

canadian adventist

february 2008

Messenger

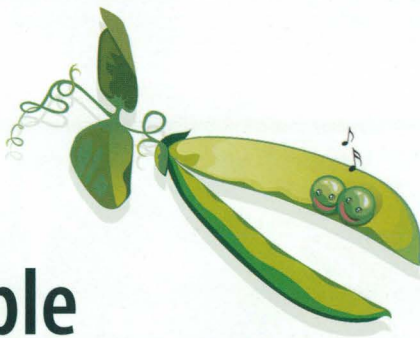
Commitment, Caring, and Carrots

New Life Neighbourhood Centre Delivers

PLUS: Ken Crawford with the secret to a happy marriage (p.12); and Glen Striemer with a NEW START for spiritual health (p.19)



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Of Pods, People and Perspectives

My son, in all his eight-year-old wisdom, attempted to describe to me one day about a year ago, just how close a relationship he had with our cat. “We’re like two peas in a pail,” he said seriously.

I smiled, amused by his fumble of the old saying, but, judging by his response, I must’ve also had a confused look on my face. I was, at that point in the conversation, unsure if I’d fully understood. “Do you mean you’re two peas in a pod?” I questioned.

In answer, he shot me a confused look back and said, as if I were the most exasperating person on earth, “No. We’re friends even when we’re not listening to music.”

That exchange—simple at first glance but deep and profound as you stop to consider it—has shaped the way I communicate, and it certainly has shaped the way I edit this magazine. Why? Because it reminds me that we don’t all speak the same language even if we speak the same language, that what is effective communication to some people will sound wrong in the ears of others.

We’re neither farmers nor gardeners in my family; my son has never seen peas in a pod. I could explain to him that peas grow in a thing called a pod and that a pod is like a tight wrapper and the peas are held close together by it. He could easily come to understand the concept of a pea pod and grasp on a logical level the meaning of the old saying. But no matter how many words I string together to tell him about pea pods, the “two peas in a pod” thing is not likely to ever really resonate with him. To him, a pod means one thing—

an iPod (in case you were still trying to make sense of that opening exchange).

Sometimes people talk to me about the letters I receive here at the *Messenger*. They want to know if it bothers me when people criticize an editorial I’ve written or disparage an article I’ve published. It doesn’t. In fact, I love getting letters whether they’re good, bad, or ugly. Why? First, it tells me that at least some of the saints are still awake and that they are reading the *Messenger*. Second, it gives me hope to think that if people who usually resonate with every communiqué are not feeling it now like they used to, maybe my messages are finding a place in people previously untouched. Third, those unappreciative letters are an indication to me that we’re stretching people and pushing them beyond their comfort zone. I know from my new exercise routine that pushing our limits is uncomfortable and that stretching can sometimes hurt, but both are good and necessary. If I can play a part in pushing and stretching the spiritual lives of readers, I’ll never feel sorry for that.

It seems to me that fresh thinking and fresh words go hand-in-hand, that they fuel each other, and that both will always be needed to touch people with different perspectives and backgrounds. Sometimes we need to be reminded that pods aren’t just for peas anymore—and if that bothers you, you can always write to tell me about it. ■

Crystal

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Messenger

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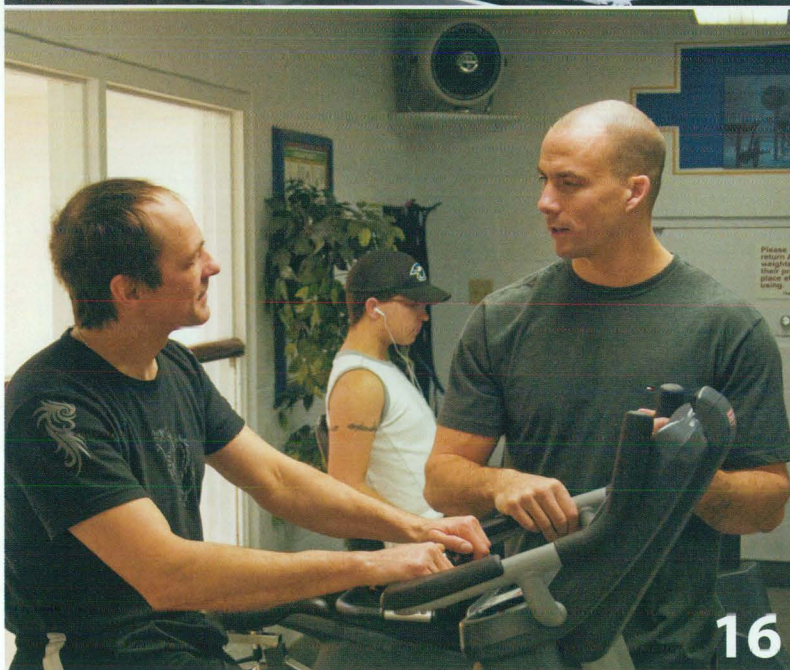
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WHERE'S THE HONOUR IN KILLING?

“The greatest challenge of our modern age is the integration of the practice of religion with secular society.”

by Barry W. Bussey

Aqsa Parvez was just 16-years-old when her father, Muhammad Parvez, murdered her. He was allegedly motivated by her audacity in refusing to wear the hijab, a Muslim headscarf. For some time, Aqsa had been at odds with her father and other members of her family over the issue—so much so that she moved out of the house. On December 10, 2007, she went back home to retrieve some clothing and was confronted by her enraged father. Some have called it an “honour killing”—a killing of a family member because they have brought shame on the family. It strikes me that no such killing has honour. Rather it is an obscene tragedy.

The greatest challenge of our modern age is the integration of the practice of religion with secular society. Private practice of religion becomes particularly acute when it interferes with the right of family members to adopt secularism or change their religious beliefs. Those of us who are religious must come to terms with the fact that even members of our own family may very well choose to live their lives differently from the way they were brought up at home.

Behavioural codes are not the sole domain of the Muslim faith; many Christian communities have their own codes. Adventism, for example, has its own “cultural differences.” For instance, we all can remember when wearing jewellery was taboo, so much so that when someone came to church with earrings, some of the “saints” would whisper unwelcoming comments. And, if a religious community wishes to have a strict dress code (or dietary code, or any kind of code), it is well within its rights to prescribe one, but no one has the right to physically or emotionally force another to act against his or her will. Obviously, common sense must prevail. A parent of a young child certainly would have jurisdiction to insist on a religious practice that does not violate that child’s dignity. But, there comes a point when, as parents and as religious leaders, all one can do is reason with people—not berate or intimidate them.

I love so much the counsel of the apostle Paul to Timothy:

Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.
(2 Tim 2:23-26)

What gets lost in the whole matter is that no one can be the conscience of the other. It was not too long ago in the history of Christianity when the church burned heretics for failure to adhere to the religious code of the time.

Christ gave us a message of love and peace and acceptance, yet we have all experienced those from among our own ranks who seek to take our conscience upon themselves and tell us what music to listen to, what foods to eat, what clothes to wear and so on. And it is fine for the church to have standards, but it is not fine for us to forget that people and our relationships with them are way more important. Instead of looking at the clothes they wear or the music they play, we must look at them as children of God—blessed with their own hearts and minds to determine for themselves whatsoever is true and just.

I sometimes wonder if we are not all guilty of “honour killing,” in a figurative sense, of those people in our church family whom we disagree with how they live their lives. We kill them spiritually by the gossip and ill treatment. Where is the honour in that? ■

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



Tell Your Son...

"In the future, when your son asks you, 'What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you?' tell him" Deut. 6:20-21 [emphasis supplied]

"I believe that of all the men we meet with, nine parts of ten are what they are, good or evil, useful or not, by their education." —John Locke

Being an educator is no small task, especially when it comes to our own children. Perhaps it's the most difficult endeavor in the world because it requires a complete self-investment—a lot of communication, patience, creativity, and love. Perhaps more than all of these, however, education requires honesty with oneself, because our children do not learn what we tell them but rather what we are.

The newest generation is pragmatic by nature and asks a lot of questions as they seek out the best solutions. But they do not give credence to "decrees and laws." They want to live it up, and they feel that we hinder their freedom when we talk about concepts that seem to belong to another era. *The Church Manual and Working Policy* are less attractive to them than hockey or *Dancing with the Stars*. That is why the dialogue between generations becomes a dialogue of the deaf. Advice from friends, teachers, the media, or society at large become more relevant and push parental convictions into the background.

The book of Deuteronomy comes to the rescue. Its advice shows that God has foreseen the questions of the youth. He knew that they would refuse to accept the concepts of those who came before them. God warned us that they would analyze everything. And, that is good news, because the parents' faith does not guarantee the salvation of their children. Each must internalize their own values. The unexamined religion, like the unexamined life, is not worth living.

God did not only mention the questions of the youth. He focused much attention on the matter, urging parents to get ready to give the right answer—not scripted explanations learned from theological manuals or long and moralizing sermons. God's direction includes giving enlivening testimonies featuring his grace: "In the future, when your son

asks you... tell him what the Lord has done for you" (Deut. 6:20-25).

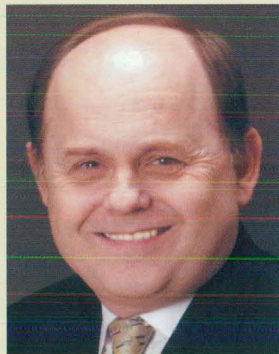
Faith transmission is not a mere didactic exercise, but a testimony. It's the sharing of genuine experiences from our own history. The intellectual capacity of the speaker is not convincing enough; it is the true transformation that comes as a result of divine intervention that will make people think and see the power of the gospel.

I appeal to all parents and all churches to preserve the lines of communication that will help our youth to get the fundamental answers they need for their life. But as we do, let us remember that our genuine faith will be the most decisive argument for our children. To be useful to them, we must have a real experience to share ourselves. We must forget about leftovers and eat fresh food from the Lord's table. Let us seek to know God personally and renew our relationship with Him daily. "Some lean upon an old experience which they had years ago; but when brought down to this heart-searching

time, when all should have a daily experience, they have nothing to relate. They seem to think that a profession of the truth will save them" (EGW. 1 T 188).

May the presence of the living God transform our hearts, and help us to say like Peter, "We did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty." (2 Peter 1:16).

Let us taste and see that the Lord is good. Then, and only then, will we have something to tell our youth that will make them want to sit up and listen. ■



Dragan Stojanovich

Dragan Stojanovic is the president of the Fédération du Québec/Quebec conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Tips for Budgeting

I need a loan. I've gotta have \$405.65 for a class ring, \$93 for my phone bill and \$45-\$50 for a tank of gas. What am I gonna do?

Think twice before you ask for a loan. Class rings may be cool and trendy, but consider what place that ring takes in your set of priorities, especially since you mentioned it before your need for gas money and paying your phone bill! Chances are that—assuming you get some kind of salary or allowance—a well-planned monthly budget will help you balance your spending and savings. And it will make your money last longer!

Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Return tithe and give offerings. That's a no-brainer. The tithe is God's, and the offerings make you appreciate the value of money—something essential to making an adequate budget.
- Set goals for yourself. You may want to save for a car, or plan for next year's Christmas presents.
- Save, save, save. Before deciding what to do with your paycheck, set aside a

small amount for savings. That will help you to survive in case of an emergency.

- Go cheap! Don't buy big-brand stuff. Often a generic brand is as good as what "everyone else" is buying (and, by the way, *everyone* really isn't). Remember that quality is not necessarily synonymous with brand.
- Keep track of your daily spending. A few cents here and a few dollars there can really add up fast! So make sure you keep track of your daily expenses. It can be an eye-opener.
- Prioritize. *Wants* are different than *Needs*. In other words, what do you absolutely need? If your *wants* cloud your *needs*, you know you have to re-evaluate your priorities (does that ring a bell? ☺)
- Stick with it. That's the key to achieving your financial goals.

TEEN TALK



Youth Pastor, speaker & writer,
Josué Sánchez enjoys sharing Jesus with teens. For questions or speaking engagements, contact him at Josue@JustSmile.org

Creation Corner for Kids

“...to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Romans 8:6

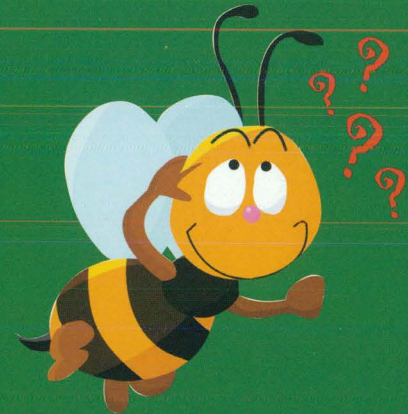
Honey Bees

Honey bees are amazing insects. God has given them instincts that make them cooperative, well-organized workers. Young bees get experience doing all the different jobs necessary to run the hive, like caring for bee larvae (the baby bees), cleaning the hive, and storing the honey. The last job a bee does before it dies from exhaustion (usually after only about six weeks of life) is gathering nectar. Every worker in the hive works unselfishly for the success of the hive.

A bee's homing instinct is essential to the success of the hive. Every bee that leaves the hive to get nectar must be able to return to the hive, or the bees left at the hive will die. Recently, scientists have discovered that billions of bees seem to have lost their way. Although scientists are unsure of what is causing Colony Collapse Disorder (the name given to this sudden disappearance of adult bees) environmental factors such as pollution seem to be interfering with the bees' homing instinct.

Think about it.

Sin is the pollution of the universe. It interferes with our ability to focus on Jesus and heavenly things. Sin confuses us and causes us to forget that going home to heaven is the most important thing.



Do it.

Check out a book about bees from the library to learn how a bee hive is organized, or go to <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/honeybee.html>. Praise God that He is our powerful Creator and Redeemer! Pray that He will make you spiritually minded and give you a “homing instinct” for Heaven.





From Genesis to Revelation there is a theme displayed: God desires to be close to His people. When sin took the privilege of a face-to-face relationship with God from mankind, He established a special way for us to be with him: through the altar of sacrifice.

The Altar of Sacrifice



“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.”
Exodus 25:8



BY REBECA PEREIRA

In the scriptures, the ancient altar of sacrifice served at least five purposes. First, it was a place set aside for the adoration of God. Second, it was a symbol of the relationship between God and mankind. Third, through the altar, individuals were able to obtain forgiveness of sin through the blood of the lamb representing Christ. Fourth, sacrificing on the altar was an act of obedience to divine orders. And last, the altar itself was a means of evangelism as they stood the passage of time testify of enduring faith.

As the number of God’s people increased, the need for larger worship space increased. God knew the need and led them to erect the desert tabernacle and unite within it as they formerly united at the altar—to adore, communicate, receive forgiveness, obey and testify. As an altar of sacrifice, the tabernacle fulfilled the five essential purposes of its existence.

This need for a place to commune with God has been passed down throughout history. For one group of believers, the need was met more than three decades ago through the work of Henry Feyerabend. A group of Portuguese immigrants, few in number and encumbered by issues of language and culture, were determined to establish their own place of worship. Manuel Pereira clearly remembers the many trials these immigrants faced in order for this dream to materialize. The temple that most impressed them was a magnificent building in downtown Toronto, listed for sale at \$350,000. A small fortune 30 years ago. Were they equal to the task? With assistance from the Ontario Conference and the extreme sacrifice of each group member, they came up with a down payment and went ahead with the purchase. Impressively, even though the average salary of members was just three dollars an hour, the debt was paid in less than five years. Many members even went to their banks and secured personal loans to pay off the mortgage. God’s leading and the faithfulness of His children combined to create a miracle.

It’s no different today than it was 30 years ago. The *It Is Written* team dreams of a bigger temple in which to honour God more effectively—not a church set on a plot of land, but a national gathering of people in homes, businesses, churches and elsewhere to worship God via a telecast of *It Is Written*. That dream of national programming on one of our country’s largest networks, CTV, is a possibility if the same unity seen in the past spreads to each one of the 54,000 Seventh-day Adventists across Canada, if we come together again at the altar of sacrifice.

The *It Is Written* program is the Seventh-day Adventist church opened to all people, fulfilling the Bible prophecy of Isaiah 56:7: “For My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” ■

EarthTalk

▶▶ Dear EarthTalk: What are the best kinds of dishwasher and laundry soaps to use in consideration of where all the wastewater goes after use?

The average North American produces between 60 and 150 gallons (227 and 568 litres) of wastewater every day, much of it a result of washing dishes and clothes. Municipal water treatment facilities do their best to filter out the synthetic chemicals common in most mainstream dishwasher and laundry soaps, but some of these pollutants inevitably get into rivers, lakes and coastal areas, where they can cause a wide range of problems.

Perhaps the most worrisome of these pollutants, phosphates, can cause large build-ups of algae and bacteria that rob water bodies of oxygen and thus choke out other life forms. In response to just such a problem occurring in Lakes Ontario and Erie in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the U.S. and Canada signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1972. The agreement banned the use of phosphates in laundry detergents and dish soaps used in the region, and resulted in a significant decrease in algae blooms throughout the Great Lakes.

Despite the success of the agreement, phosphates and other synthetic chemicals continue to be widely used in laundry and dish soaps throughout the world. Aside from their effect on water bodies, these ingredients also trigger allergies, irritate the skin and eyes and carry other health risks.

Fortunately, consumers now have more environmentally friendly choices than ever. There are a growing number of companies that make safer dishwasher and laundry soaps that do not contain phosphates or other harmful synthetic chemicals. Many of these greener options

are available at retail stores or natural foods stores as well as online from websites like Kokopelli's Green Market and a host of others. But consumers interested in doing the right thing for the environment should look at ingredients, not slogans. Environmentally friendly ingredients to look for include grain alcohol, coconut or other plant oils, rosemary and sage. Synthetic ingredients to avoid include butyl cellosolve, petroleum, triclosan and phosphates.

It is also best to avoid detergents that employ fragrances, as they can contain chemicals known as phthalates that have been linked to cancer.

Although household-cleaning chores can often be accomplished with non-toxic, homemade alternatives—such as water mixed with borax, lemon juice,

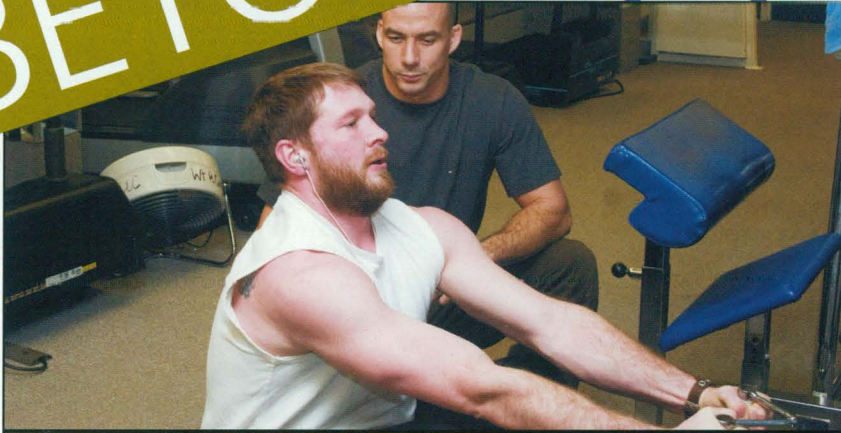
baking soda, vinegar or washing soda—laundry and automatic dishwashing soaps are not so easily replaced with home concoctions. However, Emily Main, senior editor at *The Green Guide*, recommends adding one-quarter cup of baking soda or white vinegar to clothes washes to act as a fabric softener, and for stain removal suggests soaking fabrics in water mixed with either borax, lemon juice, hydrogen peroxide or white vinegar. As to home recipes for dishwashing, some hardcore homesteaders recommend trying an equal mix of borax and baking soda, but this is probably best used only in a pinch as the abrasiveness of such a mixture can scratch glassware over time. ■



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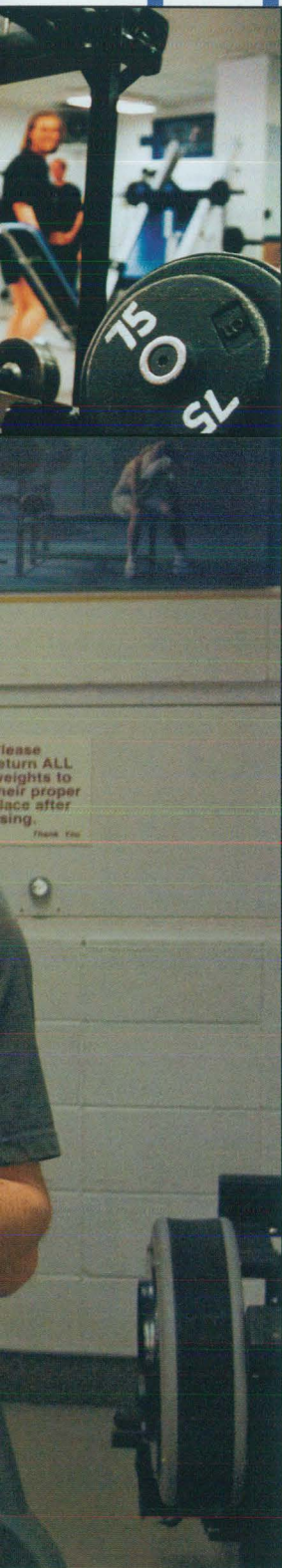


BEYOND PHYSICAL



Travis McMurray, personal trainer at CUC's Physical Education Centre, works with a patient from a local recovery centre.

EDUCATION



The weight room at Canadian University College is filled with students, faculty, staff and community members all making a conscious effort to live an active lifestyle. There are the regulars who come in every day, others once or twice a week and some only when they've had an extra helping at the dinner table. But there is one particular group—a group that meets three times a week—that brings with them a need to recreate their lives into something better. Many in this group are at their lowest point ever, and the jumpstart that a healthier lifestyle gives them is their road to abundant life again.

Three times a week Travis McMurray, a personal trainer at Canadian University College, brings in this group from a local recovery centre. Many of the men at the centre are at an all-time low because of the lifestyle they have been living. "Socially, people look down on them for what they have done and how they have lived" Travis says. "But everyone of them is yearning for something better."

Seven years ago, Jim Gray was looking to improve his personal health and decided to consult with Travis. They met once to discuss his health, and then Jim disappeared. He was not heard from again for a few years. Travis continued working as a personal trainer but longed to do more. He recalls, "I was praying for something more meaningful to do than just training." In 2005, Travis received a call from Jim who had recently started a recovery centre. He asked if Travis would give the patients in the centre the same nutrition and exercise advice he received. Travis went home and prayed with his wife Kim about the opportunity, but in the end decided to pass it on to another trainer.

Three months went by before he again thought about Jim and the recovery centre. Travis had started taking a chemistry class at CUC and had scheduled time away from work on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings to accommodate that. Soon after, he changed his mind about the class and withdrew, but kept his work schedule the same. As he was walking to his office in the Physical Education Centre one morning, he decided to call the recovery centre. Jim was excited to hear from Travis and asked him to reconsider his earlier decision. Travis felt he could no longer ignore the calling and decided to see if he could make it

work. Excitedly, he asked Jim when he could have time with the patients. "Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings," came the reply.

One of the three-per-week sessions for this group takes place at the recovery centre itself, but the other two sessions are spent in CUC's weight room. According to Travis, the group really feels safe and at home in the Physical Education Centre. Many have commented on the Christian music playing in the weight room and how safe it makes them feel. Getting them out and interacting with people has also been helpful.

"Regular gym users know when the recovery centre group is in, and they treat them so well," remarks Travis. The group has been very receptive to what is being taught. Most have readily accepted their exercise routine, and some have even integrated vegetarianism into their diet.

Travis recalls, "It's really been cool because [Jim Gray] said, 'Travis, whatever you believe in, whatever you want to talk to these guys about—whether it's nutritional or spiritual, you have my blessing.'" Apart from teaching nutrition and exercise, Travis has also had opportunity to pray with some in the group. His prayer for something more fulfilling for himself was answered when he agreed to work with—and pray for—those who needed "something better" themselves. ■

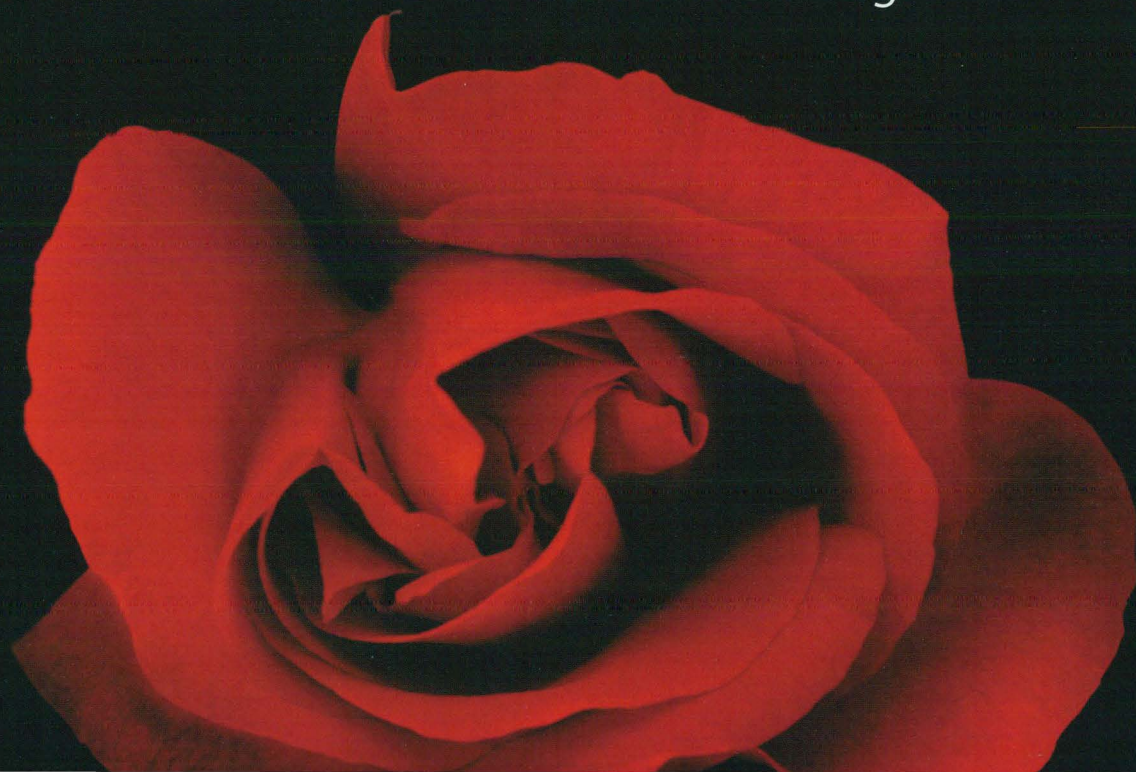
BY JR FERRER

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



how to
open a
Rose

a message for men
about marriage



After three decades, I have found the secret to a happy marriage. I know you are going to find that hard to believe, so let me state it from the Bible:

Eph 5:25—Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ’s love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness.

Eph 5:28—And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They’re really doing themselves a favor—since they’re already “one” in marriage. No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That’s how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become “one flesh.” This is a huge mystery, and I don’t pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband. (Message)

Paul understood marriage, for he plainly states that the role of the husband is to give love, and the role of the wife is to receive it and respond to it. After thirty years of marriage, I have discovered that the secret to happiness in marriage found in these verses is true. (Who would have thought?)

Let me express the core message in my own words: I believe that the biblical role of the husband is to believe in, affirm, encourage, build up the self-esteem of, compliment, listen to, respect and tenderly care for his wife. Never is that needed more than in today’s society. I believe the desperate cry of women today is for men who understand how to love them. In my own experience, I have found that when I give biblical, selfless love, I receive it back in kind many times over.

Now, I am a realist. I know that your wife has problems. I realize that there are things about her that you just don’t like, things that bother you, and things that you feel are imperfections in her character. But gentlemen, please stop and reflect; Christ is also a realist and sees the same problems in you. Would you like Him to spend His time pointing out all the imperfections in your character, hoping that you will improve so that He can love you more? Would that help you blossom in love and gratitude for His selfless love for you? Or perhaps He should wait and see how much you love Him?

I went through a time in my marriage when I made a conscious decision to give up. It was a time at the height of two demanding careers, two small children, and two ailing parents. Amidst all of that pressure, I felt I had given more than my fair share to the marriage, and that it was time for my spouse to be the initiator of love. So, I just quit.

In retrospect, I realize that one of the greatest drains on a marriage is a continual draw on one another’s resources in an attempt to fill our own needs. We live in a world that is experiencing a tsunami-like preoccupation with self-getting rather than self-giving,

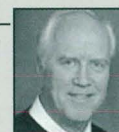
and it is devastating marriage. We have become like the self-absorbed lady at the checkout counter who, when informed by the clerk that she needed another 34 cents, burst into tears and cried, “What about my needs?” That’s the attitude that drove me to give up on giving love. As a result of my withdrawal of selfless giving, the spark went out of our relationship. It just dried up and blew away, like a seed on a hot, blustery summer’s day.

As I studied through the biblical role of the husband, I found that the male’s role is to be the first to give affection (and that is non-sexual affection, by the way), to be kind and to be considerate of the female’s needs and desires. Find the positive. Uplift the traits that you love in her. Be assertive in your love and romance. Spend your time learning how to love a woman. It *will* pay dividends many times over.

A good marriage is created, not found, and you, husbands, are responsible for shaping it. The love of a woman is a wonderful thing, but it is responsive love. If you make a concerted, focused effort to follow Ephesians 5, what you will witness will be similar to watching a beautiful rose blossom. As the bud opens, the inner beauty is revealed, slowly, imperceptibly, but with such quiet elegance. The thorns on the stem will disappear under the radiant beauty of the blossom.

Since I have learned and applied this biblical principle, my happiness and fulfillment in marriage has increased a hundred-fold. I only wish that I made the discovery sooner, during the first few years of marriage. But it’s never too late. You can learn it and turn the tide of separation and divorce sweeping across the world. Study and apply the instructions found in this passage. You will be amazed and gratified. ■

Ken Crawford, a native New Brunswicker, now serves as president of the Alaska conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Truckloads of Miracles

New Life
Neighbourhood Centre
Brokers Blessings



BY CRYSTAL HOLLOWAY

The Neighbourhood Centre at the New Life church in Oshawa, Ontario is in the miracle business. Of course, being a community outreach ministry, it naturally sends the usual miracles of food and warmth out of its storage rooms and into peoples' lives. However, what is a little more uncommon—what you might not as quickly expect—is the steady stream of miracles that seem to keep on rolling in.

cles

COVER STORY



Volunteer Brian Mouldey (left)
and L.E. Jonathan Zita

Having heard the stories, I decided to visit the Neighbourhood Centre myself. It was the coldest day of the year, but as I pulled up to the building and into the parking lot, I noted that, in spite of the frigid temperatures, there were several warmly bundled volunteers gathering around to unload a delivery truck. "Getting volunteers out on a day like this is a miracle in itself," I thought as I pulled into the lot beside them. If you've ever had to rely upon volunteer help for any reason you understand what I'm saying. A miracle, right? But I hadn't seen anything yet.

New Life Seventh-day Adventist church is located in a predominantly low-income area of Oshawa, Ontario. The location, surrounded as it is by obvious need, does not lend itself to a lackadaisical, once-a-week religion. The Neighbourhood Centre is religion in action, and current director Nanisa Perry is just the most recent in a line of hardworking leaders who orchestrate that action. She works with passion for those people throughout Oshawa who need help. In fact, her desire to help others was the tool God used to bring her church and make her an Adventist in the first place (see our February 2007 issue). "My passion is to see these people better themselves," she says. "To see them stand on their own feet and become something more than they are now."

But how does that passion not fade into despair in the face of unending need and limited resources?

"This place is run on prayer," says Nanisa. "If we need something, I start to pray. And we've been through this so many times that we know that if we pray for something, it comes."

"In fact," she continues, "there have been times when I was just one volunteer short and I've prayed and not five minutes later someone comes in to see if we need help."

From the look on her face—one of pure joy—I deduce that she enjoys telling of the miraculous answers to prayer that she's witnessed. With just a little prompting from me, "tell me about the cereal," she begins to recount an incident that took place early on in the tenure of now-regular volunteer Dave Ivany. It seems Dave came to Nanisa one day just prior to "truck day"—every other Wednesday when a truck filled with supplies makes its rounds to a few of the local community service agencies—and asked "Nisa, what do we need?"

"Cereal," she told him. "Go see."

A few moments later Dave came back and said, "There's *none*. What are you going to do? There is absolutely no cereal back there."

Nanisa assured Dave that she knew that there was no cereal in the storage room, but that she felt there soon would be some because she'd been praying that some would come in. When the truck came in and the supplies were unloaded bit by bit, Dave took control of the cereal, hoarding away each box himself, every so often calling out "Here's another box," or "Found another one."

When the truck was unloaded and the inventory taken, Dave took Nanisa and the other volunteers back to the storage room to see precisely what had happened. That section where

cereal was normally stored was filled to capacity and then some! God had again filled the need!

Collecting and storing food to be distributed to clients is a main focus of the Neighbourhood Centre, and they regularly give out anywhere from 40-75 food boxes a month in addition to the emergency calls that frequently come in; 29 emergency boxes were given out in January alone.

But as busy as the food bank aspect of the Centre is, it is only one of many ways that they help the community. The Neighbourhood Centre also distributes hygiene bags to local agencies such as the John Howard society, the men's hostel, the family court clinic and others. They also give hygiene bags directly to the people in need. Most volunteers even keep one or two bags in their vehicle in case they encounter someone in need.

The Neighbourhood Centre is also very serious about helping people better their lives, offering adult literacy classes and tutoring as a means to that end. Individuals who need help learning to read and write are often able to receive one-on-one assistance from experienced volunteers. And a new project about to be started: the construction of a computer lab to be opened to the community from which computer classes will be taught along with assistance in resumé and cover letter writing.

Another very important program is the pancake breakfast that they run on the third Sunday of each month. As many as 135-160 people come to the Neighbourhood Centre, which is really just a few rooms in the church basement, to get hot pancakes with fruit and syrup, sausages, applesauce, oatmeal, eggs, French toast, and other delicious items all free-of-charge and all-you-can-eat. Many of those who come are adult males who live on the streets, but there are also many families who just need a little help. Everyone is invited to take some bread or other baked goodies from the shelf as they leave the breakfast.

God has so richly blessed the Neighbourhood Center, in fact, that they have more than they can use to help their own clients, so the blessings overflow onto others. For instance, there are approximately 20 literature evangelists on the job throughout southern Ontario who typically subsist on only a small percentage from the books they are able to sell. Jonathan Zita, one of the 20 modern day missionaries, brings his van to the Neighbourhood Centre every truck day and receives a load of food for himself and his colleagues. "It's been a real treasure," says Jonathan.

But it doesn't stop there. Perhaps my favourite story of all the answered-prayer stories that can be told at New Life is the one that happened when a local elementary school contacted Nanisa to ask if there would be any food they could prepare for their students as a snack at recess time. It seems many of the kids were from low income families and were hungry much of the time. The administrators and teachers of the school wanted to provide healthy snacks for the children but didn't have any food. Nanisa told them that she'd call them if there was anything on the next truck that they could use. So Wednesday came and there were some carrots, celery and fruit amongst the non-perishable items that the Neighbourhood



Director Nanisa Perry and volunteer Dave Ivany



Volunteers: (left) Dave Ivany, Bev Barnes, and John Curran; (right) Norman Karashkwich

P O S T S C R I P T

As I sat in my study writing this article tonight, the doorbell rang. There was a blizzard happening outside and I'd been appreciating the warmth and cozy-ness of my home, so my first thought as I hurried to answer the ring was "Who would be out on a night like this?" Opening the door I saw Nanisa, her face lit by the glow of the streetlight and huge fluffy flakes of snow falling around her. The idyllic setting and the utter joy on her face almost made me believe that there really was a Santa Claus, that he was a month late and that he'd turned into Nanisa! She was, I noted, carrying a big box of something, after all.

I'd hardly had a chance to open my mouth in welcome when she thrust the box into my arms. "Take some waffles," she said. "I was praying for supplies for the pancake breakfast and God really answered big time. I've got all the freezers full and now I'm delivering cases to anyone I can think of that can use them."

God is good. All the time.

Centre could use itself, and Nanisa arranged to give those to the school.

A little later, she called the school to see how things had gone. The response was positive and appreciative. "It was great. Some of us had orange fingers for a while from peeling and chopping so many carrots, but it was worth it to be able to feed the kids." And with that came a standing arrangement that the Neighbourhood Centre would pass on to the school whatever food they could.

But Nanisa wasn't satisfied. She took it up in prayer. "Lord," she said, "these teachers are already so busy with what they do. Next time, please send the peeled baby carrots so they don't have to spend so much time preparing."

I can only imagine the excitement when the very next delivery truck brought skid after skid of peeled baby carrots to the Neighbourhood Centre along with some pineapples and bananas for the children to enjoy! The bounty was overwhelming, but don't worry; the school reports that none of the food that the Neighbourhood Centre sends over ever goes to waste. What they can't use right away gets made into muffins and frozen for later use. They so appreciate the help they receive that when they organized a food drive at the school during the holiday season, they gave half of everything they collected to the Neighbourhood Centre as a thank you. It's a cycle of giving that works for everyone.

It's become a Christian cliché that God blesses us so that we can bless others, but my visit to the Neighbourhood Centre made that tired phrase spring to life for me again. I saw for myself the truck being unloaded and the food pouring in. I saw the joy on the faces of those who received and those who gave. I felt the confidence of Nanisa and all the volunteers that every need would be filled as a faithful God honours the faithfulness of His children. I was able to say with Nanisa, "We are blessed. We really are. God has given us everything." And in the end, that is all the needs to be said. ■

Crystal D. Holloway is the editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.

Keep Girls Safe in Thailand: Dokya's Story



Thai girls have a brighter outlook for their future with ADRA's Keeping Girls Safe program.

Dokya is a 14-year-old girl from the Lahu hill tribe in Chiang Rai Province. She is the youngest of four siblings and lives with her grandmother as her parents died when she was only two years old.

When Dokya was small, she loved to go to her school, which was run by the local border patrol army unit. After graduating from grade four—the highest grade offered at this school—she moved in with her aunt in another village so that she could be closer to the big school in town and continue her studies. One day there was a traditional ceremony with a big celebration in her aunt's village. After the celebration, as it was getting dark, Dokya remembered she needed to prepare food for the pigs. As she was doing so, a group of school teachers came to visit her, which they did often.

Unfortunately, this visit was different.

After chatting with her for a while, two teachers decided to go home, leaving a male teacher at her house. What happened next changed Dokya's life forever: the male teacher tried to molest her. Fortunately, Dokya escaped and reported the incident to her relatives and other villagers, but the incident created conflict between the schoolteachers and the villagers. Suddenly it seemed like everyone in the community was discussing the issue, and Dokya was left too embarrassed to face the public. She became more and more isolated from her community. A former teacher from her 4th grade class heard about the situation, became concerned and reported the case to ADRA Thailand's Keep Girls Safe (KGS) staff

who brought her to their shelter, away from the prying eyes in her aunt's village.

A lengthy investigation grew to involve the KGS shelter staff and Dokya herself, as the guilty teacher refused to admit the truth. But the project staff protected Dokya and helped her counter untruthful evidence. Today, Dokya is safe and happy to be continuing her studies at a local school in Chiang Rai, close to the shelter.

She is very happy to be at the KGS shelter, and has made many friends. She told us: "I am proud and happy to be here. I don't know what my future would be like if that day my concerned former teacher did not come to rescue me and take me to the KGS shelter. I am very happy that I can continue my studies and I will put all my effort towards doing my best. When I was with my aunt, I didn't have a chance to go to school every day because our house was very poor. Some days I needed to stop school and work in the fields or work looking after buffalos."

But this happy note is not the end of Dokya's story; her development is closely monitored so that she can be provided with everything she needs for a better future. Thank you, ADRA Canada supporters. You have made a world of difference in a vulnerable girl's life. ■

Christina Masching is an administrative assistant at ADRA Canada.



ADRA
Canada

www.adra.ca

TIME FOR A

new start

By Glen Striemer

The NEW START health program first became popular with Seventh-day Adventist health reformers at Weimar Health Institute in California in the 1970's. Today, most Adventists can recite what each letter stands for in regards to better physical health, but did you know that these principles are also the recipe for improved spiritual health?

NUTRITION "... [I]t is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world... I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry" (John 6:32-35). "The bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:51). No nutritional diseases or obesity originate from this heavenly source.

EXERCISE There is no greater way to exercise our minds spiritually than by reading the Bible. Using a bible concordance can especially be valuable as, here a little and there a little, and the jigsaw puzzle of scripture comes together. Just as a day should not pass without some form of physical exercise, so should not a day should pass without spiritual exercise in your mind. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil 1:6).

WATER If you are spiritually parched, turn to "the Lord [who] shall ... satisfy thy soul in drought" (Is. 58:11). Drink deeply of what He sends, for God's well is of the highest quality and never runs dry: "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst" (John 4:14). If you have experienced pain and loss, He has promised "I will water thee with My tears" (Is 16:9). If sin has got you tied up, He has promised "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols" (Ezek. 26:25).

SUNSHINE Dermatologists and skin care companies try to convince you not to venture into the sunlight without their products, but the Bible describes protection for your spiritual being: "The Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day..." (Psalm 121:5,6). Sunshine filtered by Him will never harm, but after walking in it, you will have a certain glow: "You are the light of the world" (Matt 5:14).

TEMPERANCE There is an old saying that goes, "You're so heavenly-minded that you're no earthly good," and it is true that balance is vital—even in spiritual matters. Wasting away in study day after day, never testing our knowledge in the real world is counterproductive. Gluttons of spirituality have a tendency towards legalism. But on the other hand, there is the danger of being a work-a-holic who busily operates without spirituality. We all know at least one of those, for his number is legion. Fortunately, the cure for both ailments is the same: "To your knowledge [add] temperance" (2 Pet 1:6).

AIR The Lord is in control of the very air we breathe. He powers it and moves it in ways that we do not understand, just as He does those who submit to Him: "The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

REST As God gives physical rest, He gives spiritual rest as well. But in this over-extended world of text messaging, video phones, and laptops, can a person escape society's relentless din? Here is where the true Sabbath is important. "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested" (Gen. 2:3). To enter into His Sabbath, His rest, is to be renewed, recharged, refocused, and replenished. There is no better way than God's way when it comes to getting some rest.

TRUST IN GOD Everyone is trusting in something. Here, though, are promises you can bank upon: "None that trust in Him shall be desolate" (Psalm 34:22); "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever" (Psalm 125:1); "Blessed are all who take refuge in Him" (Psalm 2:12). He is worthy of your trust, for He is in the business of ensuring that His patients eventually say goodbye to death and sorrow forever. "Let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy." [Ps 5:11]

These are the eight laws of physical and spiritual health. ■

Glen Striemer is a literature evangelist who works throughout Southern Ontario.

Ontario

Lifestyle Seminars Brings 16 New Members

From September 15th to October 6th, 2007, Toronto West members and guests were taken on a biblical sojourn. For three weeks, assistant pastor Patrick Jacques, in his debut evangelistic series, inspired, informed, enunciated and expounded on the word of God. Titled *Breaking Free*, the series of lifestyle seminars addressed such topics as “Mankind’s Greatest Need” and “Does God’s Law Matter?”—all delivered with practical examples from real life. The series focused on the gospel as a message of deliverance and Christ as the ultimate emancipator from slavery to sin.

At the end of the series, a total of sixteen attendees



Speaker Patrick Jacques with other pastors and converts from the lifestyle seminar

made the decision to give their hearts to God. Pastor Jacques was supported during the series by senior pastor Alan Chichester, associate pastor Frankie Lazarus, bible instructor Bernice MacDonald and head elder Wayne McClean. ■

—Yvonne Rodney, church communication director

British Columbia



A few of the dedicated volunteers spreading the word about VOAR

Growing VOAR in Cranbrook

VOAR Christian Family Radio continues to spread across British Columbia, largely aided by ambitious volunteers like Elliot, Heather, Moriah and Caleb Tam and Pastor Ian and Averil Cotton who spent a recently spent a Sabbath afternoon in the Tamarack Mall in Cranbrook promoting the radio station at a center-mall booth. God blessed their efforts, as He always does. His blessing was especially evident when the first visitor to the booth asked if he could give a donation and immediately handed over \$100 for VOAR in Cranbrook. ■

—Ian Cotton, pastor

Alberta

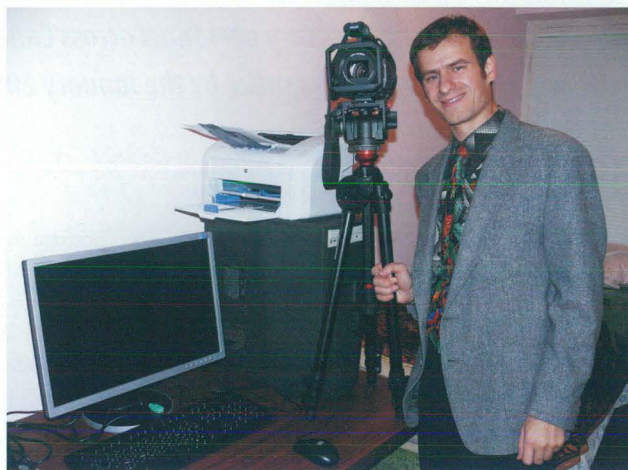
From Canada to Ukraine: A Special Deaf Ministry Project

Back in 2001, the Alberta conference received a special request to help a deaf student and his hearing wife at the Zaosky SDA Seminary in Russia: Vasily and Julia Yagotin. The Bentley church adopted this couple as a Christmas project and sent some money to help with Vasily's school bill.

As time went by, the idea was hatched for me to go to Russia and videotape an evangelistic series. The Alberta conference voted the \$7000 project into existence funded by a donation that had been made specifically for producing videos for the deaf, but, for various reasons, the project was temporarily shelved.

In the meantime, Vasily and Julia had just begun deaf ministry in the city of Lvov in the Western Ukraine conference. Vasily was himself dreaming of making DVD's for the deaf in the sign language used in Ukraine and other Russian-speaking areas of Eastern Europe.

So, this past Fall, the former idea was revived and modified to adapt it to the new need. The budget was expanded to \$10,000, and instead of me doing the taping and editing, the Yagotins would receive all the video equipment needed to make their own sign language DVD productions of events such as evangelistic meetings, sermons, health and family life lectures. I went to Ukraine from Dec. 5 - Dec. 20, and took the cash needed to purchase all the basic video equipment needed to produce these productions. Pastor Valentine, a departmental director in the Western Ukraine, spent much of his valuable time taking the Yagotins and I to Kiev where we researched and bought equipment. By January 2008 the final equipment items should be purchased, rounding out a



Pastor Vasily Yagotin standing by the new purchased production equipment

basic set of equipment.

We rejoice that God has, in HIS time, worked out this project. I spent a lot of time with Vasily and Julia and was very impressed with their abilities, dedication and teamwork. They both have a degree in theology from Zaosky Seminary. Julia has developed health and family-life lectures to supplement her husband's sermons. God has brought them together in a marvelous way and has a special work for them, not only planting a deaf church in Lvov, but in helping to spread the three angel's messages to the deaf in Eastern Europe. ■

—John Blake, deaf ministry director
for Alberta conference



A few of the deaf from the Adventist church for the deaf in Kiev, the largest Adventist deaf congregation in the world with 85 members.

While in Kiev, those of us from Lvov were able to meet some of the members from the Kiev church for the deaf and their hearing pastor. To the best of our knowledge, this deaf group is the largest SDA deaf church in the world. They meet weekly in the chapel at the Ukrainian Union headquarters. And, the Ukrainian Union has the largest number of tithe-paid workers for the deaf of any Union in the world. In 2007, they expanded to three full-time pastors for the deaf!

SDA Church in Canada

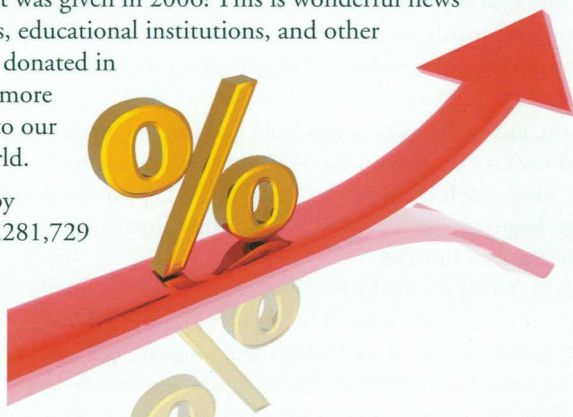
Notes from Treasury

Church and conference treasury personnel across Canada worked diligently to get their 2007 final offering reports to the union treasury office by the January 2008 deadline. We appreciate all of their hard work.

This is just a brief report on the tithe and mission offerings that church members from all across Canada contributed during the 2007 calendar year:

- The total amount of tithe given was a 6.31% increase over what was given in 2006! This is wonderful news and a much appreciated increase in funding for our conferences, educational institutions, and other entities of the world field. In real dollar figures, Canadian tithe donated in 2007 amounted to \$59,323,022—approximately \$3.5 million more than the amount given in 2006. Thanks be to our donors and to our heavenly Father who bestows His material blessings on this world.
- The good news continues with offerings to missions being up by 4.45% over 2006! To again express this in real dollar figure, \$2,281,729 was given in Canada in 2007, as compared with \$2,184,598 in 2006. Thank you for remembering to give to World Budget, which helps to fund the missionary work of the church abroad and also to fund several ministries within Canada. ■

—John Ramsay, VP Finance of the SDACC



North America

Weimar Board Votes to Close College

After 30 years of training Seventh-day Adventist youth and young adults for lives of consecrated ministry, the Board of Directors of Weimar Institute of Health & Education voted to close the college program as of June 20, 2008. Taking fiscal responsibility, the difficult decision came after seeking various financial and ministries solutions for several years.

“We are not abandoning our goals for the educational aspect of our program. We are going to keep that an essential part of our mission. We have to get down to bedrock and develop a solid financial foundation. We must rebuild from the ground up,” says Bob Hancock, acting Chief Operating Officer and Board Chairman.

The successful NEWSTART® program will continue as the Institute builds on its strengths. The eight-step, 18-day health recovery program helps prevent and reverse disease and is known nationally and globally.

Weimar Institute of Health & Education opened its doors in 1978 with a mission to serve the needs of others in health improvement and quality education. The academic curriculum of the College includes practical training and experience. The College grew steadily until the early 90s, training hundreds of young adults for active ministry. Recent years have seen a steadily decreasing enrollment due to changing economics and student goals.

“The Board recognizes the challenges

facing Weimar Institute and the need to take decisive, concerted action. There remains potential at Weimar for future training programs in various healing arts, foreign missions and evangelism,” says Michael Orlich, M.D., acting Academic Dean.

The Board also voted to form a task-force of business, finance and strategic planning experts to advise the Board in developing a sound, long-range plan that is consistent with its unique mission and philosophy.

The Institute’s leaders and dedicated staff are grateful for the many supporters who have prayed for Weimar through the years. They solicit your continued prayers for this new journey. ■

My Story, My Song

"When I handed my baby to the nurse, I did not know if I would see him alive again."

For years, Denise Kellerman could not conceive, not to mention the fact that she suffered from a condition that caused her terrible pain. Year after year, she would see friends and family bear children. How she longed to hold her own baby! "This must be what Hannah, mother of Samuel felt like," she thought. The longing, the emptiness...

There were years of praying, years of mental anguish, and yet her depression worsened. The doctor's words one Friday pierced her already-broken heart: "I don't think you will ever be able to conceive."

Mentally and physically drained, Denise turned to the one thing that brought her comfort—music. Sitting at the piano that Friday evening, she battled with the Lord. Tears of sorrow and defeat flowed down her cheeks; she cried until she could not cry anymore. At that moment, she wrote the chorus to the song now known as "Call on Him."

A week later, sorrow turned to joy when Denise found out she was pregnant. A few months later, the Kellermans' welcomed 7 lbs 3 oz. baby Joel. What a special gift from God!

Shortly after, Denise noticed something wrong with baby Joel. He would perspire when he ate and then turn pale. A quick visit to the doctor turned out to be five long hours at the hospital. Baby Joel endured test after test—X-rays and ultrasounds. Then, Denise and her husband heard words that would make any parent anxious, "Your son has a hole in the heart. If surgery is not completed, he will die."

"Die?! What do you mean die? Okay,

Lord. You didn't just give me this baby to now take him away." Many questions rushed through Denise's mind. "This cannot be happening!"

During the several weeks of anguish, Denise turned back to the song and began working on it again. Before Joel's admission to the children's hospital in Vancouver, Denise completed "Call on Him." Her song of inspiration, written amidst trial, will be featured on the Hope channel's brand new music series *My Story, My Song*.

And here is the rest of the story ...

On the day of surgery when Denise handed baby Joel to the nurse, she did not know if she would see him alive again. The thoughts and feelings of

potentially losing her baby boy was more than she could bear. "I have to leave him in your hands Lord. Thy will be done."

Surgery was successful. On his first night home, Denise realized what it must have meant for God to give His only son for us. To see Him nailed to the cross—what pain, what anguish. Through baby Joel, Denise has learned how much God loves us.

Baby Joel is now 10 years old and knows he is a very special gift from God. "He has a long scar to remind him of that," says Mom. ■

—Viola Poey Hughes,
Associate Director for
Marketing & Development,
Hope channel

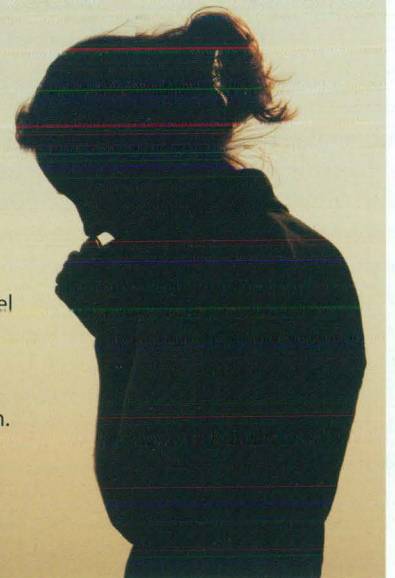
Call On Him

Feeling down, empty and so lonely,
Trying hard to handle things yourself.
Don't you know you have a friend just waiting.
He's waiting now, so won't you call on Him.

Chorus:

Call on Him, Call on Him
He's right there by your side.
He knows your pain; He knows just how you feel
Call on Him, Call on Him
He's just a prayer away
He'll always be there when you call on Him
**So just remember, you can always call on Him.

Jesus is that friend you can count on.
He'll take all your worries on Himself.
You don't ever have to be alone again,
Just remember you can always call on Him.



My Story, My Song is a brand new Hope channel series featuring Christian musicians in interviews and inspirational music. Artists from various backgrounds, ethnicity, and varied music genres will sing/play and share their story. They will talk about how their music talents lend to their personal worship experience and how they bring listeners corporately to a greater experience of worship.

Hope Channel is a 24/7 television network broadcasting to a world of 7 billion on 7 global channels, nine satellite in 9 languages. Soon to be added are Chinese and Arabic. To find out how you can own a Hope Channel dish, call 1-888-393-HOPE (4673). Or visit www.hopetv.org.

SONSCREEN FILM FESTIVAL HOSTS SIXTH FILM EVENT



Photo: Marvin King

SONscreen Film Festival is hosting its sixth festival event on April 10-12. Having moved around the country for several years from California to Texas to Florida, the festival has made Simi Valley, California, the official home of the festival. In 2006 SONSscreen was welcomed by Adventist Media Productions (AMP Studios) to utilize the state-of-the art facility to hold the festival event. This partnership has allowed for the festival to be an even more for an outstanding experience for who attend and participate.

Upcoming festival activities and events include the outstanding film screenings each evening by talented Adventist/Christian filmmakers from around the nation and the global community. This year's workshops will cover the topics of scriptwriting, secrets of great cinematography, and the art of capturing the story through documentary filmmaking. Sabbath afternoon's panel discussion is entitled "Behind the Scenes: The Gospel in the Trenches of Hollywood" which will explore with a panel of Christian experts in the field what's it like to work in Hollywood...outside of the spotlight.

"We take pride in the fact that many SONSscreen Alumni have gone on from our festival into other film festival arenas and won various accolades for their films like the students of Southern Adventist University who's film *Secret of the Cave* received the Crystal Heart Award at the Heartland Film Festival and now the film has been picked up by major distribution so the film is in national store chains like Block Buster, Walmart and Best Buy," said Stacia D. Wright, festival producer.

For more information visit www.sonscreen.com or call (866) 766-3146. ■



Native New Day DVD series

The cover story of our January issue listed a toll-free telephone number for ordering Native New Day videos, but that number is not valid in Canada. If you would like to order Native New Day videos, or for more information, please use the following number:

1-479-361-2900

Further information may also be had at the North Pacific Union Conference's website:

www.npuc.org

(click on departments then on Native Ministries)



Arriving from Korea
Dr. Sang Lee, MD
Sept. 21-28, 2008
@ Camp Frenda

on Lake Rosseau
 In the ♥ of Muskoka

Discover God's Healing Love!

"And Jesus went about...healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease..." Matt. 4:23
 "Bless the Lord...who healeth all thy diseases."
 Psalms 103:2-3

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■ **Announcements**

Kingsway/OMC Homecoming Weekend, May 2-4, 2008. The Kingsway College faculty and alumni executive invite all former students and staff to attend Homecoming Weekend on May 2-4, 2008. For further details, visit the Kingsway College website at www.kingswaycollege.on.ca, see your Kingsway Contact, or call Raelene Brower at 905/433-1144, ext 212.

Missing Members—The Nanaimo SDA Church is looking for the following missing members: Nicholas Anderson, Donna Andreoff, George Andreoff, Linda Antoine, Phyllis Andrusko, Robert Boad, Annette Coles, Fachel Farmer, Jeanne Finlayson, Angela Friesen, John Fritsen, Ann Gabriel, Daniel Gillis, Joshua Gillis, Christine Goheen, Elizabeth Goheen, James Goheen, Junine Gordon, Bev Grounds, Heather Guttman, Doris Halsall, Alex Hanuse, Correen Hiebert, Teresa Hiebert, Randy Jenkins, Ashley Landry, Gilles Landry, John Landry, Lacey Landry, Ted Landry, Denise Laustsen, Gail Laustsen, Kim Laustsen, John Little, Nancy Little, Nehemiah McIndoe, Ivan Naus, Jason Nickol, Dolores Olson, Cynthia Peltz, Bernard Peters, Katherine Polk, Toni Sandberg, Christina Scaduto, Erica Scaduto, Kay Scaduto and Mary Sitch. Please contact the Nanaimo SDA Church at 250/758-1334 or Darlene van Appelen at 250/468-5574 if you know of their whereabouts.

St. Thomas Seventh-day Adventist Church (Ont.) will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Apr. 26, 2008. Former pastors and members are cordially invited to attend. Any historical sketches, photos and memoirs from the church are welcome. Contact Pastor Todor Levterov. Phone 519/633-3790 or email tlevterov@adventistontario.org.

Missing Members—The Lacombe Community SDA Church is looking for the following missing members: Brent Calderbank, Jennifer Calderbank, Danny Graham, Kim Graham, Mary Graham, Shawna Le Graham, David Hewitt, Jason Hewitt, Joy Hewitt, Loring Holdal, Kathleen Hunt, Marie Jeanveau, Josie Marshall, Amber McLean, Andrea Mellas, Elizabeth Orillosa, Melmar Orillosa, Karen Robertson, Kim Robertson, Cory Rumpel, Mark Schnurr, Dennis (Graham) Smith, Devin Trites and Mark Trites. If you have contact information for any of these members, please contact Esther

Yaceyko, church clerk, at email iamsy@telus.net.

■ **New Members**

ONTARIO

Michelle Sevcik and **Susan Sevcik** were baptized on Oct. 20, 2007 by Pastor Bob Condron after attending Pastor Victor Gill's presentation of "Prophecy for the End of Time" meetings in Spruce Grove, Alta. They are now members of Parkland SDA Church.

■ **Legal Notice**

Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty-Second Regular Session (Third Quadrennial Session) of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the West Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, 416 Cathcart Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Sunday, April 13, 2008, commencing at 8:30 a.m.

The Session is called for the purpose of receiving reports, the election of officers and departmental directors, amendment of bylaws and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Session at that time.

As provided in the current Bylaws, delegates to the Session are chosen as follows: One delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each twenty (20) members or major fraction thereof.

*Kenneth Wiebe, President
Clifford Holm, Secretary
Brent Burdick, Treasurer*

■ **Births**

Sean Thomas James MacArthur was born Sept. 13, 2007 to Brian and Christie MacArthur of Barnesville, N.B.

Nicholas Benjamin Allen was born Dec. 3, 2007 to Michelle (Hossack) and Brian Allen of Victoria, B.C.

■ **Anniversaries**

Joe and **Joyce (Wilkinson) Kruk** of Winnipeg, Man. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 30, 2007 with a gathering of family and friends. The Kruks have three children: Shannon (Russ), Cameron (Denise) and Dana (Donovan). They have five grandchildren.

Horace and **Edie Mabley** of Aldergrove, B.C. celebrated their

wedding anniversary on Dec. 7, 2007 by traveling to Seattle, Wash. where they spent their honeymoon 60 years before. Both are very active in their church, participating in community services, tape ministry and the care and comfort committee. They also plant and maintain a flower garden at their Pioneer Park home in Aldergrove. The Mableys have two children, Allan (Margaret) and Donna (Wayne) Robertson, and four grandsons.

■ **Obituaries**

William Gordon Best was born May 16, 1921 in Claesholm, Alta. and died Nov. 29, 2007 in Unity, Sask. He is predeceased by his brothers Milton, Allan, Malcolm and Jim, and his sisters Betty and Agnus. Surviving: wife Berniece (Bowker); son Raymond (Valerie); daughters Charlotte (Ian) McLellan and Linda (Allan) Piro; brother Don; seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Margaret I. (Jolin) Campbell was born Feb. 26, 1911 in Nelson, B.C. and died on Dec. 26, 2007 in College Place, Wash. She was a former secretary to the president of the Alberta conference. She also taught accounting and worked as assistant registrar at Canadian Union College. She is author of the book *One Star, Dear Lord*, as well as several articles, poems and a women's daily devotional. She is predeceased by her husband Hugh, her daughter Joylin Yulk, and her sisters Sadie Jones and Ida Davis. Surviving: daughter Voni (Harry) Flemmer of College Place; three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Robert (Bob) Dale Clemons was born Sept. 8, 1965 in Takoma Park, Md. and died Nov. 24, 2007 in McDonald, Tenn. after a nine month battle with Follicular Lymphoma. He grew up in Oshawa, Ont. and graduated from Kingsway College in 1985. Surviving: parents Bill and Barbara Clemons; fiancée Kerry Leui; brothers Mark and Gary; and sister Connie (Laird) Solomon.

Patience Crump was born Aug. 17, 1923 in South Africa and died Aug. 8, 2007 in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Ms. Crump was a church school teacher in Alberta and in St. Thomas and Kingston, Ont. She also served as a missionary in Africa. She is predeceased by her sisters Thelma and Grace and her brothers Harry, Robert, Arthur, and John. Surviving: niece Loraine Thorton-Dibb; and nephews Neville Geddes and Colin Geddes.

William Henry Egan was born Aug. 9, 1926 in Chennai (Madras), India and died Aug. 26, 2007 in Mississauga, Ont. Surviving: wife Norma (Holroyd); son Bill; daughter Desire; half-brothers Michael, David and Reuben; and half-sisters Avril Samuels and Janet Speers.

Harold (Harry) Enns was born Nov. 8, 1937 in Coaldale, Alta. and died Aug. 19, 2007 in Kamloops, BC. He served as head elder, deacon and Pathfinder director. He also helped found the Cariboo Central SDA Church. He is predeceased by his daughter Tammy Enns, brother Corny Enns and son-in-law Gerald Wasstrom. Surviving: wife Norma (Routley); son Terry (Carol); daughter Barbara Wasstrom; foster children Elayne Robinson and Evan Nolan; brothers Abe, Alfred (Phylis), Pete (Dorothy), Eric and Nick; sister Ann (Henry) Adrian; sister-in-law Kaytie; and three grandchildren.

William (Bill) Henry MacPherson Gray was born Dec. 18, 1938 in York, Ont. and died in Red Deer, Alta. on July 27, 2007. Surviving: wife Joyce; sons Dan (Janet) Gray of Calgary, Alta. and Paul Gray of Oshawa, Ont.; daughter Ruth (Bruce) Relland of Fort St. John, B.C.; 11 brothers and sisters; and three grandchildren.

Anna Gorden was born Sept. 21, 1919 in Cape Scott, B.C. and died Nov. 10, 2007 in Bella Coola, B.C. Surviving: children Howard, Alita, Ronnie and Lilly; 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Trevor Conrad Hyde was born May 31, 1972 and died Dec. 13, 2007 in a motor vehicle accident near Slave Lake, Alta. Surviving: wife Tammy (Owen); children Nicholas, Nathaniel, Anyarose, Arianna and Noah; parents Vera and Clarence; brother Daryl (Mandy); and sister Krishna (Owen) Ligard.

Rosemary Kistruck was born Sept. 4, 1908 in Rugby, England and died July 27, 2007 in Stoney Creek, Ont. During her life, she worked as an office manager at the Branson Hospital in North York, Ont. She also held numerous positions of leadership in her church, but will best be remembered for her gift of music which she shared into her 99th year. Surviving: son Stuart (Wanda) Kistruck of Thornhill, Ont.; two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Gilbert Uriah Murray was born Mar. 26, 1930 in St. James, Trinidad and died Dec. 5, 2007 in Abbotsford, B.C. He was a volunteer teacher at Island Pacific Adventist School and

later taught Law at Camosun College. After his retirement, he taught Law at Caribbean Union College. Surviving: wife Romana; brother Hilton (Bernice) Murray of Kingston, Ont.; and sister Silma Tabago of the West Indies.

Shirley (Spencer) Nelson was born Nov. 24, 1938 in Rutland, BC and died Dec. 27, 2006 in Williams Lake, B.C. Surviving: husband Roy, daughters Lori (Kelly) Edinger, Carol (Terry) Enns and Wendy (Darcy) Edinger; brothers John and Wally (Evelyn); sister Pat (Merle) Hislop; and six grandchildren.

Lee (Smith) Sullivan was born May 25, 1935 in Maidstone Township, Ont. and died Jan. 2, 2008 in Bowmanville, Ont. She is predeceased by her sister Marion Dagleish. Surviving: husband Ron; son Dale Smith; daughters Heather Sullivan, Judy Sullivan and Gini Walsh; and sisters Shirley Kantymir, Patricia Thorton, Katherine Hulett, and Jean McComb.

Josephine Ellen Van Ochten was born Nov. 18, 1940 in Edmonton, Alta. and died Dec. 11, 2007 in Cranbrook, B.C. She is predeceased by her son Michael and mother Ella Slater. Surviving: husband Gordon; children Les (Marion), Jean and Nancy.

■ Advertisements

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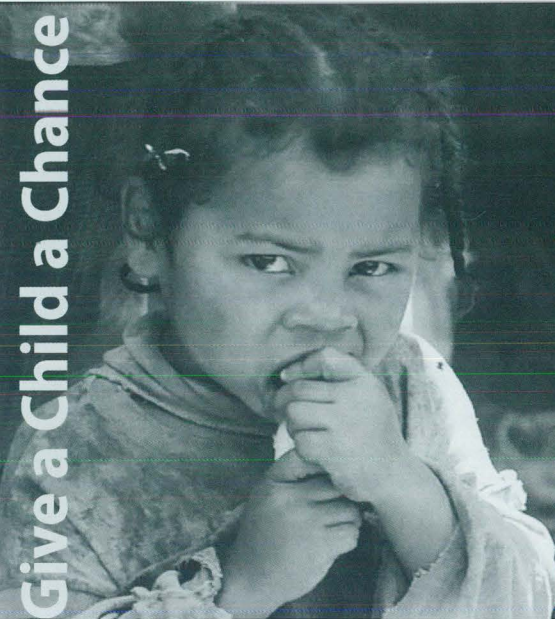
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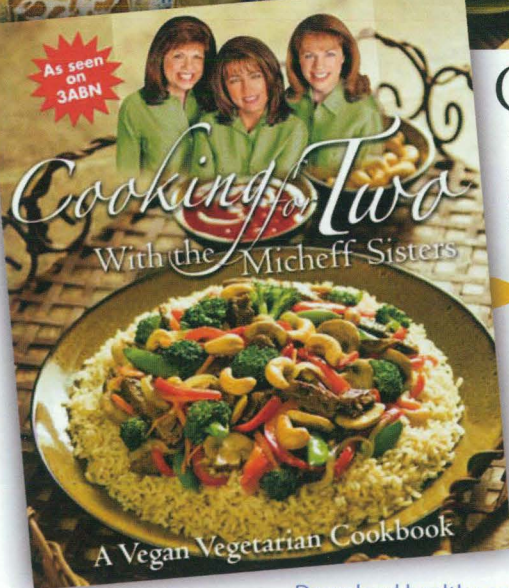
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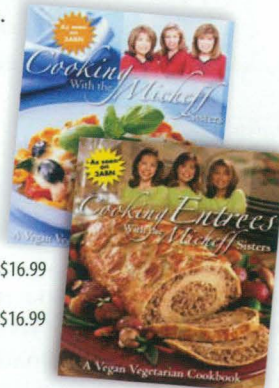
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TEAM JESUS

I don't know when the practice of putting athletes' names on the backs of their jerseys began, but it is commonplace now. It makes sense. With huge stadiums for professional sports, most spectators are a long way away from spotting their favorite players, and having their names in large letters on their backs helps make that job a little easier, not to mention following players on television.

The proliferation of this practice makes the few teams that decide against this stand out, such as the USC Trojan football team and the current version of the Los Angeles Dodgers. I'm not sure why the Dodgers do it, but the Trojans do this to emphasize their grand tradition and the importance of the team. We don't care what your name is as long as you're a Trojan in a Trojan uniform. If you happen to be a star, we'll just do what they used to do and remember your number.

Recently, I heard a new twist on this practice from none other than a missionary. It is found in a devotional made up of stories from the mission field, and one in particular from the Pacific Rim where a missionary named Helen is remarking about the value of teamwork in the field and writes the following: "It made me realize that no matter where we are in the Lord's harvest field, we're all on the same team, and the name on the back of our uniform is JESUS."

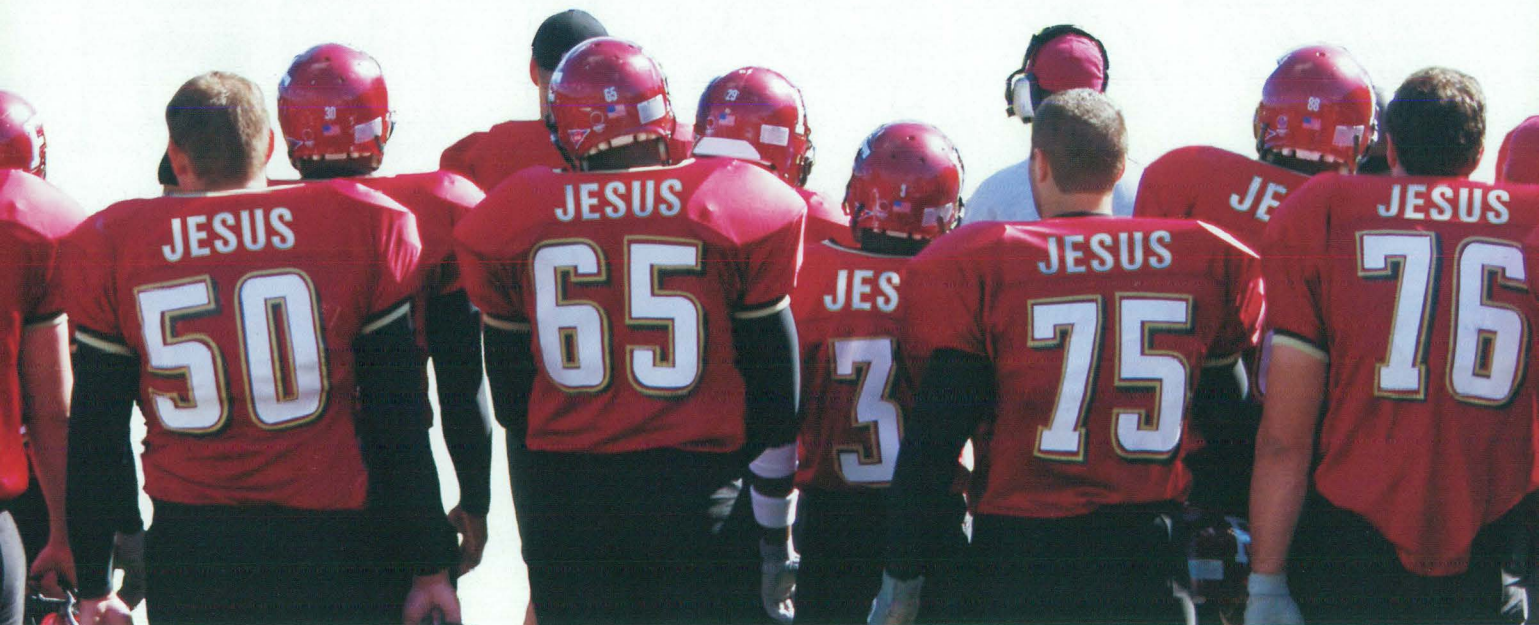
Paul would agree. "What, after all, is Apollos?" he wrote. "And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." (1 Corinthians 3:5-7)

First, it doesn't matter who gets the credit as long as his name is Jesus. Second, it doesn't matter what position we play as long as we are doing what God wants us to do and gifted us to do. And finally, it's not about us anyway; remember? It's all about Jesus.

Can't you picture a football team out on the field and everybody has "JESUS" across the back of their shoulder pads. I can hear the announcer now: "Jesus has the ball. He fakes a hand-off to Jesus and fades back to throw. There is Jesus wide open in the end zone! He's got it! Touchdown, Jesus!"

Kind of hard to argue with that, isn't it? I don't know about you, but I want to be on that team! ■

John Fischer, formerly senior writer for Purpose Driven Life Daily Devotionals, is a popular author and speaker from Southern California where he lives with his wife Marti and their family. He writes a daily column at www.fischtank.com.





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