

canadian adventist

Messenger

november 2007

Canadian Adventist Education Report

Mobilizing your Children for Ministry



PLUS: Connecting Canada, part 2;
a message from the NAD President

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>> **A Special Service Live Across North America**—On Friday, December 28, a special communion event will link Adventists across North America in a service of joyful dedication. This event, carried live on the HOPE Channel, will unite hundreds of thousands of Seventh-day Adventists in North America in the experience of rededicating their lives to Jesus at the same time. The service will be broadcast live at: 5 pm (PST), 6 pm (MST), 7 pm (CST), 8 pm (EST), 9 pm (AST), 9:30 pm (NST), and repeated two hours later in each time zone. The ordinance of humility should be completed by the time the program begins, and the emblems of Christ's sacrifice should be distributed 15 minutes prior to the end of the 60-minute broadcast, making it possible for people across North America to participate together in this event of spiritual renewal. For more information, visit www.nad.adventist.org.

So Easy to Forget

by Don C. Schneider

The human mind needs a lot of prodding. Our tendency to forget drives us to jog our memories with monuments, anniversaries, and celebrations.

Jesus knew we would need powerful reminders of what happened in Gethsemane and on Golgotha as the decades and centuries passed. Though He never seemed to enjoy ritual or ceremony, He is the One who said, "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19).

In the upper room, He urged His followers to love each other. He said that by their love they would be recognized as His disciples. Then He showed them what He meant with an ongoing memorial. They could hardly believe what He did. I, too, am filled with amazement every time I think about it. Picture Jesus picking up a towel, filling a basin with water, then kneeling in front of each disciple and washing his dirty feet. As He completed His menial task, He commanded them—and us—to do what He did in humility and love.

So each time someone kneels in front of me to wash my feet in preparation for the Communion service, I see Jesus in my mind. I remember His command to love.

But that isn't all. It wasn't over. At the Passover Supper, this pivotal moment in history, Jesus and His disciples ate in order to remember. They remembered God's delivery of the Israelite slaves from Egyptian bondage. They also looked forward to their future delivery from sin, to the coming Messiah. Then Jesus, the actual Messiah, just hours before

His death, set up a memorial for us using two items from that evening's menu. He was saying, "It's so easy to forget! Please remember!" And I do.

As I take that unleavened bread, I remember Jesus. His sinless body, bruised, beaten, and bloody. I see Him trying to drag that cross, my cross. I see the King of the universe hanging on that cross in my place. As I eat the bread, my heart says, "Jesus, I cannot fathom the pain you must have felt for me. Thank You!"

The grape juice, too, makes me think of Jesus. His flowing blood brought from His body by the lashes, the thorns, the nails. He died that Friday, so I could live eternally with Him. And as I sip the juice, my heart cries out, "Thank You for taking my death. I want to live for you today!"

Yes, it's easy to forget. I want to remember and believe.

So, as the water trickles across my feet, as the crusty bread brushes past my lips and I crunch it, as the sweet juice delights my taste, I remember Jesus. I think about Him. I receive Him into my life again.

*Dear Jesus, my servant King
and suffering Savior, my
powerful, risen Deliverer,
I praise You for Your sacrifice
today. I rest completely in
Your mercy and grace. ■*

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RELIGION: equality's nemesis?

Governments appear to be responding to a growing consensus that religious minorities must adapt to the Canadian culture.

by Barry W. Bussey

Academics are now in a quandary as to what should be done about religion. Should religious people be permitted to live their religion in public? That is, should religious people be allowed to express their faith outside their home or their local churches and religious communities?

Increasingly, I am noticing that question being discussed in law reviews, in newspapers, and most recently in the province of Quebec. Quebecers are getting fed up with religious and cultural diversity. A recent poll published in *La Presse* found that 70% of Quebecers opposed society allowing Muslim girls to wear their headscarves while playing soccer, and 65% said a hijab should not be permitted to be worn in school. In response to that sentiment, Premier Jean Charest has announced that the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms will be amended to ensure that equality rights trump other rights that may come into conflict with them. Governments appear to be responding to a growing consensus that religious minorities must adapt to the Canadian culture.

Women's groups have called upon the government to change the law and allow for greater protection of equality between the sexes. The primary justification offered by cultural communities that engage in degrading practices is religion. Equal rights groups point out that religion supports many unacceptable practices: polygamy in Bountiful, B.C., spanking of children, and bigotry in opposition to same-sex marriage. Religion is seen, by many people, as being at the heart of the struggle for equality in Canada.

While scanning through a recent law review, I came across an article called "Equality's Nemesis?"¹ The author maintained that religion is equality's opponent. To combat religion, she gave a threefold strategy: (1) establish a hierarchy of rights with equality trumping religion when they conflict, (2) embrace joint governance, and (3) privatize religion. I will briefly elaborate on what each strategy means:

Hierarchy of Rights

Currently our Supreme Court does not allow for one right to trump another. Instead there is a balancing of all factors in each case. Under a hierarchical approach, whenever there is a conflict between two types of rights, the lesser-ranked would always lose. If equal rights were deemed more important than religious rights, religion would always give way to equal rights.

Joint Governance

Religious communities would work jointly with government in certain agreed-upon areas. If a member of the religious community does not have his/her equality right acknowledged by his/her religious community, he/she could appeal to government for redress, forcing the religious community to change their position.

Privatizing Religion

The logic of this strategy is that, since religious communities are private by nature, they should not be given any special protection such as may be found in the Canadian Charter of Rights. The only freedoms would be expression and association. That would mean that, when operating in the public sphere—operating schools, for instance—the religious community must follow the rule of law. Pushed to its limit, this could mean that the Church would no longer be allowed to only hire church members as employees for denominational entities that would be deemed "public."

It behooves us to maintain a watchful eye on such academic musings; though they may not lead to immediate change, there is no question that such rumblings have an effect upon thought leaders and decision makers in our society. ■

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



The Influence of Friends



In a recent issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, writer Katherine Hobson drew our attention to some research from Harvard Medical School that suggests that obesity is “socially contagious.” That is, having friends who are overweight may well predispose us to being overweight, too! Yes, the subtle influences of our friends impact us even in regard to our eating behaviour. Further in that article, Katherine Chistoffel, a pediatrician at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine was quoted as saying, “We ought to change the questions we ask ourselves about how to alter our own health behaviours . . . and instead, we can ask, ‘What can I do for my friends and family, and what can they do for me?’” She suggests that our friends and family may be more help to us than we can be to ourselves.

In looking at this article in the *U.S. News & World Report*, I could not help but conclude that, if the relationships we have with our close friends and family members have such a great impact on our lives, we would be wise to stop and seriously consider them. What are my friends and close family members doing to my physical and spiritual health? What can I do for them that will enable them to be of help to me? Note here that it is not only a matter of what I can do for myself but what can I do for my friends and family which I can then expect will have a positive impact on me.

We have all seen folk who gather together as friends, and we may even have used the expression, “birds of a feather flock together.” What we mean is that they are all alike in what they are thinking and doing. Somehow they are influencing each other to a certain pattern of behaviour. This is often the way we older-generation members view those of the younger generation, isn’t it now? It is easier to bunch them all together and jump to

conclusions about the collective group than it is to consider each one individually. But I would like to think that there are young people of strong character who may, by their association with particular groups, be casting

a positive influence and doing much more good than is visible on the occasion of our distant examination.

We have all seen from time to time families that we perceive to be happy and families that we perceive to be unhappy. I have often found that there is often one key family member who swings the overall attitude of the family in one direction or the other. Yes, just one cheery, positive person in the family can fill the whole family with happiness and joy. On the other hand, one negative, critical person can hang a cloud of unhappiness over everyone.

Our friends have an influence upon us, but we, too, have an influence on them. How strong is our influence on our friends? It can be very strong if we are also friends with He who “sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). Remember what the writer of the book of Acts said in chapter 4 verse 13: “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Yes, they had been with Jesus, and He had been their friend. That friendship with Jesus had changed them. It had empowered them. Now these apostles, these friends of Jesus, they had a boldness that enabled them to speak effectively and powerfully.

Our friendship with Jesus can enable us to do the same. We can be a positive influence on our family members and friends, and, in doing so, it will be of great spiritual and even physical benefit to us, too. Just try Him as your friend. What an influence He has! ■

William Olson is the president of the Alberta conference of Seventh-day Adventists located in Red Deer, Alberta.

Extreme Makeover: Heart Edition

I hear all the time about people getting involved in ministries and all that stuff. I want to make a difference in other peoples' lives! Where do I get started?

That's awesome! I'm glad you have such an interest in reaching out to people. It's very rewarding to see how they become happier, but I'd say that usually the ones who are even more blessed are those who help out others.

This reminds me of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. Have you seen that show? It's amazing! Like this one where a poor family from Hawaii used all their resources to manage a community service center while their own house was literally falling apart. They were chosen by the show, and over 2,000 people came together to build them a brand new house and a community center! It was very inspiring.

Now, let me suggest a radically different kind of makeover ministry: the ministry for those who apparently don't need help. It's easy to spot the hungry homeless on the street, and it's very rewarding to help beautiful people like those from the show. But, what about the average Joe? What about the very successful twenty-somethings (think of Mark Zuckerberg, co-founder of Facebook)? What about your roommate? And your next door neighbor? Hmmmm.

Sounds different, eh? It may not be as exciting as going to Africa or to the dangerous streets of your inner-city, but believe me, they need Jesus just as much or, I'd venture to say, even more.

Why? Because everybody assumes they're fine and leaves them alone.

My challenge for you is that you get started by taking one or two full days to pray and fast. Ask Jesus to show you what to do and to help you write down a plan of action. Then do it. Don't wait for other ministries to chew it for you. Become an active Jesus-witness right in your class, place of work and neighbourhood. And then watch Jesus perform real extreme makeovers!



Creation Corner for Kids

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...” John 10: 10 KJV

NOT WANTED



Raccoon

A quaint little cabin overlooking a small lake sits tucked away in a tall spruce forest. The pretty cabin is trimmed with lacy curtains and braided rugs. Little glass figurines decorate the window sills and vases display collections of dried grasses. The cabin's owners take good care of their little cottage in the forest and always look forward to spending time there. That is, until recently

Not long ago the cabin's owners found an ugly surprise when they opened the door. The pretty vases and figurines had been knocked over, the curtains hung lopsidedly from twisted curtain rods, and insulation spilled out of the attic from broken ceiling tiles.

The culprits? After careful examination of the clues, the owners believe that raccoons are responsible for the damage.

Think about it.

It will take a long time and much hard work to recover the cabin to its former restful state.

Our minds are like the cabin. When we ignore the warnings of the Holy Spirit to turn away from sin, we can find ourselves trapped in destructive habits. The end result can be a long period of recovery once the damage has been done. What can you do to protect yourself from life and soul-destroying habits?

Do it.

Is your home raccoon-proof?
Get more information about raccoons and
raccoon-proofing your home from this site:
www.guelph-humane.on.ca/LUW-Raccoons.htm



Connecting Canada^{to} Christ and the Church

by Doug Matacio



Part 2—Reaching Canada Today

Last month we saw weekly church attendance in Canada is up five points from 20 per cent in 2000 to 25 per cent in 2005. And we learned that 45 per cent of the nation is praying regularly! We conclude that twenty-first century Canada is increasingly interested in spirituality and is beginning to come back to church! We saw further how our one nation is composed of distinct generations, ethnic groups, and religious affiliations—all of which feature both overlapping and differing values and customs. We reviewed Leonard Tilley's 1866 hope that "the Dominion of Canada" would become a nation where Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, would be an empowering influence "from Sea to Sea" (Ps 72:8).

This month we ask the question, "What approach, therefore, shall we take to reach Canada for Christ and his church today?"

First, a note of optimism from the data: the most recent Project Canada survey (Bibby 2005) found that 62 per cent of Canadians who attend church less than once a month would be receptive to greater church involvement if they found it to be “worthwhile.” Even among the “nones,” persons who have no religious affiliation, 37 per cent declared themselves to be open to the idea! So, what would it take to convince these groups that increased church participation is “worthwhile?” They are looking for church ministries that will match their interests and meet their specific needs. They are looking for churches that help them to draw closer to God and that are contemporary, inclusive, relevant, and genuine. Seventh-day Adventists are challenged by the three angels’ message to meet these kinds of felt-needs: “Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation [Canada], tribe [First Nations, generations like baby boomers and millennials, occupational groups, Muslims], language [French, English, Cree, Tamil], and people [nominal Christians, Blacks, Whites, Chinese, post-moderns]” (Rev 14:6).

Paul’s Missionary Manifesto

As we seek to reach Canadians and our expatriates with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we would do well to take as our inspiration the missionary manifesto of the apostle Paul. Everywhere he went, Paul kept his core philosophy of ministry in mind: “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. . . . To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. . . . I have become all things to all men so that by

all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” (1 Cor 9:19-23). In short, we must identify with the groups and individuals to whom we are called so that there will be no needless barriers (whether cultural or personal) that could prevent them from receiving Christ and joining His last-day church.

Keeping this mission manifesto in mind, let’s borrow four specific facets of our approach to Canada from a comment Ellen White made when she visited Italy in 1887: “When we came to Italy, it was with the desire that (1) we might *learn something of the habits and customs of the people*, (2) and *the best means of reaching them*, (3) but that we might be the means of *strengthening and encouraging the brethren and sisters*, (4) and that we might also obtain *a little much ‘needed rest’*” (*Historical Sketches of Foreign Missions*, 236). And let’s superimpose upon that statement another of her well-known comments on how to reach people: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men [and women, boys and girls] as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.”” (*Ministry of Healing*, 88-89)

“Learn Something of the Habits and Customs of the People”

One of the reasons Paul was chosen to lead the church’s first-century missionary advance was his knowledge of the habits and customs of the Jews (he was Jewish), the Greeks (he spoke and wrote fluent Greek), and the Romans (he was a Roman citizen). As we mingle with people, we do learn their unique habits and customs, but culture goes deeper than habits and customs; as we mingle, we also learn about their core values. For example, when reaching out to postmodern, secular people—whether

Generation X (post-baby boomers) or Millennials—the quality of the relationship usually takes precedence over doctrinal content. If we recognize that value and are willing to meet them where they are, we will more likely be able to help them to see, in time, the connection between trusting relationships and doctrinal truth.

And yet, care must be taken not to stereotype people by assuming that every individual in a subculture automatically shares the same customs and values that we read about in the “manual”—if there were one. Our knowledge of the habits and customs of the people is background information that establishes a comfort zone as we reach out to them as individuals. We cannot overlook their unique individual traits in favour of the cultural norm any more than we can disregard the traits of their culture in favour of our own.

“Learn the Best Means of Reaching the People”

There is a connection between learning “something about the habits and customs of the people” and “learning the best means of reaching them.” Ellen White mentioned this point again in an 1887 letter to D. A. Robinson and Charles Boyd, American missionaries sent to help start Adventist work in South Africa. “The workers in this cause should not feel that the only way they can do is to go at the people pointedly, with all subjects of truth and doctrine as held by Seventh-day Adventists, for this would close their ears at the very onset. . . . You need not feel that all truth is to be spoken to unbelievers on any and every occasion. You should plan carefully what to say and what to leave unsaid. This is not practising deception; it is working as Paul worked. . . . He varied his manner of labor, *always shaping his message to the circumstances under which he was placed*” (*Testimonies to Southern Africa*, 1977, p. 16, emphasis supplied).

Contextualization. Today we use the

term *contextualization* to describe what Ellen White was talking about in that letter. It means, “shaping our message [and methods] to the circumstances under which we are placed” or context in which we work. We can reach the people by meeting them where they are, by beginning with practices and beliefs that we share. It means using familiar “Nova Scotia” stories in Nova Scotia and “Manitoba” metaphors in Manitoba to illustrate the message that we preach. In Canada, it means making a special effort to reach out to non-attending Adventist “affiliates” (people who identify themselves as Adventists even if they do not attend church regularly) because surveys have shown Canadians are less likely to switch denominational affiliation than are Americans, for example.

Contextualization is risky business because, if conceived outside the Holy Spirit’s guidance and without remembering Christ’s teachings, it can result in the watering down of Adventist doctrinal and lifestyle distinctives. In identifying with the people, we are not called to partake of their sins. So, truth in a few particular contexts can be known only through the guidance of the Holy Spirit: “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into *all* truth” (John 16:12-13). This guidance involves “teaching us all

things” in our specific contexts while “reminding us of everything Jesus taught” (John 14:26).

So, contextualization is only a tool. It is a tool that God wants us to have in our toolbox; but it is a tool that must be kept sharp by the Holy Spirit. And it is a tool that is necessary at every stage of soul-winning: personal contacts and home Bible studies, public meetings and decisions for baptism, and the way local congregations in specific contexts serve their communities, nurture their members, and worship God.

Love and Friendship. People—whether spouses, relatives, work associates, clients, long time chums, next-door neighbors, or townspeople encountered during a Sabbath afternoon survey—are, of course, best reached by love and friendship, by our mingling with them and desiring their good. To do this entails “showing our sympathy,” “ministering to their needs,” and “winning their confidence” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 89). To do these things, we need to respect their customs and values, but that is only one aspect. We also need to be convinced that Jesus loves us before we can reach out and share that love with others. “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many

sparrows” (Luke 12:6-7).

Making Disciples. Once we have gained the respect of the people by identifying with their customs, habits, and values; and once we have gained their trust through love and friendship, how do we “bid them to follow Jesus?” In the case of secular postmodern people and some non-attending affiliates, they may inquire about our own personal walk with God. They may be curious about what happened this morning during our devotional time. Even though we may have considered that a private matter, if we are committed to reaching them for Christ, we may be surprised at how the Holy Spirit can empower us to share. People who mistrust organized religion and the “sacred Scriptures” may be willing to hear about how their friends have been directly touched by God. Many wish they could believe, but need a little gentle encouragement. Postmodern people have been burned by religious promises not kept, but some still long for Spirit-based community.

When we are comfortable discussing spiritual matters, we may invite them to a neighborhood prayer group which eventually begins to study the Bible in a way that clearly shows the relationship between teachings and practical matters of daily living such as personal relationships, work problems, or family misfortune. When the time is right perhaps they’ll make a decision to be baptized and join the quest to prepare the world for the return of Christ. Obeying the gospel commission of Matthew 28:18-20 means making disciples and planting churches as we go.

“Strengthen and Encourage the Brethren and Sisters”

Thirdly, Ellen White wrote in 1887 that she and those travelling with her into Italy “might be the means of strengthening and encouraging the brethren and sisters” who were already Adventist members. When people far out in the world come to church or come back to church after a long break, they look for an island



of peace in a troubled world. They look for real *community* with an emphasis on the unity. Those of us who are old-timers may minister to them simply by not squabbling with each other! We can reach out by reaching in, by nurturing a church family that is characterized by a spirit of encouragement rather than fault-finding.

Just a few hours before Jesus went to the cross, He knelt in the garden and prayed for Himself, His disciples, and “those who would believe in Him through his disciples’ message”—namely, us! He saw the relationship between believer oneness (unity) and mission accomplishment. “I pray . . . that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” (John 17:20-23).

What is this glory that Jesus promises to give us? What is the glory that enables us to experience the “complete unity” that informs the world about Jesus? In John 12 Jesus predicted His death on the cross when He said, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (John 12:23). The hymn writer also related Jesus’ glory to the cross: “In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o’er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story—gathers round its head sublime” (John Bowring, 1825). So, the glory that Jesus promises to give us is the privilege of taking up our cross and following him. When we die to self, we make unity with our fellow church members possible. When the world sees this unity, many [in Canada] will believe in Jesus (John 17:21). In fact, they will know the truth about Jesus (John 17:23).

“Obtain a Little Much Needed Rest”

The last desire of Ellen White and her group of European travelers when they

AS WE CONNECT CANADA TO CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH, WE MAY CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SEVEN-POINT STRATEGY FOR REACHING OUT:

7 strategies

- 1. Find out where the people are: a little research**
- 2. Select the people: for example, non-attending affiliates, first nations, post-moderns, immigrants, millennials, French Canadians, or simply the townspeople of “Pleasant Valley,” B. C., etc.**
- 3. Get together: team unity based on self-sacrifice**
- 4. Meet the people: love, friendship, and service**
- 5. Share the gospel with the people where they are: contextualization**
- 6. Stick with the people: discipling and church planting**
- 7. Send the people out in self-nurturing evangelistic teams: cycle completion**

came to Italy was that they might “obtain a little much needed rest.” Of course, she was thinking primarily of the need for physical rest, relaxation, and recreation in the Italian Alps. We, too, are reminded of the dangers of imitating the workaholic lifestyle of Ellen White’s husband, James.

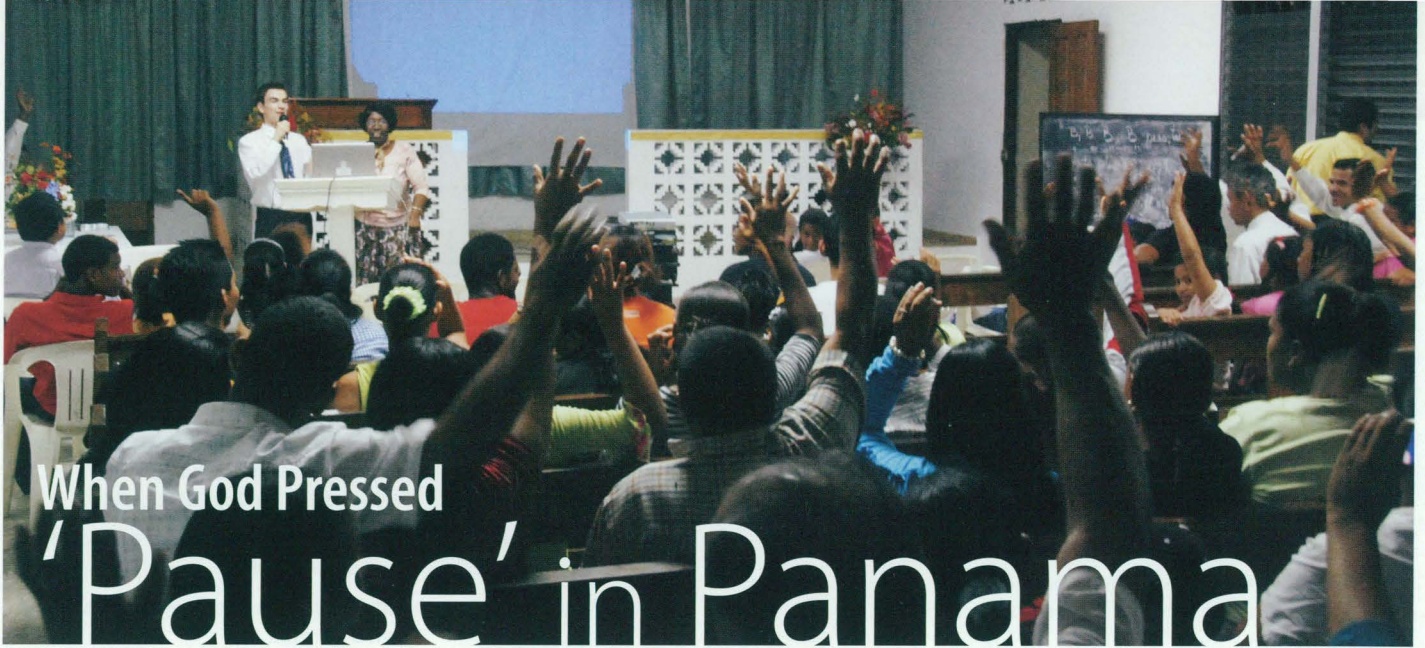
But perhaps we may use this comment to remind ourselves of the need to rest in God, leaving the results with him as we partner with Him in His mission. If we have done our part in acquainting ourselves with the customs and values of the people, reaching out to them in love and friendship, and bidding them to follow Jesus—we may welcome the Holy Spirit to convict their hearts and urge them to be responsive to our efforts. “Unless I go away,” Jesus said, “The Counselor will not come to you but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:7-8).

How shall we reach Canada for Christ and His church today? Perhaps we may take a clue for our sojourn in Canada from a comment Ellen White

made as she and her travelling companions were about to enter Italy. “We came to Italy . . . with the desire that we might learn something of the habits and customs of the people, and the best means of reaching them, but that we might be the means of strengthening and encouraging the brethren and sisters, and that we might also obtain a little much needed rest.”

Ellen White’s strategy for working in Italy is one that we would do well to adopt as we strive for the good of our country. Our goal for Canada is the same as that of Leonard Tilley of New Brunswick, one of the Fathers of Confederation: that Jesus Christ “shall have dominion also from sea to sea [from the Atlantic to the Arctic and from the Arctic to the Pacific], and from the river unto the ends of the earth [from the St. Lawrence to the northernmost islands of the world]” (Ps 72:8). ■

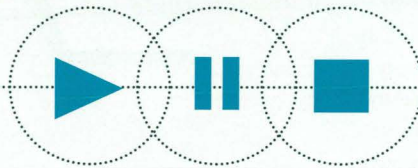
Doug Matacio is the chair of the Religious Studies department at Canadian University College, and especially enjoys teaching New Testament and Church History as part of his duties there.



When God Pressed

'Pause' in Panama

canadian university college



by JR Ferrer

His voice was wavering, almost gone. In a few minutes Lucian Poama, a second-year Religious Studies major at Canadian University College, would have to leave his room in Panama City and travel the short distance to his evangelistic meeting site at Chilibre. For a week now Lucian had spent every day preaching in humid conditions in a crowded church. He had just gotten a call from his parents in Canada, and they could barely understand what their son was saying, so hoarse was his voice. Lucian felt dizzy, his throat was sore, and his head pounded. He was sick and exhausted. "I was tempted to call the pastor and call the evening meeting off," recalls Lucian, "but instead of giving into the temptation, I decided to get on my knees and ask the Lord for strength."

Lucian was part of a group from Canadian University College who, in partnership with ShareHim ministry, had traveled to Panama to conduct a 16-day evangelistic campaign. Led by Dr. Bruce Boyd, assistant professor of Religious Studies at CUC, the group consisted of four Religious Studies students: David Burnie, Diego Corrales, Jerry Logan, and Lucian Poama. This is the sixth consecutive year that CUC has partnered with ShareHim ministries and provided students with experience outside of the classroom. CUC's team was joined by two other individuals, so there were a total of seven team members based in Panama but with their own church sites scattered both in and around the city. The team members went off on their own each night but faithfully met together every morning. Morning worship provided a chance to bond and share stories from the previous evening.

And there were stories to tell. Each team member experienced situations that worked against their goals. For instance, at Dr. Boyd's site, thousands of flying ants filled the building, attracted to the indoor lights. The pests were so thick that the group was forced to shut the lights off and continue the meeting in

darkness. But, even as each member of the team suffered setbacks, their spirits remained high. David Burnie recalls, "... the experience helped me to surrender to God in a new level. I've never felt the passion that comes from the Spirit like I did there, and none of it came from within me. When I was at my lowest, it was then that I put God highest."

And there was Lucian, at his lowest. As ill as he'd ever been but with a tremendous call to spread the gospel to the people attending his series, Lucian got off his knees and made his way to his site. His symptoms got even worse as he entered the church. As he took the stage, he sent up another quick prayer for strength. As the word "amen" crossed his lips, the dizziness, sore throat, headache and the general feeling of exhaustion disappeared. He preached with vigor, and, as the evening's presentation ended and the final prayer was given, all his symptoms returned immediately. Lucian recalls, "I was absolutely astonished that God pressed pause on my flu-like symptoms and that I was able to speak with just as much, if not more, passion and energy that the previous evenings. I will never forget that evening because it was one of the first nights in my life that I truly felt God's amazing power."

"Back at home we don't have the chance to do a lot of evangelism. Panama gives me that chance," states team member Jerry Logan. For the past six years, these trips have been an extension of the CUC classroom. They are an opportunity for future pastors to practice what has been imparted to them in their studies. They are an opportunity for many to more fully realize their passion for evangelism and service. For Lucian, the trip was important: "My experience in Panama confirmed the fact that I want to be a pastor. It's my calling and I'm excited." ■

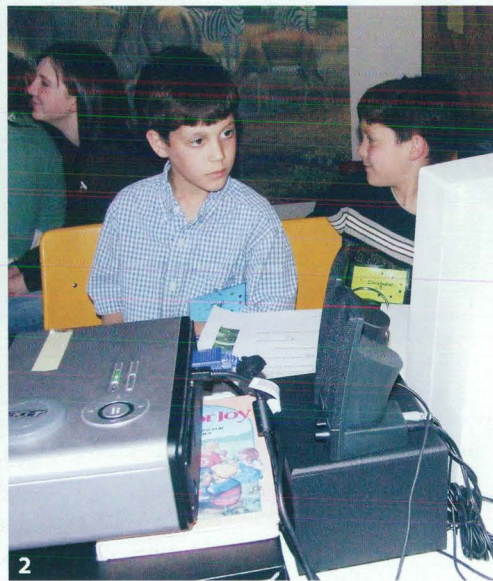
JR Ferrer is the director of Communications for Canadian University College in Lacombe, AB



BY DENNIS MARSHALL

STUDENTS TELL CANADA OF JESUS LOVE

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA LAUNCHED THE FIVE-YEAR “TELL CANADA” INITIATIVE IN 2006. AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR THE SDACC, I ENCOURAGED OUR SCHOOLS TO CREATIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THIS MISSIONARY ENDEAVOUR BY REACHING OUT TO CANADIANS WITH THE GOSPEL IN WHICHEVER WAY THEY CAN. FOLLOWING ARE SOME REPORTS OF SCHOOLS THAT TOOK ON THE TELL CANADA CHALLENGE. HOPE YOU GET INSPIRED!



1) KC STUDENTS AND STAFF WORKED TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP SECTIONS OF THEIR CITY.
2) AT RVJA, ALL ASPECTS OF THE EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS—FROM MUSICAL SELECTIONS TO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY—WERE HANDLED BY STUDENTS AT THE ACADEMY.

Robson Valley Junior Academy (RVJA) McBride, British Columbia

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Tim. 4:12)

RVJA’s “Tell Canada” project was a series of evangelistic meetings held April 20-May 12, 2007. While two high school students from the McBride Seventh-day Adventist Church held prophecy seminars in the upstairs sanctuary of the church, the RVJA students conducted a concurrent series of meetings for the children downstairs. The junior high students, using the Truth for Youth program, presented the same topics as

were presented to the adults, but at a level geared for the children.

The lessons, crafts, singing, piano accompaniment, and computer technology were all managed by the students themselves, and all grades were involved from grade 1 up. Attendance at the meetings grew as the series continued, ranging from 15-30 a night, including many visitors. As a result of these efforts, there were seven requests for baptism and more for Bible studies. This series was inspiring not only to members and visitors, but also to the students themselves as they realized that they, too, could experience the joy of sharing the good news of God’s love.

Greaves Adventist Academy (GAA)
Montreal, Quebec

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16)

GAA's praise team and students from the grades 7, 8, and 9 music classes visited the Geriatric Institute of Montreal on May 10, 2007 and performed for the seniors. The students made beautiful cards for the seniors and performed a variety of songs on their recorders, much to the delight of the residents. The seniors were so moved by the performance and the love shown by the students that they requested another visit from

As a gift to their community of Oshawa, Ontario, and to cap off a year filled with intentional community service activities, all students and staff of KC spent Wednesday, May 2, 2007 donating their time to help beautify the city. This was their "Tell Canada" project.

Wearing bright orange shirts and armed with lots of garbage bags and bottled water, the staff and students fanned out and began their work to clean up areas in the city that were in dire need of attention. Local newspaper reporters recorded the progress, and passing motorists cheered them on with blasts from their horns, waves, and "thumbs-up" gestures.



them. "We will definitely continue this activity of community work and spreading the gospel through song and music," says Principal Julia Falla.

A second "Tell Canada" project was a stop-smoking initiative aimed at the student body. With the assistance of the Tobacco Council of Quebec and church member Audree Dupuis, 14 GAA students were trained to present a stop-smoking program. Commenting on the program, one person said: "The project was a great learning experience for everyone involved. The level of enthusiasm was great and all the participants displayed great interest and efficiency in the project." The students who participated in this project were eager and excited about it. They felt that they had contributed something worthwhile, and in so doing, may have possibly saved the lives of many students.

Kingsway College (KC)
Oshawa, Ontario

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Gen. 2:15)

Everyone demonstrated KC's motto of Service, not Fame by being good citizens and practicing community service. But more importantly, helped to take care of the earth God created. They acted as good stewards of their little corner of the world.

Deer Lake School (DLS)
Burnaby, British Columbia

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Gen. 1:27)

DLS's "Tell Canada" project was a youth rally to introduce the youth in their community to Jesus Christ and the various youth ministries of the Adventist church. This rally took place on March 9-10, 2007 under the theme "extremely made," capitalizing on the country's fascination with makeovers. The staff and students of DLS wanted to convey the message that they were extremely well-made by God and therefore special.

Todd Ross Spencer, a youth pastor from the Southeastern-California conference and lead singer of AFTER, was the

guest speaker. His message was simple but powerful: "God has shaped us for the purpose of loving and serving Him and others." Through his words and music, Todd created an atmosphere of acceptance, emphasizing the point that God takes you as you are and works on the makeover of your heart. On Saturday morning, Steve and Yolanda Hall presented the Allpower4teens seminar focusing on teens taking responsibility for their lives and creating an unlimited future.

Out of 94 people who filled out cards, 67 had a prayer request, 16 wanted more information about Allpower4teens, 14 needed a Bible, 5 wanted to get involved in a youth group, 2 wanted to talk with a pastor and 13 were interested in Bible studies.



3) ONE OF GREAVES ACADEMY'S "TELL CANADA" PROJECTS WAS TO PRESENT MUSICAL SELECTIONS AT A LOCAL SENIORS' HOME.

4) DEER LAKE SCHOOL HELD A YOUTH RALLY TO FAMILIARIZE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY WITH JESUS AND THE CHURCH.

5) CORALWOOD ACADEMY STUDENTS TRAVELED FROM EDMONTON TO QUEBEC AND DISTRIBUTED SCRIPTURE-EMBLAZONED T-SHIRTS TO PEOPLE THERE.

The program was a remarkable witness and demonstration of the power of youth to reach people for Jesus.

Coralwood Adventist Academy (CAA) Edmonton, Alberta

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Ps. 119:11)

Fifteen students of CAA, accompanied by their principal Muriel Huguenin, teacher Marian Rochford, and parent Kathy Fortunat, made a field trip to the beautiful city of Quebec in May 2007. During that field trip, the students engaged in an unusual outreach program: giving out t-shirts printed with various Bible texts from Proverbs written on them. A typical text might be "Do not withhold good . . . when it is in the power of your hand to do so" (Prov. 3:27). Thirteen t-shirts were given out, and it is hoped that those who read the Bible verses would become aware of the power and grace of God and be drawn to Christ.

Okanagan Adventist Academy (OKAA) Kelowna, British Columbia

"Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again" (Eccles. 11:1)

OKAA decided that, for their outreach project, they would give a helping hand to their sister school: Shuswap Seventh-day Adventist School in Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Students of OKAA arrived at Shuswap on the evening of May 8, 2007 and spent the following day constructing picnic tables, shelves to improve the sports equipment storage facility, and playground equipment.

The OKAA students felt appreciated and were happy to know that, through their unselfish service, they were able to make a worthwhile contribution to the students and staff of Shuswap Seventh-day Adventist School.

College Heights Christian School (CHCS) Lacombe, Alberta

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1John 3:18)

Several junior high Home Economics sewing classes at College Heights Christian School turned their talent into ministry for their "Tell Canada" project. Teacher

Angie Bishop shared her passion for quilting by involving her students in making beautiful quilts for a sewing project. Boys and girls participated by busily and carefully creating the decorative quilt-tops, while friend and retired teacher Carolyn Halyrevich kindly finished off each quilt.

Of the 17 quilts that were made, four are going to an orphanage in Africa, and the rest will be given to local women's shelters and needy single-parent families. Each will be accompanied by a Bible story book for children. The students and staff of College Heights must be complimented for showing their love for those in need in such a tangible way.

Cariboo Adventist Academy (CAA) Williams Lake, British Columbia

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt 5:16)

CAA decided to do a mini home-makeover of an elderly woman's home for their "Tell Canada" project. The school's Extreme Team, consisting of grades 7-12 students, welcomed



6) OKAA joined with the Shuwap school to make needed improvements—including some attention to the playground equipment.

7) CHCS students, under the direction of their Home Ec. teacher, created quilts to be shared locally and in Africa.

this challenge with great enthusiasm. A fundraiser at their annual Fall Fair brought in the funds required for the project and inspired even greater community support. Donations poured in! A local businessman even donated carpeting, linoleum and labour for the project. The outpouring of love and the support for the project was overwhelming.

The starting date for the project, February 1, 2007, saw students, parents, and teachers working side-by-side with joy. Old carpets and linoleum were replaced; walls, kitchen cabinets, and the fireplace were repaired and painted; a door was installed; and numerous small repairs and details were taken care of. The house was cleaned from top to bottom. Finally, the lady's belongings were put back in place along with fresh new curtains. The interior of the house looked bright and new, bringing a look of happiness to the owner as well.

Sharing the love of Jesus through this project not only fulfilled a need, it brought untold joy to the Extreme Team and all participants. A special thank you goes to Carl McMillan, the grandpa of one of the students, who worked tirelessly as he demonstrated his skills as a handyman and jack-of-all-trades. The business owner who donated the flooring for the project made it clear he wants to do the same next year. The students are anxious that this project continue. The Extreme Team lived up to its motto to "Love Them Like Jesus." ■

Dennis Marshall is the director of education at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.



8) CAA STUDENTS, STAFF, AND EVEN COMMUNITY SPONSORS JOINED TOGETHER TO RENOVATE AND REDECORATE THE HOME OF AN APPRECIATIVE WOMAN IN THEIR COMMUNITY.



HAVE AN IDEA FOR A "TELL CANADA" PROJECT?

The SDACC Office of Education will subsidize the cost of any "Tell Canada" project by 50% up to \$750. Do you have a creative idea for your school to spread the Gospel? Let us know by filling out a "Tell Canada" application form—available from Brandy Perkins at bperkins@sdacc.org or from our website at www.catnet.sdacc.org (go to 'forms' and look for "Tell Canada").

We have designated the month of April as "Tell Canada" month, but you can do a project anytime in the year.



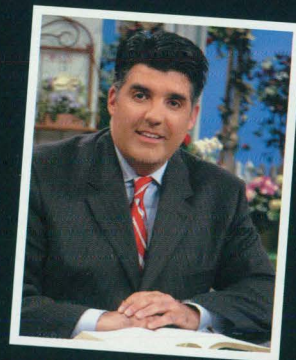
...The Torch,
Be Yours
to Hold
it High...



Ever wondered if all the money spent on television ministry is worth it? How much impact can a television program really have? In 1973, when Pastor Henry Feyerabend aired his first television program, a mere 5-minute segment, my mother and father happened to tune in. To make a long story short, 9 members of my family were baptized as a result of that one 5-minute television program. Let me ask the question again – is all the money spent on television ministry worth it?

35 years ago, Henry Feyerabend had a dream. That dream was to have a weekly television program. Today, thousands of Canadians watch It Is Written Canada each week and hundreds respond to our offers to study the Bible or receive our literature. What started with a flicker is now a burning torch, and that torch has been passed on to you and I! We have the responsibility of carrying the Good News to those who still have not heard it.

**Please consider
becoming an It Is
Written Canada
supporter!**



Bill Santos
Director of Speakers



IT IS WRITTEN
CANADA

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

SINCE 2004 IT IS WRITTEN CANADA HAS:

Conducted *10 Evangelistic Series* from coast to coast

Witnessed over *400 Decisions* for baptism in these series

Raised over *\$ 6.5 Million* in Donations

Written, produced and aired over *200 television programs*

Developed *2 Websites* - one in *English* www.iiw.ca and the other in *Portuguese* www.estaescrito.ca

Created a *Web-Based Tracking System* to help track our interests

Hosted and conducted *Training* for all *Seventh-day Adventist pastors* in Canada

Produced outreach resources to help church members witness to the un-churched

Corresponded with more than *1700 Bible students*

Shared the miracles taking place in Canada in an article each month for the *Messenger* since *June 2007*

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Evangelism

THE CANADIAN ARCTIC

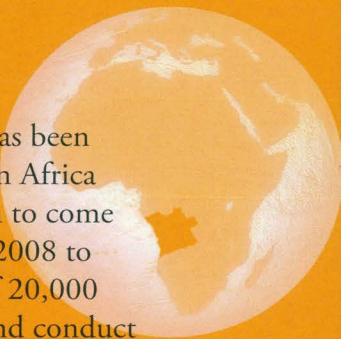
In partnership with It Is Written International we are working to share the Good News to the Inuit people.



Evangelism

ANGOLA 2008

It Is Written Canada has been invited by the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division to come to Angola in October 2008 to assist in the training of 20,000 Adventist Laypeople and conduct an evangelistic series.



Satellite Evangelism

OCTOBER 2009

The Portuguese Advisory of the North American Division has invited It Is Written Canada to conduct the **FIRST Portuguese Net Series** in North America.



OCTOBER 2010

To conclude the 5-year *Tell Canada* initiative - It Is Written Canada will conduct a coast-to-coast **Net Series**.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

It Is Written Canada is a donor-supported ministry committed to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to the whole world.

Our donors make it possible for It Is Written Canada to reach into the homes of thousands of people every day through our television programs, spiritual resources, live events and website. When you donate to It Is Written Canada, you help make an eternal difference in untold lives.

THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF IT IS WRITTEN CANADA:

1 Become an **It Is Written Canada PARTNER** by committing to donate **\$100 per month for 12 months.**

2 Become an **It Is Written Canada SPONSOR** by committing to donate **\$30 per month for 12 months.**



TAKE THE PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

\$30 / month for 12 months

\$100 / month for 12 months

/ month for 12 months

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Prov _____

Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ email _____

Office Phone _____ Referred by _____

Thank You
For Paying
Postage

IT IS WRITTEN CANADA RESOURCES

DVDs



Prairie
Voices



Joseph
Dreamer of
Dreamers



The Clash
of Cultures



Teach Us
to Pray



The Scarlet
Cord



David
Friend of
God



Dill Sautus
& Doctor
Ben Carson



All The
Kings Men



Jesus His
Glorious
Return

BOOKS



All The
Kings Men



Jesus His
Glorious
Return



Joseph
Dreamer of
Dreamers



Prairie
Voices



The Scarlet
Cord



David
Friend of
God



Teach Us
To Pray



IT IS WRITTEN
CANADA

...The Torch. Be Yours to Hold it High...

P.O. Box 2010
Oshawa, ON
L1H 7V4





"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will hold of your hand. I will keep you and make you to be a covenant for the people and a light of the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to bring free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness." (Isaiah 42:6,7)

IMPRISONED

John grew up in a hostile environment, suffering abuse since he was a child. He carried inside of him a constant anger that led him to destroy property, use alcohol, drugs and women before he was even 12 years old. He went through many crises at a very young age, living in a world of emptiness and meaninglessness.

Today, John finds himself in one of Canada's correctional centers in Canada. He is 26 years old, and he has spent a most of his adult life in prison. He hit rock bottom when his wife and three children left him. He knew that some of his cell mates were studying the Bible and decided to try that, too. He wrote to It Is Written's Bible correspondence course.

The Bible course was born three years ago when Leena Maattanen and Pastor Henry Feyerabend were having a nice conversation in her living room. Leena had been conducting Bible studies at the College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oshawa, Ontario, and she was telling Pastor Feyerabend that many of her students were being blessed by the *It Is Written* telecast.

From that conversation, the two, inspired by God, had the idea of starting an It Is Written Bible class. Leena has been dedicated to this work since then and has already communicated with over 1,700 students. She says, "To see God through his Holy Spirit working in people's lives is a blessing larger than any man can ask for."

The Bible class has the potential to reach people from diverse life situations. Many turn to the study of God's word as a last chance to find solutions to their problems. Many who communicate with It Is Written are, like John, incarcerated. They are serving their sentences in various prisons across Canada.

Through the Bible correspondence course, God is touching John's life. He said in one of his recent letters: "My story involves drugs, abuse and many years of loneliness, but now I am very confident in saying that I am a born again Christian. Knowing the Lord is watching over me definitely makes life easier."

Many more people can have their lives made easier by knowing the Lord. More people can get to know the word of God through correspondence studies, but for that happen we need to expand our ministry. We need your help in sending out books and other materials.

Be part of this ministry. Pray for us and help us with your resources so we can take this message to all that need it. We can open the eyes of the people that don't see Jesus. We can take the suffering out of their darkness and free the unbelievers from their emotional prisons. Together we can give people the hope that they long for. ■



YOUTH EMPOWERED AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN LAOS

Public awareness of and response to the devastation caused by HIV/AIDS in Africa has grown exponentially over the past few years. In this same period, the growing epidemic in Southeast Asia has received little attention. Unfortunately, the rate of infection there has increased, and many have predicted that the spread of HIV/AIDS could create the same crisis situation in that region as it has in parts of Africa.

Laos does not have the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia, yet its people are at a high risk due to increasingly open borders with surrounding countries. As trade between Thailand and China increases, Laos is becoming a thoroughfare for merchants and truck drivers and a temporary home for

foreign construction workers. Long distance truck drivers in sub-Saharan Africa contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS along trade routes, and the increased use of trade routes through Laos could see the same consequences. As the construction of new highways takes place to accommodate this increased trade, young girls are particularly at risk, sought after as they are by road workers.

A high level of poverty in Laos serves to increase the rate of infection because poverty leads many people, desperate for an income, into risky behaviours. Girls from poor villages in Laos are known to travel to Thailand to work as sex workers or bar girls, eventually returning to Laos to marry in their community.

Preventing HIV infections in Laos is important not only from a health perspective, but also from an economic one. Avoiding illness within families helps to ensure that relatives can still participate in income generating activities, attend school, and not be hindered by taking care of sick family members and buying expensive medicines.

Since the people of Laos are at such great risk, education to improve knowledge, attitudes and prevention practices of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS is invaluable. ADRA has been training young people as peer educators within schools and rural villages so they can spread the knowledge they acquire throughout their communities. As well, ADRA has been training teachers as mentors and coaches and arming government officials within health and education departments on the modes and methods of STI and HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention and gender empowerment and communication techniques.

ADRA has received a positive response from local governments that support the project in their jurisdictions, from teachers who are encouraging the peer educators in their activities, and from students who are eager to join in ADRA's mission. ADRA is in the unique position to help inspire members of a generation of young people and provide them with the knowledge to improve their own futures and those with whom they interact. Educating these people and arming them with the knowledge to protect themselves against the threat of STIs and HIV/AIDS has the potential not only to benefit these young people specifically, but future generations as well.

The project is still in its early stages, but with your donations ADRA has been able to train 52 peer educators and 24 teachers and government and project staff in urban areas. The training of 30 peer educators and 10 teachers and government officials has also been completed in rural villages. In addition, ADRA has hosted an HIV/AIDS awareness event which was attended by 500 people and produced a radio program to help educate and alert others to the dangers of HIV/AIDS and how it may be prevented. We thank you for your support, and hope for your continued support, as we work to educate individuals and stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. ■

Christine Masching is an administrative assistant at ADRA Canada in Oshawa, Ontario.



www.adra.ca

Have you seen the latest ADRA videos? The Summer 2007 ADRA Canada DVD has a video on AIDS that is interesting and informative.

Get your free copy today by calling (1.888.274.ADRA) or emailing (pr@adra.ca) the ADRA Canada office.

SDA Church in Canada



1. Campers Sierra and Arlene riding tall in the saddle.

2. Happy NCB campers at Mountainview camp for the first time in three years.

3. BC conference president, Gordon Pifher, shares a laugh with camper.

National Camps for the Blind 2007

“It’s good to be back!” The sentiment was echoed by all the campers and Christian Record Services workers and volunteers. After a three-year absence from Mountainview Camp in Hope, British Columbia, National Camps for the Blind (NCB) was “back home” in time to celebrate its 35th anniversary of camping in Canada. And what a blessing it was!

Gordon Pifher, president of the British Columbia conference, and Brian Wahl, Mountainview camp director, worked overtime to enable NCB to come back to the camp. “Pastor Gordon,” as campers and staff called Pifher, was the camp pastor for the week. It was wonderful to see campers coming to him for both literal and spiritual guidance. Morning and evening he would share God’s love and plans for their lives.

NCB has been having theme camps for the past few years; this year it was great to have fun as pirates—searching for treasure, swabbing the decks, walking the plank, etc. Of course, campers were equally happy to participate in other activities as well—swimming, canoeing, archery,

crafts, horseback riding and the like. John Mercer, a camper, and his wife, Doreen brought their portable ham radios. Another camper brought his checker set and ran a tournament complete with prizes. None of this would have been possible without the Mountainview staff—including counselors, cooks and volunteer nurses—who gave freely of their time and energy. We are so thankful for them.

If you or someone you know could benefit from our *free* services, please contact the national office. Representatives from across Canada are available to visit your church to share this unique ministry, or to visit with your visually impaired friends and offer them our services.

Christian Record Services and NCB have dedicated themselves to “helping the blind see Jesus.” You can help! We need your prayers, but we also need your talents and financial gifts. Christian Record Services is your church’s ministry to the blind and visually impaired in Canada. Because you care, you, too, can help the blind see Jesus. ■

British Columbia

45th Reunion of the Branson Hospital's School of Nursing's First Graduating Class

Ten of the 16 who graduated in the 1963A class on February 3, 1963 met together at the Mountainview Camp and Conference Centre at Hope, British Columbia on August 28-30, 2007. Happily, the group had picture-perfect weather for their short time together and was able to enjoy many outdoor activities: hiking through the historic Othello-Quintette tunnels (the abandoned Kettle Valley Railway route) and the spectacular Coquihalla River Canyon gorge; relaxing in and around Harrison Hot Springs; and touring Minter Gardens and sampling from their buffet lunch.

The remainder of the reunion was spent at the camp lodge, reminiscing about the "good ol' days" at Branson. Photos were shared and stories were told as friends and former classmates caught up on each other's lives, eg. families, work, the good and not-so-good experiences of life. Several husbands and friends joined our class and together we shared many laughs as well as a few tears, especially as we had to say goodbye. This togetherness was just a glimpse of heaven. We are counting on being together for eternity where there will be no more goodbyes. See you there! ■

by Myrna Mosier



Fall Fair in Creston

For over 60 years the town of Creston has had a Fall Fair on the second weekend of September. It is a traditional fair, complete with machinery, animals, fruit and vegetable displays, and home baking. In addition, the fair features painting, arts and crafts and many other booths.

For the past 11 years the Adventist Church has had one or more displays. This year, the volunteer overseeing this project gave out 237 books and 41 DVDs by Amazing Facts. Eight people signed up for the depression and wellness seminar offered and for Bible studies. ■

by Marj Comm

Alberta

Spanish Woman's Retreat

"A Solas con Jesús," the Spanish woman's retreat held at the Red Deer Lodge from Sept. 14-16, 2007, was very successful! The powerful messages presented by our Fiordaliza Torres, guest speaker, made a great impact on everyone. The music and poetry presented were clearly inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the testimonies shared during the concert helped bond the ladies closer and gave them an extra opportunity to praise the Lord.

The third Spanish woman's retreat will be on September 12 -14, 2008. ■ *by Dilcia Torres*



Ontario

a Vision with a Passion



Accepting the gift of a new mini-bus are (l-r) pastor and fundraiser Wesley Torres, women's ministries leader Ena Thorpe, bus driver Duug Sweeney, GAA principal Kathleen Mitchell, and GAA board chair Danny Macesic.



Just a few of the computers that Grandview Adventist Academy students can now enjoy.

Grandview Adventist Academy has been serving Hamilton, Ontario for over 80 years. It all began with the vision and dedicated work of the pioneer leaders of the Hamilton Mountain Church who established a Christian school, however, as the years went by, the school had difficulty keeping up with the rapid changes in modern communication and technology. Much of the equipment was obsolete.

Many school supporters recognized the dilemma and took the matter to heart. After prayer and consultation with

administration, a list of priority items was prepared and a plan was devised to acquire the listed equipment. Major companies contributed—companies like Costco, Wal-Mart, and the Royal Bank—as did members and local professionals. Three years after the project to re-equip the school began, more than \$30,000.00 has been raised, and a long list of equipment has been purchased. Among other things, the students and staff of Grandview Academy give thanks for 40 new computers, a high-speed internet connection, a mini-bus (gifted

from the church's women's ministries department), five new microwaves, a new television, a new DVD player, a new PA system in the gym and a new intercom system between the office and all classrooms.

Everyone who participated in the project is grateful that Grandview can now continue to soar as a modern school that strives to offer an outstanding education. ■

by Wesley Torres, pastor

Adventist Health Screening —Cambridge Church

Since January 2006, the Cambridge church has been conducting health screenings in the Cambridge Centre mall. Visitors can get their blood pressure checked, a body mass index (BMI) assessment, their "health age" calculated, and receive some general health counsel. Some of the participants share what interests they have in health services. This outreach has enabled the church to provide programs of interest for the community such as a vegetarian cooking school and prophecy seminars. As more interests arise different types of programs will be explored. ■



Mount Zion Filipino Hosts Newcomers Orientation Program

The task of integrating and settling into life in Canada is now a little less daunting for 93 new Filipino immigrants and contract workers in the greater Toronto area. Hosted by the Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church, a one-day Newcomers Orientation Program for new Filipino residents and their families was held on Sunday, September 9, 2007. A joint effort of the Catholic Community Services of York Region, the Office of the Philippine Consulate General-Toronto, the Office of the Philippine Labour Representative, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Mount Zion Filipino SDA Church, this program is specifically designed to fast-track new residents into settling and adjusting into their new communities.



Approximately 100 people registered for the Newcomers Orientation program co-sponsored by the Mount Zion church.

This year's event to assist new Filipino residents with adjusting to their new country was an opportunity for community settlement counsellors and local professionals to conduct workshops on job search and integration skills, worker's rights, change and transition management, family life and the effects

of domestic violence. Field experts were also on hand to provide legal and consular advice and tips on how to gain access to programs and services relating to education, health care, employment, finance and banking, childcare and community resource facilities.

Spearheaded by Lani Aguinaldo, Mount Zion church's New Immigrant ministries coordinator, the Newcomers Orientation Program was launched in 2003 by the church's community services department. Due to its wide success, this program is held annually and is free to all registrants. Mount Zion church members volunteer their time to prepare lunch and snacks, supervise the kids program, and share their own immigration experiences with program attendees. ■

by Judy Gamez and Emicil dela Cruz

Quebec

Alliance in the Saguenay

Approximately 40 people united their efforts on July 10-18 to share the gospel in the beautiful region of the Saguenay. Once again, the Alliance group used music, mime, choreography, and sign language to portray the hope that Christ brings to our lives. Five shows were given in the public squares of the bay (what a beautiful site by the fjord!) of Jonquiere and Chicoutimi. Our heavenly Father has richly blessed these presentations! Our team will long remember an answer to prayer on July 14 when God stopped the rain and allowed us to have the outreach program while the rain kept falling everywhere else in the region. What a mighty God we serve!

A total of approximately 1,000 people came to these outreach shows. One-hundred of them left their addresses and wish to be informed about our next



Music, mime, choreography, and sign language were used to express the gospel hope in the Saguenay.

program; 21 have requested a Bible and 10 have enrolled in the Discover Bible course. We pray that God will bless the seed that has been planted this summer, and make it grow.

During this important week, the

youth of Alliance also took part in the launch of the Projet Érable, a church-planting venture in the province of Quebec. Its first phase begins this fall in the Saguenay. ■

by Rémy Ballais, pastor

Evangelism at Mount Sinai

From July 28 to August 18, 2007, the Mount Sinai Church held a series of Bible conferences with Pastor Jean Delaneau Antoine. This man of faith is a minister and a professor at the Theological Seminary of Haiti. Each night during the three-week series, the topics were presented thoroughly with grace and conviction, and many were touched by the messages. Many have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior; 19 have been baptized.

May the Lord bless the newly-baptized members that we gladly welcome into the church fellowship. ■

by Maxime Pape, pastor



The 19 new members of Mount Sinai church with Pastor Antoine.

Bountiful Harvest in St-Leonard and Lafontaine

Each year, the churches of St.-Léonard and La Fontaine have a series of Bible conferences. This year's series was held on June 2-30, 2007 at La Fontaine church by local pastor Vaillant Youte. Given the disasters, social problems, and environmental damage that affect our planet, the series entitled "A New Beginning for Humanity" was both apt and timely.

Those who attended the series night after night were happy to hear the Word, and most took a stand for Christ. The series ended with the baptism of 18 people who accepted the Lord. Others are taking Bible study to prepare for the next baptism. ■

by Costel Jean, communication director

Ministerial Ordination



Pastor Oneil Madden

During campmeeting, on Sabbath, July 21, Pastor Oneil Madden was ordained to pastoral ministry. Madden has served for many years as assistant pastor, and as chaplain at Greaves Adventist Academy. His experience as church

elder, his love for young people, his devotion to the Lord and his passion for evangelism make him a very successful pastor. His wife, Anne-Marie, likes to work with the little ones and serves as volunteer children's ministry coordinator for the Quebec conference.

The anglophone congregations were especially pleased to see one of their young members ordained to the ministry of the Word. Madden is currently in charge of the LaSalle and New Life Seventh-day Adventist Churches and is well known in the community where he serves. We pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and empower the ministry of Pastor Madden and his family. ■

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■ Baptisms

ONTARIO

Amanda Andrew Marttinen, Jr., Anya Marttinen, Sarah Marttinen, Kaileen McGlade, and Brennan McGlade, were baptized on Sept. 15, 2007 by Pastor Andrew Marttinen. The Marttinens are now members of the Carleton Place Seventh-day Adventist Church in Carleton Place, Ontario, and the McGlades are members of the Perth Seventh-day Adventist Church in Perth, Ontario.

ALBERTA

Jasper Anderson was baptized on July 7, 2007 by Pastor Bob Burke and is now a member of the Sedgewick Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alberta.

Kaila Koperski, Kristina Bedard, and Amanda and Henry Klassen were baptized in Edmonton, Alta. on June 16, 2007. They are now members of the Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Gordon Bare and Jennifer Kopp were baptized in Williams Lake, B.C. by Pastor Doug Hosking. They are now members of the Williams Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church.

■ Legal Notice

ADRA Canada Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the ADRA Canada Corporation will be held on Fri., Nov. 16, 2007 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 Lofton-Brook,
Executive Director*

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

■ Obituaries

Jeanie (Goodwillie) Appleyard was

born May 12, 1918 in the municipality of Langford, Man. and died Sept. 20, 2007 in Regina, Sask. Surviving: husband Bill; son Wayne (Rebeca) Appleyard of Stonewall, Man.; daughter Elaine (Bob) Ainslie of Winnipeg, Man.; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Douglas Jamie Dean was born June 17, 1948 and died Aug. 23, 2007. Surviving: brothers Bill (Marj Dagg), and George; sister Barb Billingsley; aunt Marion Ballentine of Sarnia, Ont.; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Darlene Louise Dubilowski died Apr. 28, 2007 in Edmonton, Alta. Surviving: husband Peter; sons Dale Dubilowski and Toby (Brenda) Dubilowski; mother Lorene Kirzy; mother-in-law Luba Pangras; brother Richard (Wendy) Kirzy; sisters Valerie (Bob) Stewart, Christine Harnum, and Linda (Bruce) Stewart; brother-in-law Jerry (Shayla) Dubilowski; sisters-in-law Marie Pangras, and Lydia Neufeld; and four grandchildren.

Ira Follett was born Sept. 27, 1914 in Santa Fe, N.M. and died Aug. 24, 2007 in Loma Linda, Calif. Ira pastored in St. John, N.B., and on the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario. He was departmental secretary for the Alberta Conference and also worked in Hawaii, Oregon, and California. Surviving: wife Lorraine; daughters Yvonne (Arthur) Kapiniak of Lacombe, Alta., Linda (Otto) Helf of Kelowna, B.C., and Cherie (Louis) Dale of Sonora, Calif.; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Patricia Ann Graham was born May 25, 1950 in Kelowna, B.C. and died Sept. 22, 2007 in Calgary, Alta. She was predeceased by her mother Gladys, father George, and her brother Ronald. Surviving: siblings Terence (Britha) Graham of Lacombe, Alta., Fay (Ken) Lindsay of Westbank, B.C., and Barry (Peggy) Graham of Overgaard, Ariz.; stepmother Edna Graham of Lacombe; stepbrother Patrick (Rhonda) McDonald of Wyoming; and stepsister Michaelan (Dave) Bowers of Tennessee.

Robert Winston Louttit was born Nov. 22, 1915 in Elgin, Man. and died Aug. 27, 2007 in Quesnel, B.C. He was predeceased by his wife Mary. Surviving: children Carol (Peter) Kimmie, Dodie Koos, John (Jeanette), Penny (David) Norn, David (Marlene); 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Marjorie Ellen (Jones) Luchak was born June 19, 1917 in Lebanon,

Ind. and died July 23, 2007 in Lillooet, B.C. Marjorie was dean for the girls at Canadian University College for 10 years and home-head at Fountainview Academy for six years, as well as Bible and English teacher at both schools. She was an outstanding Sabbath school teacher. Surviving: husband Michael; son Peter; daughter Heather; sister Evabelle; and five grandchildren.

Perasceva (Pearl Krawetz) Palanio died Oct. 11, 2006 in Simcoe, Ont. in her 92nd year. She was predeceased by husband Stephen. Surviving: sons Donald (Marie) of Sudbury, Ont., Allan (Violet) of Burford, Ont.; daughter Gladys (John) Pasterjak of Florida; four grandsons, five great-grandchildren.

Lillian Grace (Rithey) Reiswig was born Mar. 8, 1916 in Youngstown, Alta. and died Aug. 5, 2007 in Kelowna, B.C. Grace was self-taught in piano and organ and, for many years, played in church. She also served as a Sabbath school superintendent and deaconess. She was predeceased by her husband Alfred. Surviving: sons Glen, Milo, and Barry (Jeanne); brother Ron Rithey; eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Hedwig Anna Schlecht died Nov. 12, 2006 in Simcoe, Ont. in her 87th year. She was predeceased by her son, Renhard. Surviving: husband Reinhold; daughters Ursula (Joe) Tofan of Vittoria, Ont., Renate (Joe) Arnold of Cleveland, Ohio, Christine (Bob) Salmon of Portage, Mich., Linda (Tom) Moore of Marlinton, W.V.; daughter-in-law Lois of Lacombe, Alta.; eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Emma Christina Straub was born Mar. 12, 1913 and died Sept. 11, 2007 in Sundre, Alta. She was predeceased by her husband Emanuel, daughters Peggy and Leota, and sons Earl and Clayton. Surviving: sons Clifford (Esther) Straub of Theodore, Sask., and Clinton (Linda) Straub of Strathmore, Alta.; daughter Gale Straub of Calgary, Alta.; son-in-law Ron Hughes of Sherwood Park, Alta.; sister Carrie Stockburger; seven grandchildren, and numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Loren Wombold was born Feb. 27, 1929 in Olds, Alta. and died Oct. 3, 2007 in Calgary, Alta. He was predeceased by his sister Alice Evelyn and brother Donald. Surviving: wife Marie; daughters Judy (Peter) Fortney, Debbie (Grant) Freeman, and Janelle (Jerry) Beaulieu; brothers Clarence (Alice) Wombold, Ron

(Lorraine) Wombold, and Sid (Ann) Wombold; sister Alysse (George) Fraser; and five grandchildren.

■ Advertising Policies

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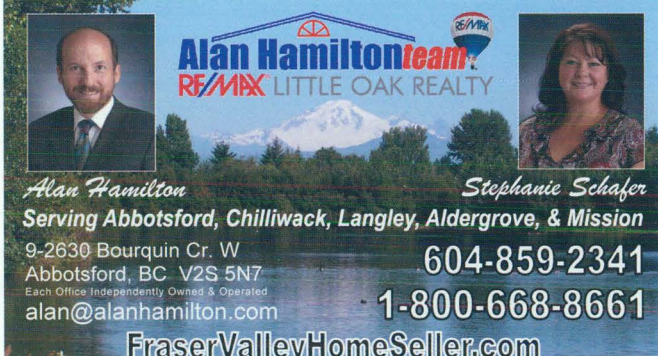
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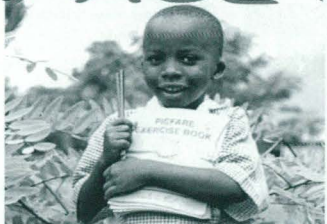
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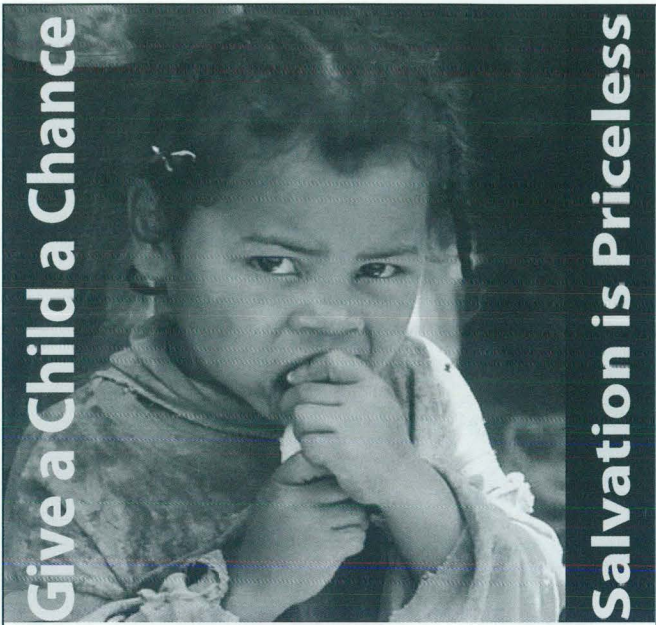
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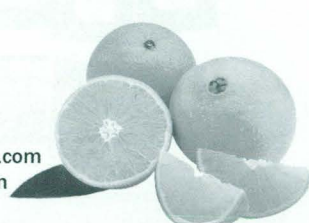
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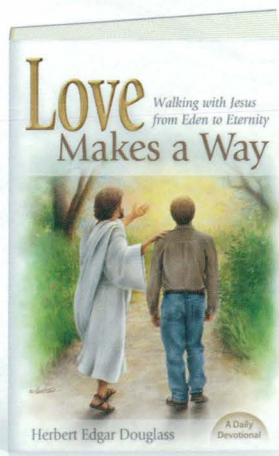
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■ BY JOAN MCNAUGHTON

Reflections on Gratitude

Recently, I found myself

reflecting on a conversation I had several years ago with an acquaintance and fellow believer in Christ from another denomination. I had enquired about the welfare of her two teenage boys, and she excitedly informed me that they were doing well, that they had been attending a Christian college, and that they were in the process of completing their final year. She also mentioned that, as a single mother, she was especially grateful that she had never had to contend with the stress of having disobedient or disrespectful children, and she thanked God for that blessing.

It was at that point in the conversation that she then made a statement that imprinted itself on my mind and upon which I have reflected from time to time. She stated: "Sometimes I am so grateful to God, I don't even ask Him for anything; all I can do is thank Him."

Her words immediately jolted me into the realization that I was an ingrate. I became aware of the fact that the majority of my prayers were based on requests, rather than on giving thanks. For the first time, I realized that I had developed a life-long habit of giving thanks after a request had been granted instead of routinely thanking God for His tender mercies extended to me each and every day. That day I was reminded that I had been taking God's daily blessings for granted, and I was once again touched by His enduring love, and forgiveness to His erring children.

"Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men." (Psalm 107:8 KJV)

The Bible is replete with texts of thanksgiving and praise, and we know that God delights in having His children thank and praise Him. The psalmist, David, was said to be obsessed with God. For him, giving thanks was paramount. In Psalm 107, he exclaimed: "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" He was so overwhelmed with gratitude that he repeated those words in four separate verses throughout the chapter. His words are an important reminder to us that giving thanks should be a way of life, and not something that should be relegated to a special day or occasion.

Someone has said: "When we express our gratitude to God, a wonderful change takes place within us. We become more godly." Today, despite our circumstances, let us take time to reflect upon our blessings, and let us express our gratitude to God for all that He has done and is still doing for us. ■

