbath School teacher and superintendent for more than 49 years. Surviving: husband Michael; son Peter (Rachel) Luchak of Lillooet; daughter Heather (Steve) Lee of College Place, Wash.; and five grandchildren.

Brenda (Koleada) Patchett was born Feb. 8, 1953 in Saskatoon, Sask. and died July 28, 2007 in Pasadena, Calif. following a lengthy battle with cancer. Surviving: daughters Kelly and Kristen Patchett; parents Nick and Helen Koleada; sisters Heather Pijper; brother-in-law John Pijper; nephew Sean Pijper; and niece Jackie Pijper.

Philip Raney was born Oct. 5, 1954 in Fillmore, Sask. and died July 8, 2007 in Saskatoon, Sask. During his 30 years as a church member, Philip served in a variety of roles including head deacon, head elder, chorister, and audio-visual leader. Surviving: wife Barbara; son Michael (Kristen) Raney of Saskatoon; daughter Alexandra Raney of Regina, Sask.; brother Matthew Raney of Weyburn, Sask.; sisters Ann Phillips of Stoughton, Sask., and Esther (Joe) Alton of Australia.

Sylvia Ella (Bell) Wagemann was born Feb. 10, 1921 in West Bolton, Que. and died June 23, 2007 in Stoney Creek, Ont. Sylvia was a member of the South Stukely church in Quebec, the oldest Seventh-day Adventist church in Canada. She was also a founding member of the Bowmanville church in Ontario. She was predeceased by her son Gary Edward, daughter Barbara Ann Presswood Frost, brother Grant Bell, and sisters Marion Fessenden and Stella Simcock. Surviving: husband Edward of Stoney Creek; son Douglas Gerald (Rita) Wagemann of Sacramento, Calif.; daughter Pamela Joy Wagemann of Stoney Creek; five grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Shirley Beatrice Wickstrom was born Apr. 21, 1939 in Edmonton, Alta. and died July 22, 2007 in Mission

Beach, Alta. She was predeceased by her father David Steinke, and son-in-law Stacey Jones. Surviving: husband Ernie; daughters Corrine (Randy) Fischer, and Tamara Wickstrom-Jones; mother Beatrice Steinke; and three grandchildren.

Alex Zapran was born July 4, 1919 in Edmore District, Sask. and died July 27, 2007 in Regina, Sask. One of the ways Alex enjoyed serving the Lord was through giving Bible studies. He was predeceased by his wife, Ena. Surviving: sons Larry and Gary of Regina; and sister Marie Koleada of Yorkton, Sask.

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Deadlines

December issue:	Oct. 1
January issue:	Nov. 1
February issue:	Dec. 3

Tributes

Blake Corban was born Feb. 9, 2007 in Grimsby, Ont. Son of Mark and Michelle Okimi of Smithville, Ont.; brother of Cole, two and a half years old; grandson of Miki and Susan Szabo of Welland, Ont. and Carl and Sharon Okimi of Smithville; second great-grandchild for Max and Goldie Mercer of Stoney Creek, Ont.

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Loren Agrey, Vice President for Academic Administration, Canadian University College, 5415 College Ave., Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5. Phone 403/782-3381, fax 403/782-3170, email lagrey@cauc.ca. Further information at www.cauc.ca. (12/07)

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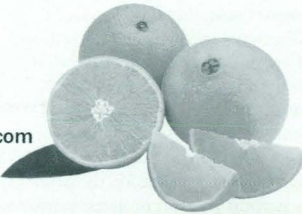
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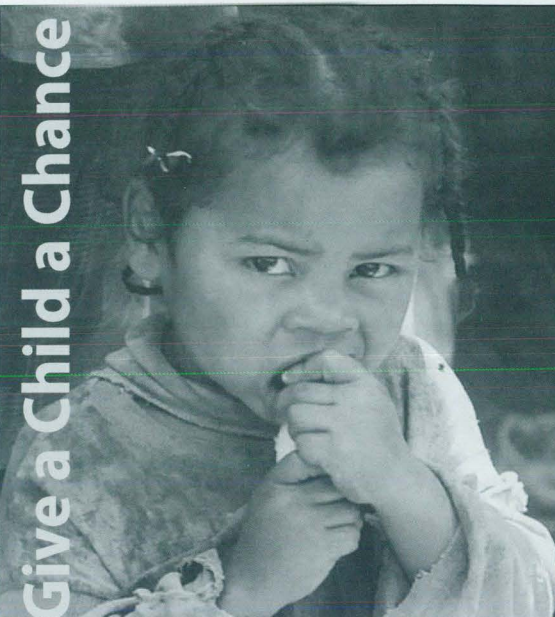
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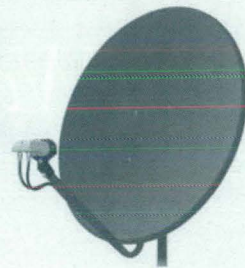


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by Ian Hartley

The wind

Whispering waves in the wheat
 Flipping aspen leaves as a promise of rain
 Scurrying and hurrying dark and dangerous clouds across the sky
 Driving rain sideways, and other ways
 Howling and growling for entrance through any crack, or door, or window
 Window, wind-ow - keeping the wind out

The wind is named

North, South, East, West
 Dry, hot, desert, cold, warm, arctic, balmy, freezing,
 Sirroco, Shamal, Sharav, Simoom, Sharkiye, Seistan,
 Khamsin, Monsoon, Stellar, Solar, Katabatic, Adiabatic
 Trade, North Wester, South Easter

The wind makes

Breezes and Blizzards
 Chinook arches and Cloud scapes
 Dust storms and Tornado's
 Ice storms and Hurricanes
 Weather and Whirlwinds

The wind can be

Friend or foe
 Helper or hunter
 Intruder or protector
 Delicate or heavy handed
 Soul stirring or sea whirling

The wind mystery

From somewhere,
 To nowhere
 Who decides the direction?
 Who gives its speed and force?

The wind, the breathe of God (Irma)

Building new wonder with words—in Creation
 Breathing life into man long ago—in Adam
 Bankrupting feeble excuses in a scared prophet—in Elijah
 Blowing disciples from weakness to power—at Pentecost
 Breaking into me yesterday, today and tomorrow—at Conversion
 Bulldozing boundaries and whispering new directions—Discipling

With lung-wind we speak the wonders of God (Bill)

With God's-wind-words we create joy and love around us
 With evil-wind-words we create the fire of hell in us, and around us
 The wind, the wind of God, the breeze of the Spirit, the wonder of God
 It attacks any, and every crack into your heart
 It will in, at all cost, *at any cost!*

The
 Wonder
 of
 Wind

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