

canadian adventist

april 2008

Messenger

LESSONS FROM LUTHER

MARITIME
CONFERENCE
TOURS GERMANY

PLUS: 5 Shocking Environmental Facts (p.10);
and "Crisis in Kenya" Part II (p.11)

PM40069337

“Open up before God, keep nothing back... He'll validate your life in the clear light of day and stamp you with approval at high noon.”

Psalm 37:5-6 (Message)

Forget the parking. Can you validate my existence, please?

I caught myself mid-judgement. Sitting comfortably in my pew at a Sabbath afternoon spiritual growth seminar, I listened to a fellow member's take on a piece of Scripture under discussion. She revealed that she'd recently realized that, for much of her life, she'd been seeking approval from others. My reaction? "How sad; how needy." My tone? "God, I thank you that I'm not like that [wo]man" (Luke 18:11). But here's the thing: the sun hadn't set on that day before God's finger began pointing at the many ways that I am exactly what I had said I am not.

Now, I'm nothing if not self-aware. I know who I am and who I am not: I don't judge myself according to other people's criteria; I'm not a people-pleaser; I like who I am and don't really care if anyone else does or not. Or at least those are the things I was comfortable believing about myself until that sad Sabbath when God started pressing down on a few sore points. As cool as it might make me feel to think that I don't need anyone's approval, it's a lie.

I'm no psychologist, but I'm willing to bet that even a good one would tell us that seeking approval from others can be unhealthy. I, too, believe that we must have a sense of self-worth that stands firm whether anyone else in the world ever agrees with it. And I'm not advocating our becoming neurotic or needy, turning ourselves inside-out to please others. What I am saying is that, since that day when I pitied the poor woman who

dared to be up-front about her need for others' approval, I've become convinced that I share her struggle, that we all need validation from our peers whether we like to admit it or not. What's more, I've even come to believe that this need was intentionally placed within humankind by a loving Creator—a Creator who knew that, while it might feel better for us to give a saucy "whatever!" when people are disapproving, the kinship we crave is only possible when we sense that those around see value in who we are and what we do.

So with this new-found philosophy tucked tightly under my arm, I, like that once-pitied woman, dare to divulge my neediness. I can admit that, though critical letters on my desk truly don't bother me, positive feedback tends to set my heart aglow; that, though what we do at the *Messenger* is important solely because it is God-anointed, I still really hope we win at least one award this year; that, while I know that I am loved and valued by God in the here-and-now, I hunger for the ultimate validation He'll give me one day when He speaks those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matt. 25:21) ■

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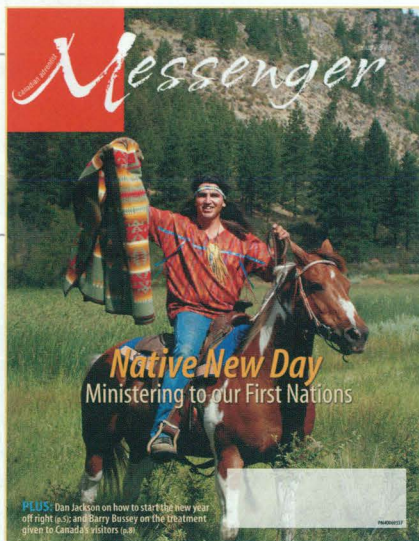


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Your Words

“ I am very drawn to Native people ... I wish we could do more for them ... I just want to make a difference. Love sees no boundaries.”

RE: “Native New Day,” January 2008

I am just so pleased that you brought the “Native New Day” article out in the January 2008 issue. I use the Native New Day DVDs and Bible guides in ministering to our Native people. It is a great way to make friends with them and gain their trust. (Or is it the other way around?!) There is also a very effective little health magazine available: *Radiant Indian Health*.

I am very drawn to Native people. They have an interesting culture, and need so much to see how valuable they are as God’s children. Although the work is not without challenges for a white person (and who can blame them for that?), I am pressing on with making friends and offering help for wounded souls. A person needs a lot of patience and love for First Nations people to make an impact because there is a lot of mistrust. I wish we could do more for them. I especially love to meet the children; they are just so uncomplicated and, often, so trusting.

I just want to make a difference. Love sees no boundaries.

— Wilfried B.,
Chatsworth, Ont.

RE: “Earth Talk,” January 2008

My comments refer to the January 2008 *Earth Talk* article, specifically “Eat Healthy, Buy Organic.” I recently

read the March 2007 Reader’s Digest, and on pages 59–63 this topic was addressed. It stated that the U.K. Food Standards Agency as well as an equivalent agency in France have found no difference in greater safety nor nutrient contents in organic fruits and vegetables when compared to conventionally grown one, nor any greater risk for cancer in pesticide residues. What they did find, however, was that organic fruits and vegetables had a six-fold greater *E.coli* contamination! The summary statement read: “If you’re buying organic because you assume it is better for you, you may be wasting your money.”

If organic foods were really better for people, then those who live in third world countries where they can’t afford artificial fertilizers and synthetic pesticides to treat their crops, their health and longevity should exceed ours, which, of course, is not the case!

Now how do you feel about publishing misleading information?

— Henry G., Surrey, B.C.

As a long time agricultural producer and therefore an avid environmentalist

(I have to be since my livelihood depends on sustainable best management practices), I am compelled to respond to Chad Kettner’s statement in *EarthTalk*: “The production of organic foods is much less harmful to the environment than conventional agriculture.” Though I do not argue that organic food is better for you, I submit that the production of it can be very harmful indeed. Organic producers use fewer chemicals but employ much more tillage than modern conventional agriculture. Contrary to conventional thinking, soil scientists have determined that tillage of soil is very harmful not only to soil structure but to the organisms that reside therein. One of the world’s greatest man-made environmental disasters, the erosion of the North American Great Plains, comes in second to the destruction of the rain forest. For more than 30 years, many agricultural organizations in Canada and the US have been successfully promoting less tillage, and food producers are moving toward min-till or no-till protocols with the goal of a sustainable food supply.

— Murray S., Veteran, Alta.

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

Note: The author, Ken Wiebe, and several other guests accompanied Oliver Lofton-Brook as he monitored ADRA Canada projects in Mongolia October 1-15, 2007. Formerly Executive Director of ADRA Canada, Lofton-Brook has now taken up duties at the Church's national headquarters.

An Open Letter to Oliver Lofton-Brook

Dear Oliver,

I've often thought how thrilling it would have been to tag along with Jesus and to watch Him work. I'm sure I'd be spell-bound by His sermons and captivated by His teaching, but what I'd like most, I'm sure, would be watching people's reaction when He'd perform His acts of mercy—to see the blind man's face light up, to hear the deaf boy repeat the first words he hears, to feel the anemic woman's enthusiasm as she overflows with energy. Surely His acts would bring a brighter glow to their eyes, a lighter spring to their steps, and a new hope to their hearts!

In a way, that's what I saw in Mongolia. I saw Jesus, in the form of ADRA, teaching the rural people to grow gardens, educating the illiterate, and training the unskilled to be self-supporting. I saw poverty vanish, gloominess disappear, sadness turn to laughter, and a new lease on life for the hopeless. What a noble work!

There were seven of us that shadowed you on your project monitoring through Mongolia. With anticipation we followed you into the hall at our first *soum* (village or town). Tables loaded with raw, preserved or pickled vegetables lined the perimeter walls. The "gardeners," standing tall behind their displays, beamed with pride over their accomplishments. Though we couldn't communicate verbally, there was no mistaking their intentions as they held out containers of shredded or pickled carrots, potatoes, cabbage, or other vegetables. There were no Styrofoam plates or plastic cutlery, just our fingers, so we dug in. How tasty! Amazing how quickly we forgot your warning not to eat anything uncooked or unpeeled. But we couldn't disappoint them; they were so proud of their accomplishments. That's when it dawned on me how Jesus, through ADRA, was enhancing the life of the Mongolian people. The meat and dairy diet, now supplemented with vegetables, meant improved health and reduced risk of starvation during *dzud* (severe winter) which destroy flocks and herds.

At another *soum*, we were moved as adult students, through the interpreter, expressed gratitude for educational opportunities they'd never had before. Many adults in the rural areas have never learned to read or write. As young as six- or seven-years-old, they tend their flocks and herds and never have the opportunity to receive even a basic education. Now, as we watched, it seemed like Jesus Himself was teaching them to read and write.

We visited other *soums* where I imagined Jesus teaching young people to be industrious and self-sufficient. Some proudly displayed their wood products—chairs, tables, and benches—while others exhibited their wool handicrafts of felt boots, vests, and tourist souvenirs. It was pure joy to purchase these items because it helped these young people turn their newly acquired skills into viable livelihoods.

Other budding entrepreneurs expressed gratitude for their baking or hairdressing skills. One young lady proudly showed off her newly established salon, excited that she would be able to purchase her own *ger* (a felt house commonly used in Mongolia) in about a year. Another lady took us to her bakery from which she now supports herself by baking and selling 1000 buns a day.

I could relay many other impressions, but seeing and hearing the grateful expressions from ADRA recipients was the highlight. There is no question: ADRA Canada is serving as the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus—doing His work while waiting for His second coming. Thank you, Oliver, and thank you, ADRA, for allowing me to watch Jesus at work. ■

Christian blessings,

Ken

Ken Wiebe is the president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference of Seventh-day Adventists.





Do you wanna dance?

I love dancing. Is it wrong?

Dancing is one of those big grey areas where a 'yes' or 'no' answer is not sufficient. It depends on the context, the purpose and even on who's with you. Let me explain.

One of the most touching stories in the Bible is the one of the prodigal son. We talk about it over and over and love how the father forgives his stranded son. The father represents God, and so it is worth taking note of what Jesus himself said as He told this parable. He talked about the party that the father threw in honour of the son's return: "...as he [the father] came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing" (Luke 15:25 KJV). There's dancing! The whole household was happy about the return of the prodigal son, and they celebrated it with God-given human ways of expression: music and dance.

You see, God created us with emotions and gave us ways of expressing them. That's all good.

Now, we must remember that we are caught in the middle of a great controversy between good and evil. Satan has had thousands of years to study human nature. He's a master at twisting every good thing God designed and making it evil to make us fall. Dance is one of those things. Given the right context, it is extremely powerful in arousing lustful thoughts and actions which will definitely not help us in our walk with Jesus.

So, when you're dancing, are you in a club, a house party, a school function, or alone in your bedroom? What kind of music are you listening to? And what are the lyrics? Are you dancing when you sing in church with the gospel choir? Are you dancing with your little brother having fun on his birthday? There are so many circumstances! But we're lucky to have guidance from the Bible, like this verse: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).

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

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31



Garter Snake

In the spring and fall we often find garter snakes warming themselves on the black-top after a warm day. Not long ago, we found a large garter snake lying on the pavement. When we looked closely at it, we could see that it was alive and unhurt, but it seemed unable to move. Even when we pushed it off the road, it didn't slither away as we expected it to, but only wriggled in slow-moving waves.

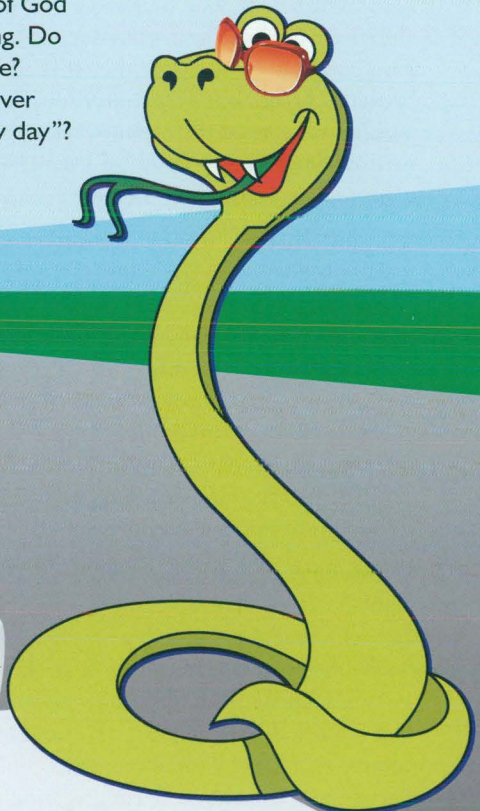
Reptiles are cold-blooded, so they get their warmth from their environment. As the sun begins to set and the temperature falls, snakes are drawn to the heat of the asphalt road surface. Normally swift-moving, a cold snake can be very sluggish, making it less sensitive to approaching danger and unable to get away quickly to safety.

Think about it.

Although we are warm-blooded and not affected by temperature the way snakes are, we humans are affected by our environment, too. What we put into our bodies (the food we eat, what we drink, even the shows we watch) all affect us, either for good or bad. God intended that what we eat, drink and watch be for the strength of body and soul, to His honour and glory.

Do it.

Challenge yourself to live for the glory of God in your eating, drinking and TV watching. Do it for a day. What changes will you make? How would your choices change you over the long-term if everyday were a “glory day”?



affinity fraud

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions” (Luke 12:14).

by Barry W. Bussey

Perhaps the saddest situation I face as a lawyer in the church is when I am informed of church members who are defrauded by their fellow church members. The devastation of the victim is complete. They have been had by someone they trusted. Their sorrow is exacerbated by the fact that their perpetrator was, or at least appeared to be, a faithful member of their group. Yet it happens.

It is called affinity fraud, and the U.S. Security & Exchanges Commission defines it as follows:

Affinity fraud refers to investment scams that prey upon members of identifiable groups, such as religious or ethnic communities, the elderly, or professional groups. The fraudsters who promote affinity scams frequently are—or pretend to be—members of the group. They often enlist respected community or religious leaders from within the group to spread the word about the scheme, by convincing those people that a fraudulent investment is legitimate and worthwhile. Many times, those leaders become unwitting victims of the fraudster’s ruse.¹

By working with a group such as a church, the fraudster has a number of advantages including a ready network of people who care for each other and a people who, though defrauded, rarely report to the police because it is not the “Christian” thing to do.

When the fraudster presents a plan that will provide an “investor” with a quick 30-60% return who wouldn’t want to pass on the good news so that other church members could benefit? Word quickly spreads, and soon a whole congregation can be caught up with the plan. The fact that some already received their reward is taken as proof positive that all is well with the investment. Members begin to think, “Finally the Lord has provided a way out of a financial pinch!”

It sounds too good to be true—because it is! Anytime we hear of such investments we should count on it being a fraud. No one—I really do mean no one—goes around offering such outlandish interest rates without their being a catch of some kind. Too often our desire for things and money is inflationary—our selfish natures always demand more. In Luke 12 we are warned about greed—but we succumb from time to time.

What these schemes typically do is pay out to the initial investor the interest rate advertised by using money of the subsequent investor. Eventually the person (or firm) runs out of new investors and there is an inability to keep the interest payments coming. Or they simply con enough people to give the initial investment and present all kinds of excuses as to why the first interest is not forthcoming. At that point the fraudster takes off with the ill gotten gain. Unfortunately many get away with it.

Because of the trust relationship between church members, the victims are loath to contact the police or to sue the fraudster (if s/he can be found) because they fear bringing negative press to the church. I mean, that is just not “Christian,” is it? Yet, they have been defrauded by someone who claimed to be a Christian.

This kind of thing is nothing new, but it seems that every generation must relearn it. It is a grotesque abuse; many church people have suffered painful loss. I trust you will be on your guard against such plans in your church community and that you will be careful what you recommend to your fellow church member; a story that is too good to be true may in fact be a fraud. ■

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



¹ www.sec.gov/investor/pubs/affinity.htm

First Steps



While conducting a well-attended evangelistic series at the Toronto Portuguese church in 1973, Pastor Henry Feyerabend visited a woman who had been attending. As they talked, he became interested in the fact that she watched television with the sound turned off. When Feyerabend inquired as to why she didn't turn up the sound, she answered, "I can't understand anything, anyway. I can do better guessing."

Those words inspired Feyerabend to make an old idea into reality. He dreamed of a television program that could reach Portuguese newcomers like that woman. He knew of a local television agent and called upon him for help, or, as he later affirmed, "I really pestered him, and even so he refused to give me an appointment."

Everybody who knew Feyerabend knew of his persistence. Eventually, that agent gave in and offered 13 five-minute telecasts for \$4,000, assuming, of course, that Feyerabend would refuse the outrageous price. Surprisingly, he said, "I'll take it." What the agent didn't realize was that miracles happen as God's work moves forward. Feyerabend knew it, however, and was determined to go forward as much as he could and trust God to do the rest.

A short time later, as he was going through the mail at the church, Feyerabend opened a letter from Edgar Latimer, a friend from Massachusetts. The letter read, "I just had a feeling you needed something today." A cheque slipped from the envelope—\$1,000! By the end of the week, three more \$1000 cheques had unexpectedly arrived from donors Tony Diniz, Carroll Cross and Gus Martin. The entire cost of the contract was covered.

The very first telecast under that initial contract reached many. The phone number given at the end of the program received 28 calls. One was from a particular woman, Isabel, plagued by a feeling that something was missing in her life. She had tried to watch other religious programs, but her husband, unimpressed with religion himself, kept her from watching.

This time, because she's turned on the television to hear a man speaking Portuguese, he'd allowed it. Isabel called the number and requested the free Portuguese Bible being offered.

When Tracy Bravo went to visit the family, she discovered that Isabel was a professional singer for CBC. Tracy excitedly told her that a performer was badly needed for the program. From that time to the present, Isabel Santos has been serving *It Is Written* with her vocal talent as well as with her sociable personality. She says, "When I know something is true, I cannot keep it to myself." She gives *It Is Written* books and DVDs to her acquaintances and friends. She also "forgets" books in unusual places such as shopping carts so others can hear the message. She is truly an inspiration.

It Is Written Canada still benefits from that first telecast and is proud to continue in its traditions. The program has been on-air for 35 years, and remembering its origins allows us to reflect on God's leading from that time to the present and on into the future. It also brings into focus the many ways our challenges have evolved since that time.

One of our main struggles today is to purchase good airtime at a reasonable cost, and every season it becomes even more difficult. That difficulty has led us to strongly believe that, in order to secure our airtime, we must be part of network programming. Our dream is to become part of CTV's national network in October of this year. At this time, we do not have the funds in place to do that, but we have seen over the past 35 years that God works miracles as we move forward. But we must take the first step! ■

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



Earth Talk

Human Impact on 5 the Environment: Shocking Facts



The earth is going through major changes: species are being wiped away, glaciers are melting, and the climate is changing at alarming rates—yet our negative impact on the environment continues to grow.

It's easy to live the typical North American lifestyle without ever thinking about the consequences, but it's impossible to face the facts and believe that you can't make a difference.

Here are five statistics that made me question my lifestyle and realize a need for change:

1. According to scientists from the University of Chicago, you could help the environment more by living a vegan lifestyle than by driving a hybrid car. In fact, a vegetarian lifestyle saves an entire acre of trees each year!
2. The average six-month old Canadian baby has already consumed as many resources as the average person in the developing world consumes in his or her entire lifetime.
3. Twenty-seven percent of all food produced in North America is completely wasted.
4. Three species go extinct every hour due to rainforest destruction and other human activity. It's estimated that one-third of all species will be gone by 2100 if we continue living the way we do today.
5. North Americans' use of paper requires an estimated one billion trees to be cut down each year.

Sometimes we can easily see the affects of our actions while at other times we cannot detect a change unless we are really paying attention. Yes, the glaciers are melting and there are noticeable weather-pattern changes, but those are big issues that are beyond the comprehension of most people. There are other smaller-scale problems that are happening everyday that directly derive from our actions.

Environmental issues may seem too big or difficult to change, but if everybody made a conscious effort to do the little things—reduce, reuse, and recycle—then we'd be able to put an end to the massive destruction that is happening every day. ■

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

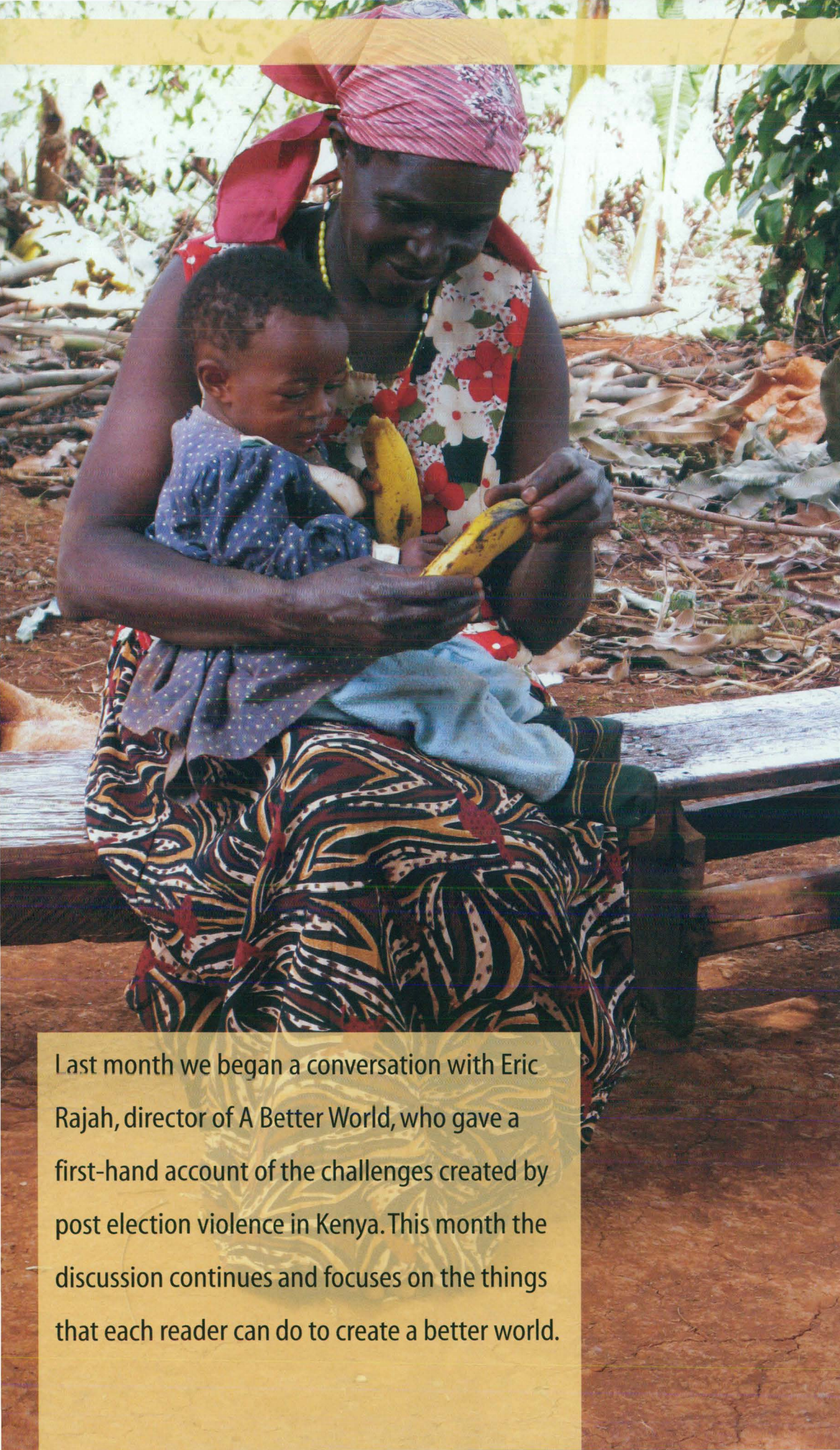


My Pick

Visit www.BreathingEarth.net and watch for a few minutes; it will truly make you think.

Research for this article came, in part, from the following sites: www.greenexpander.com/2007/10/30/20-shocking-facts-on-the-environment • www.livescience.com/blogs/2007/05/22/would-you-believe-3-species-go-extinct-every-hour • www.stonyfield.ca/en/earth/facts.aspx

CRISIS IN KENYA



Last month we began a conversation with Eric Rajah, director of A Better World, who gave a first-hand account of the challenges created by post election violence in Kenya. This month the discussion continues and focuses on the things that each reader can do to create a better world.



With 14,000 people sheltered at this one IDP camp, cleanliness and sanitation were major issues.

Note the hundreds of tents on the far right and the hundreds more beyond the bathroom facilities.

Messenger: *To change the topic to something more positive, at least for a moment, tell me about what kind of an impact the funds we send will make?*

Eric Rajah: First of all, our priority has been to look after the mothers with babies under 30 days. That includes a few things. That includes bedding and a baby kit that we put together last week which includes a basin, a set of diapers, a bottle of Vaseline cream, some towels, a baby blanket, and now that Dan and Ray have arrived they've brought over 100 jumpers. And it's cold here for these people.

M: *Really?*

ER: Well, for us it's warm. In the evenings it's getting to be about 18° in the evenings and about 25° during the day. And 18° is cold for them. They have their toques and sweaters everyday—during the day even.

M: *Well, let me let you know that we are*

also in our toques and sweaters here in -18° today!

ER: [chuckling] I heard that! I heard that! But to continue to answer your question, mothers and children are our first priority, and we feel we have enough money to fund all of their needs which I have described now.

And we've started a new program yesterday that is to feed 150 HIV/AIDS people who were not getting more than just some porridge once a day, and they were so weak that they could not even walk to the feeding center. So we just started a cooking program with vegetables and fruit for these people. Yesterday was the first day and 60 people showed up. Today, Dan went to monitor it for me, and he said there were 80-100 people, and he said their food was really good. We are actually buying and shipping, taking the food to the kitchen and feeding from there. And we have enough money, because of the support yesterday from your office there, we are going to do two

straight months of this seven days a week. We don't know the exact cost, but it is going to cost us, I think, between \$1800-\$2000 a month to feed 150 people a good solid meal at one o'clock p.m. everyday.

And the third program we have going is this: all the kids who can go to high school, the government is willing to waive their fees if somebody supplies them with a mattress—these are boarding schools they have to go to now—a mattress, a toiletry kit, and bus fare. So as of today we have sent 14 kids back to secondary school . . . just in 2 days. Immediately. The ministry of education looks at their certificate and says, "Yes, I can send you to this school. Go to A Better World and pick up your mattress and your toiletry kit." They come here, and I go to the central office and pay the bus fare which is—well, the maximum I've paid is \$10 per child. They are usually between \$5-\$10. And off they go.

The other program we have going is that we are actually shipping the people



Dan and Donna Jackson used their vacation time to assist in Kenya.

Here they spend a few happy moments with children at the camp.



One of the major needs at the camp is for medical services. Here Donna Jackson poses with a mother she took to the hospital and the two-hour-old baby that mother delivered there.

by big buses off to where they feel they are safe and can restart life. So we have hired six buses and sent 366 out of the camps. They make their list and then the camp hires a bus. They call me and say “the bus is here.” I go and verify the bus is going. Then I cut them a cheque or give the cash to the bus driver then and there. And the police come, and they escort the bus so they are safe to get to their destination.

Then we have, on the medical side, what we are doing is that we have purchased equipment for the clinic and when the volunteers come we are going to put them there. The main thing we are doing for the medical clinic now, since there is no equipment at the camp—no x-ray, nothing—so, whenever there is a special need, they write the requisition, and every morning we go there and pick up the people and take them to where they need to get the special help and then bring them back to the camp at the end of the day. And we have also been taking the pregnant

mothers who are going to deliver to the local hospital which is nearby, then after the baby is born, we bring the mother and the child with the little welcome kit back to the camp.

M: *So you've got many projects in place. How can our readers help now?*

ER: First thing, we could use nurses . . . well, we could use medical people. We probably could use some teachers because all the schools are overrun. They can not get adequate teachers. Even on the camp they could be running all kinds of programs. That's one thing that would help even the transition.

The second thing, in terms of money, is that our goal is to spend the money towards development. That is to say “let's get the kids back to secondary school if there's a boarding school somewhere. We're able to do that for \$50. We're continuing the mattress program; there are close to 14,000 people in here and we probably have 300 mattresses given.

A mattress is \$10 and the baby kit is \$5, so for \$15 we could supply a newborn baby and their mother with something. We estimated today that there are about 85 mothers who are going to give birth in the next one or two months. So we are preparing for that. To feed an AIDS patient for a month is going to be about \$13.50, so people can sponsor that. And the other program...it's \$235 for one bus load of people, to help them relocate—bus fare only. But that price is for 56 people on a bus. And that is a great way to help. You know what, these people cannot stay at the camp forever.

M: *I know I said it before, but I'm so impressed with all these incredible projects, but it also sounds like an incredible amount of work for your team of just 6 people that you have there right now.*

ER: [chuckling] Uh . . . yeah. But we work with the local people, too. And the volunteers are dedicated people. There are two guys here that were on



Mattresses and new baby provisions were some of the items distributed by A Better World. Here Erin Skocytas (left) and Eric Rajah evaluate the supplies.



Thousands of children at the camp just craved love and attention. Here Dan Jackson spares some time to simply walk with some of them.

holidays in Israel, and they're from Red Deer [Alberta]. They read the blog and called me. They are computer guys, and the office here has no computer support. In fact, just two hours before they called me, the camp director had made an appeal to me saying, "Hey, can you find somebody to do computer work for us? To set up the database?" They don't have very accurate records of what the people need. So, two hours later these guys called and they were here in three days. Yesterday they started work.

I think the key to being able to help so much is that we are actually on the ground here. It is how, I think, we have broken the task down into pieces. Everyday we break it up. And we have a mission every night to review what happened. Every morning at breakfast we assign the duties. We say "Dan, tomorrow this is your job." To the other guys, we say "this is what we expect of you." And then we go get it done.

M: *I have to ask what the reactions of the Kenyans are as you are able to do some of*

these things for them?

ER: We are very low key with the people, just wanting to preserve their dignity. We do it quietly. And often time we get the local people to do it. To deliver the mattresses for instance. We might bring it to the warehouse, but when they come to get it, local people are in front to give it away. We're very low key. And it's also because we don't want to wave a big flag in the face of a lot of other people who are doing things.

M: *Do you get the sense from people that they are formulating plans that will get them back to a normal life? What is the near future for these people?*

ER: The conservative estimate is that the camps will run for three months. The average estimate is the camps will run for one year before everybody can leave. We are worried a little bit about this. There's two sides to this. The government doesn't want to put a lot of emphasis in camps, which we understand, because they don't want the people to stay there

forever. Right? So there is a fine balance that's concerning them. And that's the issue.

M: *Eric, I know it is getting very late for you there and I have to let you go. Is there anything you'd like to say to readers?*

ER: Just...well, you know we weren't expecting this thing. We just wanted to help, and all these doors are opening to us through prayer. It has always been our experience that once you step out, other people come. And I think that's what God expects us to do...just to do your small part, whatever He enables you for. And you know, by doing our small part, we're big here! [chuckling again] Yeah, we're big here. As Pastor Jackson was telling me, "Man, you guys are the least funded, the least prepared, and you're doing the most of all the agencies." And it's true. Somehow the money comes and somehow we are able to cut through the red tape.

It doesn't take a lot to change things sometimes. Small things can make a big difference. ■

CUC and PAA Also Respond to Crisis



The voice on the speakerphone crackled but still resonated throughout the College Heights church: "...What we are concerned about are the thousands and thousands of refugees... There are two camps, 7,000 in one and 5,000 in another... The camp has been running for 27 days...one room...has 127 mothers... each mother has an average of two children... no blankets... no baby food..." With every word, the audience became more immersed in the story, captivated by a voice more than 13,000 kilometres away.

News of unrest in Kenya dominated the media in the early months of 2008. It struck closer to home for a few of our students who have family in Kenya. Fred Onsoti, a second-year Behavioural Science major was born in Nairobi. "It's shocking to see what's happening," he said. "I'm scared for my family who's back there." Faculty and staff repeatedly asked, "What can we do to help?" On February 2, *Heart & Soul for Kenya*, a benefit concert for emergency relief, took place featuring a mix of students, faculty, staff, and community musicians. The funds from the concert were to be used by A Better World.

Eric Rajah, executive director of A Better World and CUC alumnus, had traveled to Kenya a few days earlier. During the concert, a call was placed to Rajah, and an update was given on what he saw. The descriptions were so vivid that the audience felt the intensity of the situation. Shine Deza, a third-year Education major recalls the mood that evening: "The atmosphere was focused. We were there for a reason. When Eric spoke to the audience, he was able to tell us about the reality of living in Kenya, and his description of conditions there made us realize just how lucky we are to have the opportunities that we do."



She continued, "We wanted to make a difference in the world; we wanted to help people. And we felt that, in forming our group, Voices for Kenya, we had an opportunity to do just that." Voices for Kenya was one of the student-led music groups formed just for the concert.

That evening also inspired a group of students from Canadian University College and Parkview Adventist Academy to go to Kenya personally. According to Colton Greenlaw, first-year Education major, the choice to go to Kenya was easy: "I couldn't find a good enough reason why I shouldn't go, so I went." He continued, "Hearing about the tragedies in Kenya was heart-wrenching, but it wasn't until I got there that I fully realized how sorrowful the situation is. However, watching the money from the pockets of the people in Lacombe turn into relief for the people in Kenya was very rewarding." The group from PAA and CUC was in Kenya from February 15-24 and stationed in an IDP camp just outside of Nakuru. While medical professionals worked with the displaced people, the students worked with the children. "We essentially went to help where we were needed, so jobs varied from day to day, but for the most part, we were working with kids and youth, trying to give them something other than violence to think about," stated Nik Willing, a first-year Biology major.

Through the generosity of those who were touched by the situation in Kenya, approximately \$27,000 was raised for A Better World that evening. *Heart & Soul for Kenya* was a special experience for campus. Students, faculty, staff, and the community were able to come together in unity to help others. According to Deza, it was a memorable night: "It was inspiring. In our day-to-day life, it so often feels as though we are powerless, as though no matter how much we care about an issue there is nothing that we can really do to make a difference. *Heart & Soul for Kenya* changed that. It has renewed our faith, both in God and in ourselves. We can make a difference, we can help others, and God will help us to do that." ■

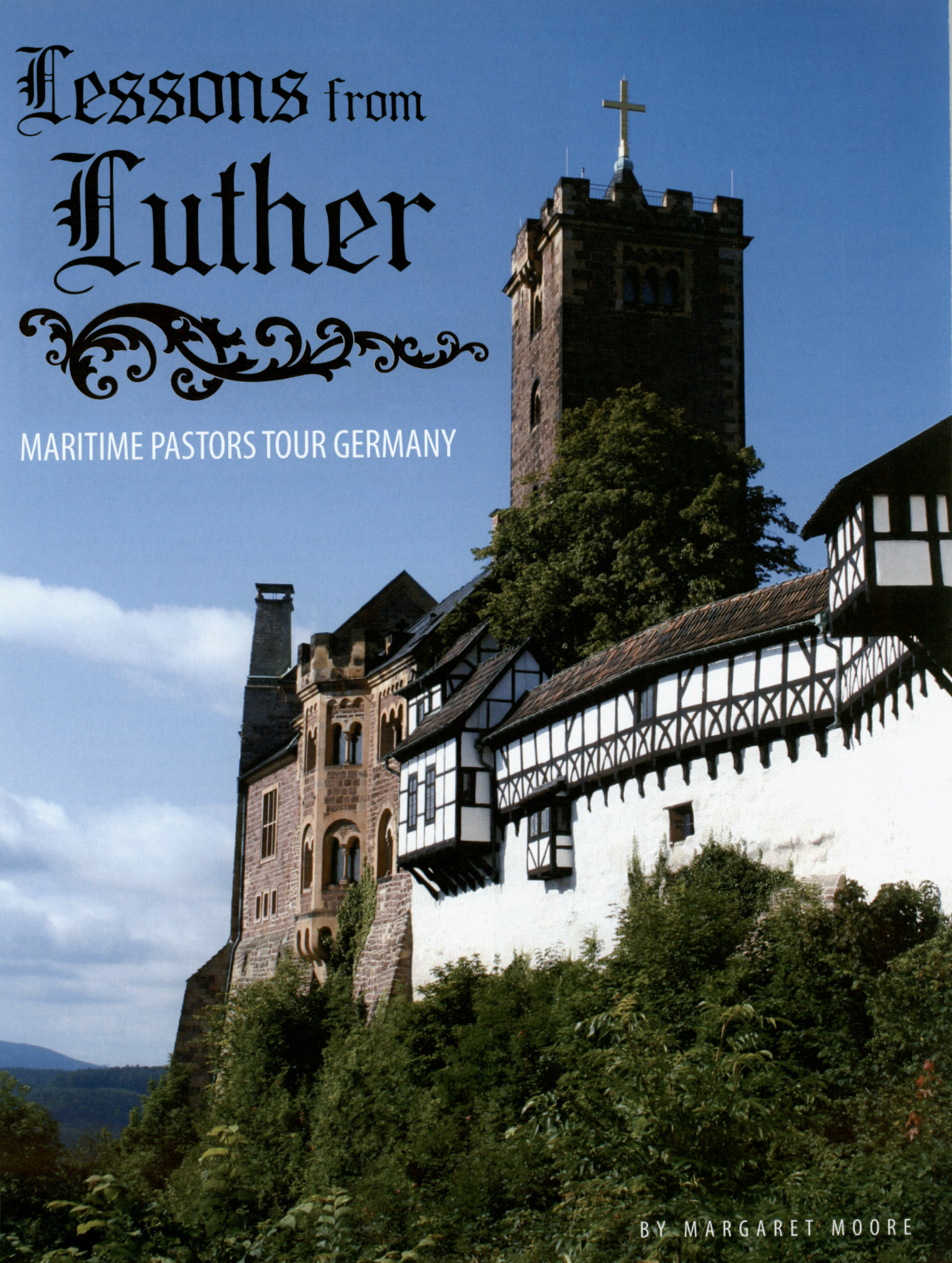
JR Ferrer is the director of communications for Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alta.



Lessons from Luther



MARITIME PASTORS TOUR GERMANY



BY MARGARET MOORE

Each January, Elder Don Schneider, president of the North American Division, and his wife Marti, conduct tours in Germany of the high points in the life of Reformation leader Martin Luther. Ken Corkum, president of the Maritime Conference,

had participated in one of these tours with the conference presidents of North America and knew of its importance. He approached the Maritime conference Board of Directors with an idea to send their pastors on the Lutheran tour with the Schneiders, stating that, "Such a journey for the Maritime pastors and their wives would result in spiritual renewal, the enhancement of a group spirit among our pastors, create memories for a lifetime, and build an appreciation of the leaders of our North American Church." The Board agreed with Corkum, perceiving this as a quality continuing-education opportunity for employees. So, the tour was booked for the week of January 30–February 6, 2008 launching an event that, as Corkum says, "Will be forever a motivational memory for the Maritime pastors and their spouses and a fulfillment to the Maritime Board of Directors who had the foresight to see this tour as a spiritual blessing to all who participated."

Pastors and their spouses, along with a few other participants, began arriving in Berlin on Wednesday, January 30. These first few days were spent viewing the Berliner Dom, the large state cathedral; the Brandenburg Gate with a horse-drawn chariot on the top that attracted the attention of Napoleon; the site of Hitler's Bunker; the Jewish Memorial; remains of the Berlin Wall; and the Checkpoint Charlie museum—all sobering reminders of dark days in European history. On Friday afternoon we went to the impressive Pergamon Museum in Berlin. Although there were many, many things to fascinate one here, the main purpose for our visit was to see the Ishtar Gate and actually walk beside the very same tiles that the prophet Daniel saw when he entered Babylon as a slave.

Sunset on Friday found us in Wittenburg, also known as Lutherstadt or "Luther City." Every town in which Luther's life played a significant role is called Lutherstadt, but Wittenburg is undoubtedly the most significant. It was here that we held vespers and thought on the highlights from the life of Martin Luther. We sang "A Mighty Fortress is our God" and "Faith of our Fathers" with renewed meaning and enthusiasm. As Elder Schneider called for a recommitment of our lives to Jesus, our hearts were stirred and we welcomed the Sabbath in the town that has become famous by the life and work of a great Protestant Reformer.

Our Sabbath morning devotions were a page from history that came alive as Don and Marti Schneider entered the room dressed as Martin Luther and his wife, Katie. In these impressive costumes they told the stories of the Reformation and of the Luther's own life, making applications for our own lives. We were reminded that, like the time of the Great Reformation of the 1500s, there is now a need for reformation in our lives. We were invited to do some reflection and address areas in need of change. We then went to the Town Church in Wittenburg where Luther had preached about two thousand

sermons. A guide gave us a tour of the church, recounting its history and significance. Because there were no other visitors in the church at that time, we were privileged to have our own church service there. We thought of Luther who wanted to escape the world and become a monk. He was afraid for his salvation, and this was his way of searching for God, but instead he found within the Church of the day only corruption. He stood firm to his convictions, single-handedly defying the power of Rome.

We continued our reflection on Luther as we walked to the nearby Castle Church—the famed location where he nailed the 95 theses to the door. That door has been replaced by one that has the 95 theses engraved on it. Inside the Castle Church, we saw the burial place of Luther and his colleague, Melancthon. From there it was on to the Luther House museum where an animated guide spoke about Luther as though she had lived in his time and known him personally. We returned to the hotel in time to close out a truly delightful Sabbath with an informal vespers.

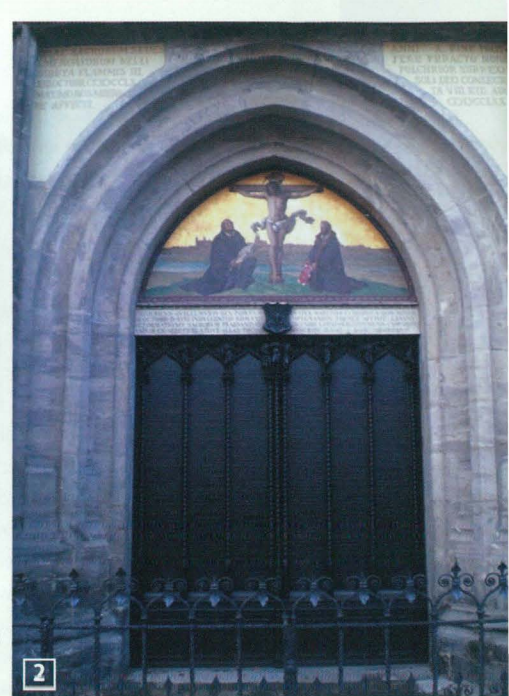
Sunday morning, our bus driver, Harold, drove us to Brehna, about 40 minutes from Wittenberg, for a very special church service with a Lutheran congregation. First, we toured the older part of their huge church which was unheated. The welcome was very warm, but the building certainly was not!. Two university students and an older gentleman conducted the tour and answered our questions. We then proceeded to a heated room for the service of hymns, prayer, Bible readings, and a short sermon all done alternately in German and English. We were regarded as very special guests, and members even came in from some the pastor's 11 churches to make their group similar in size to ours. Following the service, they invited us to another room where tables were laid with cookies, stollen, juice and herbal tea. It was truly a time of sweet Christian communion.

We drove to a restaurant in Eisleban where a special speaker was waiting for us. Pastor Scott Moore is an American who married a German pastor. He spoke to us about pastoring in secular Germany. One of his teen parishioners, Andreas, spoke to us about his experiences as a Christian in a high school where few students know Jesus. Both guests were an inspiration! Pastor Moore also took us to St. Andrew's church, one of the several churches where he and his wife serve. Here, in this church in Eisleben, stands the pulpit where Martin Luther preached his final four sermons. The very old church is in need of extensive renovations and, in spite of its historical significance, may be closed by the authorities if renovations aren't done. Elder Schneider suggested that those who would like to have their photo taken in Luther's pulpit should leave 10 euros to help with the renovations, an act of generosity that encouraged Pastor Moore tremendously.

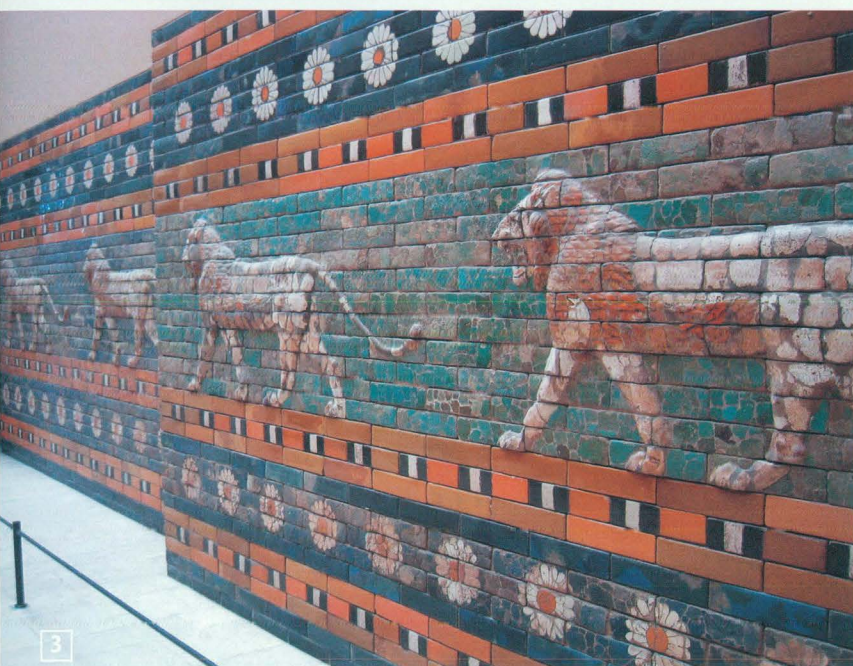
While in Eisleben we also visited the Lutherhaus Museum and saw the table where Luther wrote, the bed where he died, his death mask, his will and



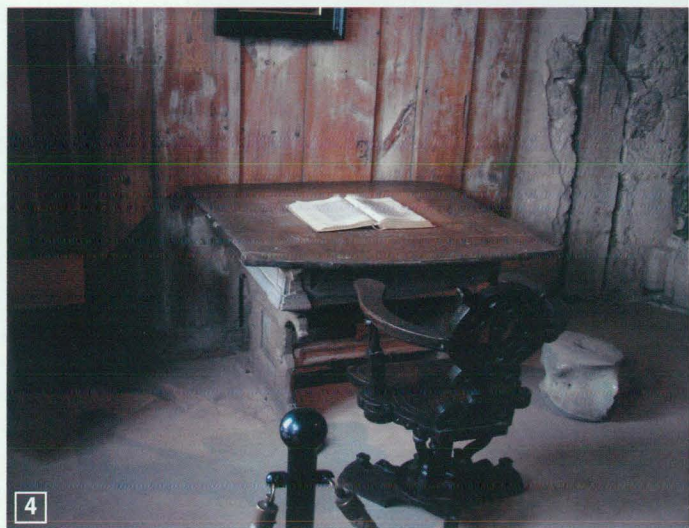
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other Luther-related items.

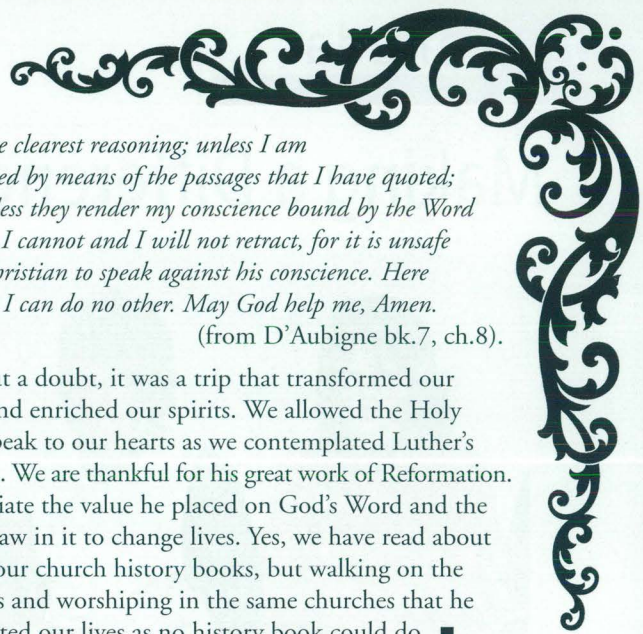
We drove from there to Erfurt, arriving in time to see the last hour of a huge carnival. This parade of bands and colourful floats and costumes was not a planned part of our itinerary, but it provided a lovely glimpse of modern German culture. As we enjoyed some time apart from the tour group, some of us went to visit the St. Marian cathedral where a service was in progress. The small number of worshippers in this huge church reminded us of Pastor Moore's and Andreas' words—there is very poor church attendance in today's Germany. At 7 pm. we again assembled as a group at the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt where Luther became a monk. Our guide welcomed us with his trumpet, playing a medley that included "A Mighty Fortress is our God." We saw the huge stone slab where

Luther knelt with his face to the floor

to make his vows. We saw the cloisters—some areas much the same today as they were in the days of Luther.

If you are getting the impression the days started early and ended late with lots packed in, you are right. The Schneiders had planned the tour to take advantage of every minute. Their energy was amazing. In addition to being involved in all of the things we were doing, they were responsible for booking the hotels, planning the restaurants, meeting the museum guides and seeing to all the details that made everything run so very smoothly. And yet, they were never too tired nor too busy to answer our questions and tend to our needs. Even the restroom stops were timed just right for everyone's comfort! No detail was overlooked. Many times Elder Schneider apologized, "I am not a tour guide." And he was right about that, for he was much more than a tour guide to us. How thankful we were to him and to Marti for all the extras they put into this tour to make it so very wonderful and worthwhile.

Though Tuesday was a day filled with deeply contrasting



experiences like touring the birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach, seeing the castle that inspired Walt Disney's Cinderella, and considering the atrocities of Dachau concentration camp, it was on Monday that the real lessons from Luther struck home in most of us. That morning we got an early start for Wartburg Castle, the place where Luther's friends hid him after he was declared a heretic. It was here at Wartburg Castle that Luther let his hair grow longer, that he changed into layman's clothes and that he began to call himself Yonker George. And it was here at Wartburg Castle, in a place where nobody really knew who he was, that he translated the New Testament into German. We were blessed to see the room where Luther worked ceaselessly on his translation for 10 weeks of the year that he spent hiding at this castle. And it was here at Wartburg Castle that we really came to admire the strength of character it took to reply, when asked to recant his statements against the church:

I cannot submit my faith, either to the pope or to the councils; because it is as clear as the day that they have frequently erred and contradicted each other. Unless, therefore, I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture

or by the clearest reasoning; unless I am persuaded by means of the passages that I have quoted; and unless they render my conscience bound by the Word of God, I cannot and I will not retract, for it is unsafe for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other. May God help me, Amen.

(from D'Aubigne bk.7, ch.8).

Without a doubt, it was a trip that transformed our thinking and enriched our spirits. We allowed the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts as we contemplated Luther's experiences. We are thankful for his great work of Reformation. We appreciate the value he placed on God's Word and the power he saw in it to change lives. Yes, we have read about Luther in our church history books, but walking on the same floors and worshiping in the same churches that he did, impacted our lives as no history book could do. ■

Margaret Moore, a retired teacher, writes from the beautiful Annapolis valley in Nova Scotia.



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Photo by Carl Longman



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Photo by Carl Longman

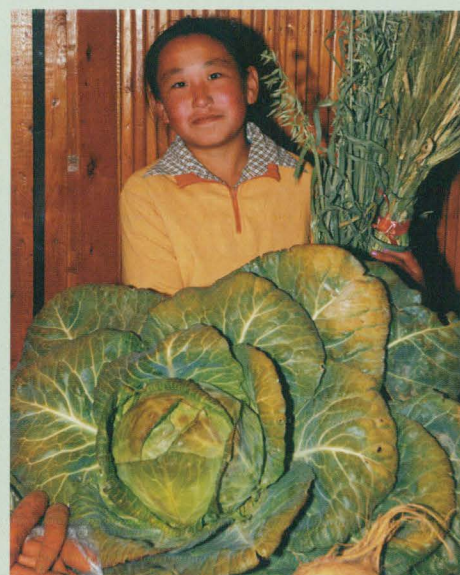
1. Maritime conference pastors and other tour guests enjoyed the sights of Germany.
2. The door of Castle Church where Luther nailed his 95 theses.
3. Processional Way, leading to the Ishtar Gate, containing the same tiles Daniel marched beside when entering Babylonian captivity.
4. Luther's desk and chair where he did his work translating Scripture.
5. The very impressive Berliner Dom.
6. The Schneiders as Martin Luther and Katie Von Bora.
7. Guests Jerrold and Cecelia at the Jewish War Memorial.



7

Photo by Carl Longman

Making a Difference in Mongolia



Left: Some of the hard working Mongolian women with their produce and preserves at a Harvest Festival in Bayankhongor. *Right:* A 12-year-old girl from Tosentsengel with her award-winning produce.

Because of the challenging growing conditions created by harsh winters and low precipitation, the Mongolian people have not had access to the variety of foods necessary for a balanced diet. ADRA has established projects around the country to meet those needs.

Tosentsengel is a delightful town in Mongolia that looks like it could be part of the “wild west.” It is home to an ADRA gardening project. Several families are supported by the project, with the harvested food either going to the table or being sold for needed income. During a recent visit by an ADRA Canada team, the families held a Harvest Festival where their produce was displayed. The quality of their produce rivalled what we see in our grocery stores!

In the towns of Bayankhongor and Ulzit, ADRA is conducting food security and micro economic development projects. In the last two years, more than 700 families have received help in increasing their household harvests, gaining profits through cooperatives and support of micro entrepreneurs. Project participants in these towns also held Harvest Festivals and proudly displayed the results of their hard work. There were abundant supplies of fresh and pickled vegetables and homemade crafts.

In Uliastai, ADRA is conducting Youth Enterprise and Income Generation projects. During an emotional Family Education Program, we heard testimonies of changed lives, of children and their parents going back to school, of life skills being learned, of family businesses being started and

of much-needed health practices acquired. At the vocational school, ADRA helps train youth in skills such as wood-working and felt working in two to four month programs. A savings account is set up for each program, teaching the young people to save and to invest their money. With this vocational training, 74% of the participants get a job before they finish the program.

The Adventist church has always had a passion for the needs of humanity, and this passion has been evident in its humanitarian agency, ADRA. Along with more than 100 partner agencies in the ADRA network, ADRA Canada is involved in serious needs assessment, program planning, and project implementation, making possible a successful humanitarian work throughout the world. In the spirit of Christianity’s founder, lives are indeed being changed for the better!

The needs in Mongolia are very great. Though it is a beautiful country, it is very remote and is a harsh place to live. Travelling in Mongolia is both rewarding and exciting when you see the lives that are positively changed by the projects that ADRA Canada supports. These life-changing projects could not happen without your assistance and the determined, cooperative, hard-working spirit of the Mongolian people. ■

James Astleford is the director of Donor Relations for ADRA Canada.

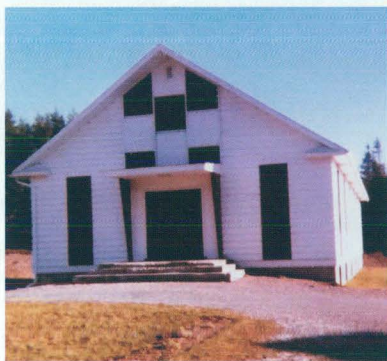


Maritimes

40 Years at Home

On June 1-3, members, former members and friends of the Barnesville church gathered together to celebrate 40 years of worship in its current location. The building was filled beyond capacity as people came to mark this great milestone for the little country church in the Maritimes with a touching homecoming reunion.

Founded in 1930 with 40 charter members, the congregation in Barnesville grew under the leadership of Pastor John Popowich until, in the 1960s, it became obvious they had outgrown their facilities and needed new accommodation. On September 2, 1967 the Barnesville congregation worshipped in their new



Left: The Barnesville church as it looked when first occupied by the small congregation in 1967.



Above: The church as it appears today.

church for the first time. The years that followed brought more expansion—of the number of members in regular attendance as well as in the physical structure.

Over the years, the Barnesville church has served its community well and

touched the lives of so many people. It was with smiles and tears that we walked down memory lane, thinking with fondness of times long past and with hope of better times to come. ■

—*Delcia Baxter,*
communications secretary

Quebec

Personnel Changes

The Quebec conference Board of Directors has elected Vaillant Youte as the new director for Personal Ministries and Evangelism. Youte is a man with evangelism in his blood and boundless energy for the work. He left his work at St. Leonard/Lafontaine church and began serving in his new post on February 1, 2008.

The St. Leonard/Lafontaine church will be well served, however, as Pastor Maxime Pape steps in to fill the shoes left vacant by Youte's move. Pape is well known in Montreal where he has served as pastor to several churches there. On February 23, the St. Leonard/Lafontaine



Pastor Vaillant Youte, his wife Suze and their daughters, Sandra and Esther.



Pastor Maxime Pape, his wife Roseline and their children, Oliver and Myriam.

church, a francophone church with more than 700 members, warmly welcomed their new pastor and his family into their congregation. ■

—*Hector Jurado, executive secretary, Quebec conference*

Ontario

Mount Olive Outreach Program



A few of the 70 senior citizens who celebrated 2007 with the Mount Olive church's outreach team.

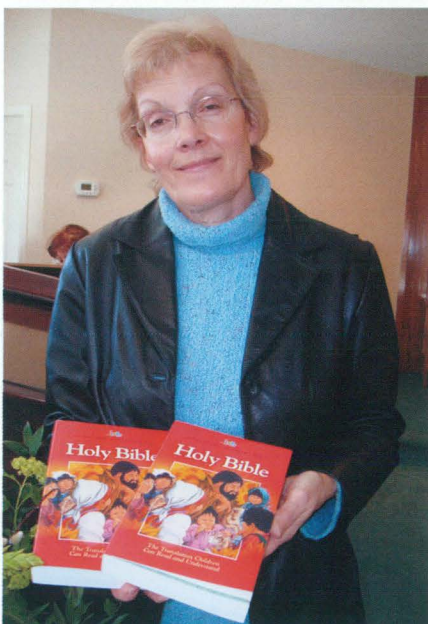
The Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church is very enthusiastic about outreach programs. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, member Radcliff Lennon worked with other volunteers to establish a program at one of the senior citizen's homes in the Etobicoke area more than three years ago. It is held one Sunday per month and usually runs for two hours. The program consists of special music, testimonies, choruses, sermonette and refreshments. This provides an opportunity for fellowship for the seniors who are unable

to attend.

On December 21, 2007, the annual end-of-the-year program was celebrated. More than 70 seniors attended and were treated to an inspiring message, a vegetarian meal and a gift of appreciation. The members of the team who had worked tirelessly all year felt a sense of peace as they witnessed the joy on the faces of their guests. ■

—V. Lyttle, communications secretary

British Columbia



VOAR in Quesnel

On September 11, 2007 at 11 a.m., Quesnel joined the growing crowd of communities in British Columbia who are rebroadcasting VOAR to their neighbors. Hardly a week goes by but someone from the town stops one of our members and thanks our church for bringing Christian radio to Quesnel.

Warren Toombs was able to install the equipment on an existing tower perfectly situated on Al and Liz Rempel's property, members at the Quesnel church. Benefits resulting from having VOAR in Quesnel are already being realized, such as the opportunity to donate inscribed Bibles to all the children

in the local Good News Club (an inter-denominational middle school Bible study group). We are also enjoying improved relations with the local Ministerial Association, resulting in our donating 600 "Passion of the Messiah" pamphlets for use in this year's community Easter Cross-walk. Plans are also in place to advertise our upcoming cooking school on VOAR. We believe that through the blessing of God, our local efforts and the ministry of VOAR we are seeing new avenues through which to tell others of our gracious God. ■

Bibles to children is just one of the opportunities brought our way by VOAR.

SDA Church in Canada



Canadian Adventist Youth Summit

A “youth summit” —formerly known as a youth rally—is a time for youth and young adults to come together for a celebration of faith and community. At this year’s Canada-wide youth summit, young people aged 15-29 are invited to meet their peers from across the country and unite in renewing their allegiance

to Jesus Christ.

This year, the Canadian Adventist Youth Summit (CAYS) will be held September 18-20 at Camp Pugwash in Nova Scotia. The event is being planned by conference youth directors from across Canada with the sponsorship of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. They are working very hard to make every facet of this year’s CAYS a tremendous blessing for everyone who attends.

Already they’ve scheduled keynote speakers Eddie Hypolite from London, England and Manny Cruz from the North American Division. These speakers and many others will provide daily workshops and worships on the theme “Think it. Believe it. Do it.”

To register or for more information, contact your conference youth director or go to www.adventistyouth.ca. ■

Thunder Bay Regional Camp Meeting

May 2 and May 4 (evening) at Oliver Road Community Centre
May 3 and May 4 at Thunder Bay Adventist Church



Stephen P. Bohr
Senior Pastor,
Fresno Central
Seventh-day
Adventist Church



Paul Llewellyn
Director,
Men’s Ministries/
Associate Youth
Director,
Ontario Conference

REGIONAL CAMP MEETINGS

MAY JUNE

Western Ontario (Chatham) Regional Camp Meeting

May 30 to June 1 at Kinsmen Auditorium, Chatham Community Centre



Bill Santos
Speaker/Director,
It Is Written
Canada



Matthew Feeley
Assistant Pastor,
Kingsview Village
SDA Church,
Toronto, Ontario



Daniel Saugh
Senior Pastor,
Meadowvale
Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Eastern Ontario (Ottawa) Regional Camp Meeting

May 16 and May 18 (morning) at Ottawa West SDA Church
May 17 at Lansdowne Park Exhibition Hall



Tim Nixon
Administrative
Chaplain,
Andrews University



Fred Nichols
Pastor,
Agape Temple
Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Southern Ontario (Simcoe) Regional Camp Meeting

June 13 to 15 at Norfolk County Fairgrounds
(next to Simcoe SDA Church)



Gordon Pifher
President,
British Columbia
Conference



David Hall
Director,
Youth Ministries
for the Nevada-
Utah Conference

AMAZING FACTS

Amazing Facts has recently established a Canadian office to represent the work being done here. At their last meeting, the Amazing Facts Board of Directors voted to ask Jacob Hiebert of Creston, British Columbia to be the manager of the Canadian office. He will be working closely with Amazing Facts Inc., located in Sacramento, Calif. Judy, Jacob's wife, will also assist with the day-to-day operations of the Amazing Facts Canada office.

Jacob Hiebert is an ordained minister who has worked in various conferences throughout Canada as a pastor, departmental director, treasurer and executive secretary. Judy has served as administrative secretary in the Ontario conference, at It Is Written Canada and at the national headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

Both Jacob and Judy are well acquainted with the work in Canada and look forward to maintaining and promoting this ministry throughout the country. ■



North American Division

Cruise with a Mission

On December 16, 2007, 330 Seventh-day Adventist young adults, including 27 from Canada, departed from Tampa, Florida for the first annual Cruise with a Mission. They boarded the MS Veendam, a Holland-America ship, prepared for a seven-day combination spiritual retreat, mission trip and vacation.

Cruise with a Mission was created by the Center of Youth Evangelism, which is part of the Seventh-day Adventist theological seminary at Andrews University. The goal of the trip was to connect Adventist young adults from around the world to experience ministry training, spiritual growth, community, fun and service.

During excursions to Belize and Guatemala, volunteers conducted medical and dental clinics, led VBS programs and helped renovate several parks and schools.

Lisa Hibbert, a nursing student from Toronto, was part of the medical mission team. She helped set up one-day clinics where volunteers provided exams, over-the-counter medications, health education and advice. In two days the medical team helped 250 patients.

Hibbert heard about Cruise with a Mission through her pastor and thought the opportunity was too amazing to pass up. "Toronto is a pretty safe place, and I wanted to come out of that and share the love of God," she says. "What touched



From December 16-23, 2007, 330 young adults set sail on the first annual Cruise with a Mission combination spiritual retreat, mission trip and vacation.

me was seeing the living situation of the kids in Belize. I had to stop and think about it; we're so privileged and don't know it. It changed me. I'll never look at what I have in the same way. You can't go home after a mission trip the way you came."

The second annual Cruise with a Mission is scheduled for December 14-21, 2008, and will depart from Tampa, Florida. The Cruise with a Mission team is putting together an exciting group of speakers, musicians, worship leaders, event planners and programming experts. For more information, visit www.cruisewithamission.org.

— Cassie Martsching, AdventSource communications director

■ New Members

Vladimir, Iveta and **Peter Certik** joined the Creston church by professions of faith on Jan. 5, 2008. They studied through three "Share Him" programs and with Orvan Comm. The Certiks are members of the Creston church in B.C.

Kevin Lattery was baptized on Nov. 17, 2007 by Pastor Darren R. Godsoe after studying with Bible Worker, Jonathan Martin. He is now a member of the Weyburn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Saskatchewan.

■ Births

Elli Lee Rivard was born Feb. 11, 2008 to Joshua and Jamie Rivard of Weyburn, Sask.

Josiah Thomas was born Dec. 13, 2007 to Michelle (Basaraba) and Andrew Nichols of Williams Lake, B.C.

■ Weddings

Sharlet Mentes and **Brad Tataryn** were married on Aug. 26, 2007. They make their home in Kelowna, B.C.

Heather and **Peter Totten** were married in Barnesville, N.B. on Feb. 28, 2008.

■ Anniversaries

Lloyd and **Bernice (Kolisnyk) Robinson** celebrated their 50th



wedding anniversary on January 19, 2008 with an open house for family and friends at Woodhall Park in Brampton, Ont. They have 3 children: Robert of Westland, Mich., Brian of Toronto, Ont., and Janice Gibbs of Seaforth, Ont. They also have 3 grandchildren.

■ Birthdays

Roland Booth of Ryley, Alta. celebrated his 90th birthday on Feb. 13, 2008. A supper in his honour was



held in Tofield, Alta. with family and friends attending. He and his wife, Margaret, still live in their own home on the farm at Ryley. He has nine children, 26 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Alice (Bell) Blacklock was born Apr. 16, 1916 in London, Ont. and died Jan. 17, 2008 in Oshawa, Ont. Alice will be remembered as a woman who lived by her faith, giving strength and encouragement to all who knew her. She was a life-long Adventist, having held numerous church offices. She is predeceased by her husband Grenville; sisters Lucy McKibbin, Ellen Parker, Ann Waldie and Gladys Gadway; and brothers Robert, Albert and Fred. Surviving: son Don and daughter Sharron (John) Beecroft.

Mollie Carbert was born June 16, 1903 in Walder, Russia and died on Jan. 24, 2008 in Burnaby, B.C. She was a member of the church for 93 years and a member of the Vancouver Church for 59 years. Surviving: son Don (Roma) Edwards, daughter Dorothy (Allan) Robertson, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mildred (Neufeld) Clark was born Nov. 21, 1918 in Valcartier, Sask. and died Feb. 20, 2008 in Lacombe, Alta. Milly taught school throughout western Canada. She was dean of women and a professor of Education at Canadian University College. Milly is predeceased by 22 siblings. Surviving: husband Willis, son Rolly and daughters Twinkie and Bubbles.

Mary Mina (McBain) Haggkvist was born June 3, 1916 in Valcartier, Que. and died Feb. 20, 2008 in Kelowna, B.C. She was predeceased by her husband Folke and brother Wilson McBain. Surviving: brother Elmer (Lola), sister Agnes and step-daughter Joyce Schafer.

Judy (Lapeyre) Hall was born Nov. 29, 1946 in Regina, Sask. and died Jan. 24, 2008 in Regina. She served

her church for many years as pianist. Surviving: husband James; sons Ryan and Harrison both of Regina; mother Dorothy Lapeyre of Regina; and brother Lapeyre of Abbotsford, B.C.

Malcolm Scott Fisher was born Sept. 16, 1917 in Hazelridge, Man. and died Feb. 1, 2008 in Lister, B.C. He has served as pastor in both Canada and the USA, dean of men and business manager for Canadian Union College, director of student finance for La Sierra University and missionary in Africa. He is predeceased by his first wife, Arvida (Bjurstrom). Surviving: wife Marie (Buhler); son Dean (Henretta); daughters Marlene (Don) Lamming, Sharon King and Dawna West; step-children Lester, Ron, James and Pat Spangler; sister Olive Hoehm; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Robert Juriansz was born Aug. 16, 1920 in Colombo, Ceylon and died Jan. 27, 2008 in Stoney Creek, Ont. Robert devoted most of his adult years to the publishing work of the church, first as a literature evangelist (setting the record for highest sales in Canada), then as publishing director in Ont. He also served as director for Home Health Services for 18 years. He is predeceased by his wife Marjorie (Matthews), his brother Frank, and sisters Marjorie and Thelma. Surviving: son Bob (Tammy) of Coventry, R.I.; daughter Betty (Peter) Bayer of Oshawa, Ont.; brothers Eric, Brian, Ralph and Allan; sisters Christobel and Claribel; and three grandchildren.

Dora (Waters) McKinley was born Apr. 4, 1917 in Montana and died Jan. 31, 2008 in Kelowna, B.C. Dora served her church as a Sabbath school superintendent, Sabbath school teacher and deaconess. Surviving: sons Don and Shane; daughters Sandy, Myrna, Heather and Margo; brother Robert; and sister Ollie.

Dale Wilson Mosier was born June 14, 1939 in Oshawa, Ont. and died Nov. 17, 2007 in New Westminster, B.C. Surviving: wife Myrna (Young); son David (Kathy); daughters Debbie (Manuel) Silva, Melissa (James) Townsley and Pamela (Richard) Crarey; brothers Neil (Yvonne) and Edward (Myriam); sister Susan (Roger) Hild; and 11 grandchildren.

Mary Frances (Dubyna) Todosichuk was born Jan. 23, 1944 in Prongua, Sask. and died Sept. 13, 2007 in Endeavour, Sask. Frances worked for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference and in the registrar's office at Canadian University College.

Surviving: husband Nester; sons Richard (Carrie) of Boston, Mass., Ronald (Ellen) of Harrison, Tenn. and Jonathan of Lacombe, Alta.; sisters Rose (William) Hodgins, Elsie (Winston) Shipowick and Marlene (Lonnie) Aldrich; brothers Roy (June) Dubyna and Donald (Charlene) Dubyna; and one granddaughter.

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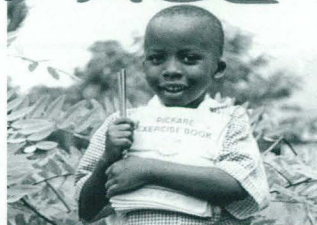
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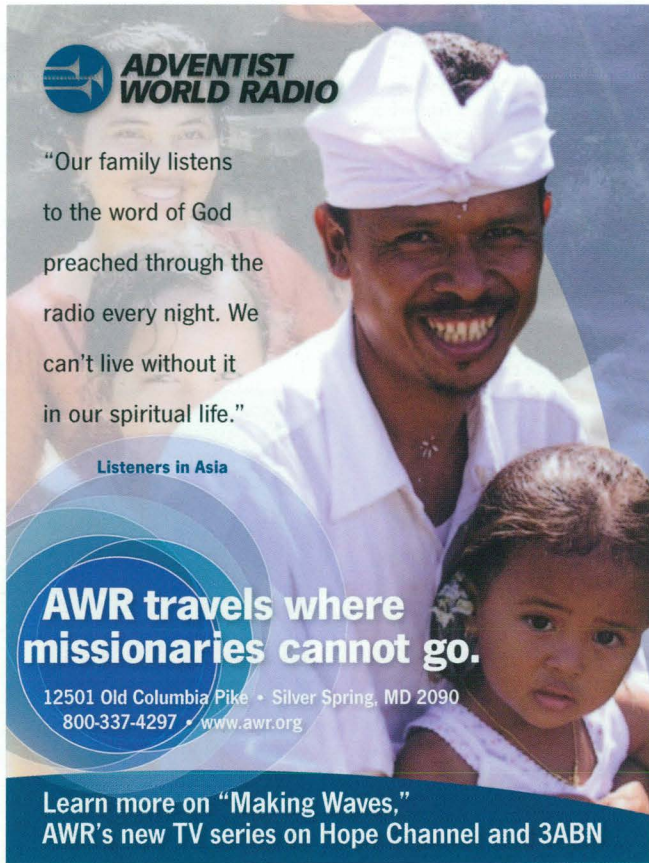
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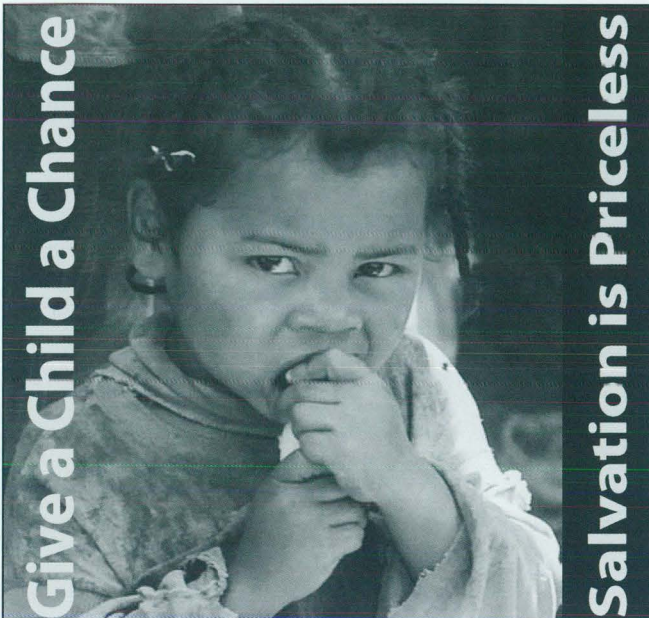
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SECRET OF THE CAVE

What Adventist youngster doesn't remember *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories* or the ten volumes of *The Bible Story*? Growing up Adventist, I was inevitably exposed to the family-friendly stories of Arthur S. Maxwell. I've since become an Adventist parent who reads Bedtime Stories to my little ones. Although dated, these stories still present positive Christian messages, so it came as a pleasant revelation to discover a film version of Maxwell's 1951 book *Secret of the Cave*. Although it is purportedly available for rent from Blockbuster and Rogers Video, I was unable to locate a rental copy and resorted to purchasing a reasonably priced copy through www.amazon.ca.

When ordering online, I was surprised to find a diverse set of reviews. It seemed people either loved it immensely, giving it Amazon's highest five-star rating, or extremely disliked it, conversely bestowing it with a one-star rank. I ordered it with ominous trepidation based on the negative reviews, but was pleasantly surprised with my own viewing experience. By no means would I give it a one-star rating, as it has merit beyond many professional films, but on the other end of the spectrum, it does not deserve the vaunted five-star rating either. It fits into that mid-range rank of three- to four-stars.

The story is set in rural Ireland where young Roy Wallace (Kevin Novotny) is visiting his paternal uncle against his will. His father (Patrick Bergin) has other pressing concerns and leaves him there for the summer to learn about his family and roots. As Roy attempts to survive in this lost-in-time Irish village, strange events start to happen. Roy and the local children he befriends set out to explain the mysterious happenings, eventually learning the secret of the cave as well as the secrets of adapting to change and family problems. Few plot points are left unanswered at the end of the movie, which makes it a positive viewing experience for a pre-teen audience, particularly Christian pre-teens.

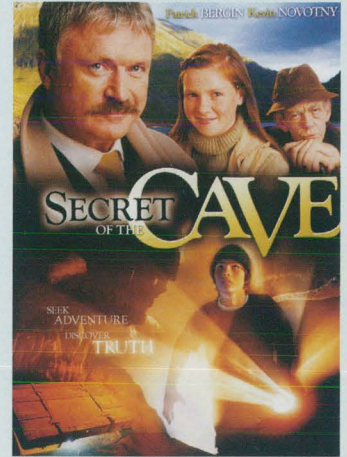
Secret of the Cave is the product of a hands-on approach to teaching film production to students of Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, and, as you might expect from a student-driven project, it does have shortcomings. As an adult watching this film, I couldn't help but be critical of some production problems. The screenplay does what a screenplay should—drive the plot forward—however awkwardly. The protagonist's acting is also problematic as the bulk

of his lines are delivered like an amateurish recitation, but, when he isn't delivering dialogue, he expresses himself suitably with facial expressions. Thirdly, the accents of some villagers come and go, detracting from the otherwise convincing performance of the supporting cast. Still, while it did have some amateurish moments, knowing that it did not have a multi-million dollar budget and a veteran production team allowed me to appreciate the film's strengths.

And there are some wonderful strengths. The film was shot on location in Ireland, and the scenery at times is breathtaking. The contrasting sapphire-blue ocean with the emerald-green hills is very vivid. The village is colorful in its own way, drawing tones from the unique characters living there. The supporting cast is wonderful, using local talent that is a definite boon for this film, creating delightfully believable characters with quirks and idiosyncrasies. Stealing the show, though, is Joseph Kelly in the role of Peter McDonald. His curmudgeonly take on this character is impressive and helps convince the viewer of the rural Irish setting. The musical score surprised me by beautifully complementing the scenes with Irish-influenced tunes and pipes. Overall, the strengths positively counterbalance the weak areas of this film.

As I watched this film, I was transported back to my childhood reading of this story. I remembered the book's sketched picture of a surprised Corky in bed with the repaired oar resting on his chest and the window ledge. Although the film's plot is modernized in a few key areas, Uncle Arthur's story and message, left intact in the film, are as relevant and positive today as they were in my childhood. Although nostalgia played a big part in my enjoyment of this film, I still enjoyed the film for its translation of a beloved Christian classic. I have to extend my kudos to the Southern Adventist University production team for compiling a solid film with positive family values. In a day and age where family films are hard to come by, this movie reinforces that movies with Christian values still exist and do not need to be set in a fantasy world to captivate the imagination. ■

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A FILM REVIEW

THINK BELIEVE ACT

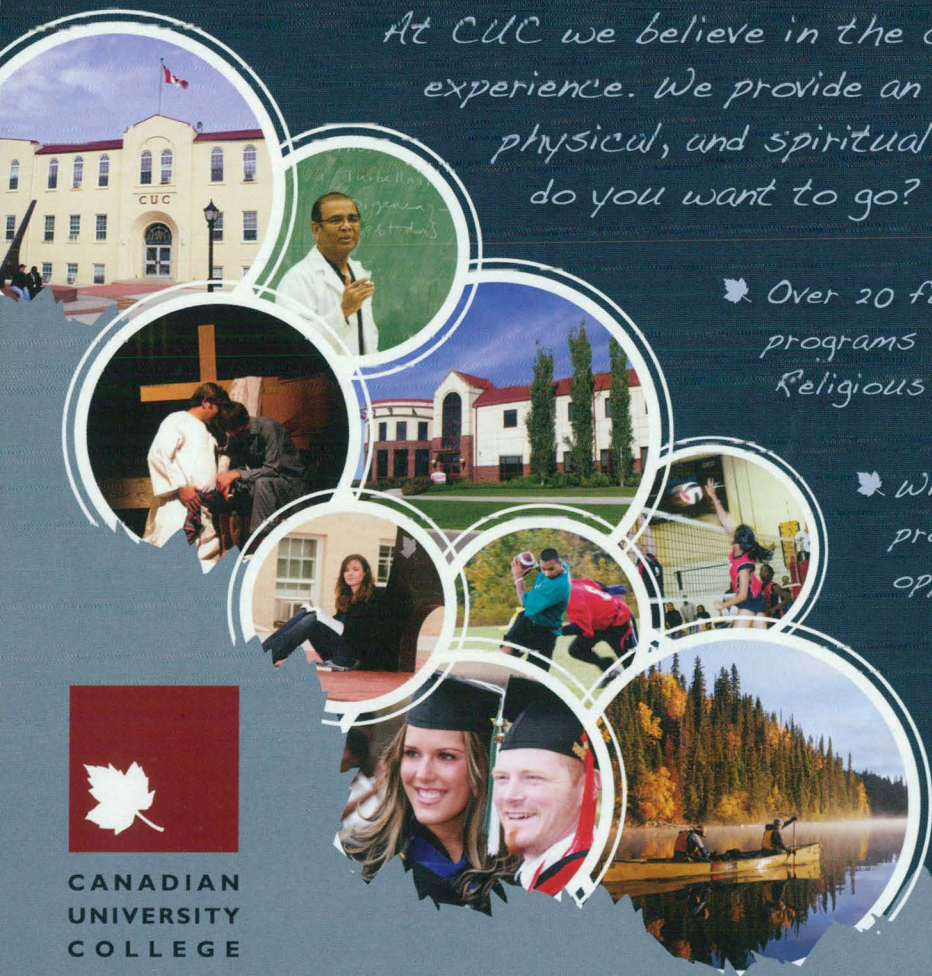


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