

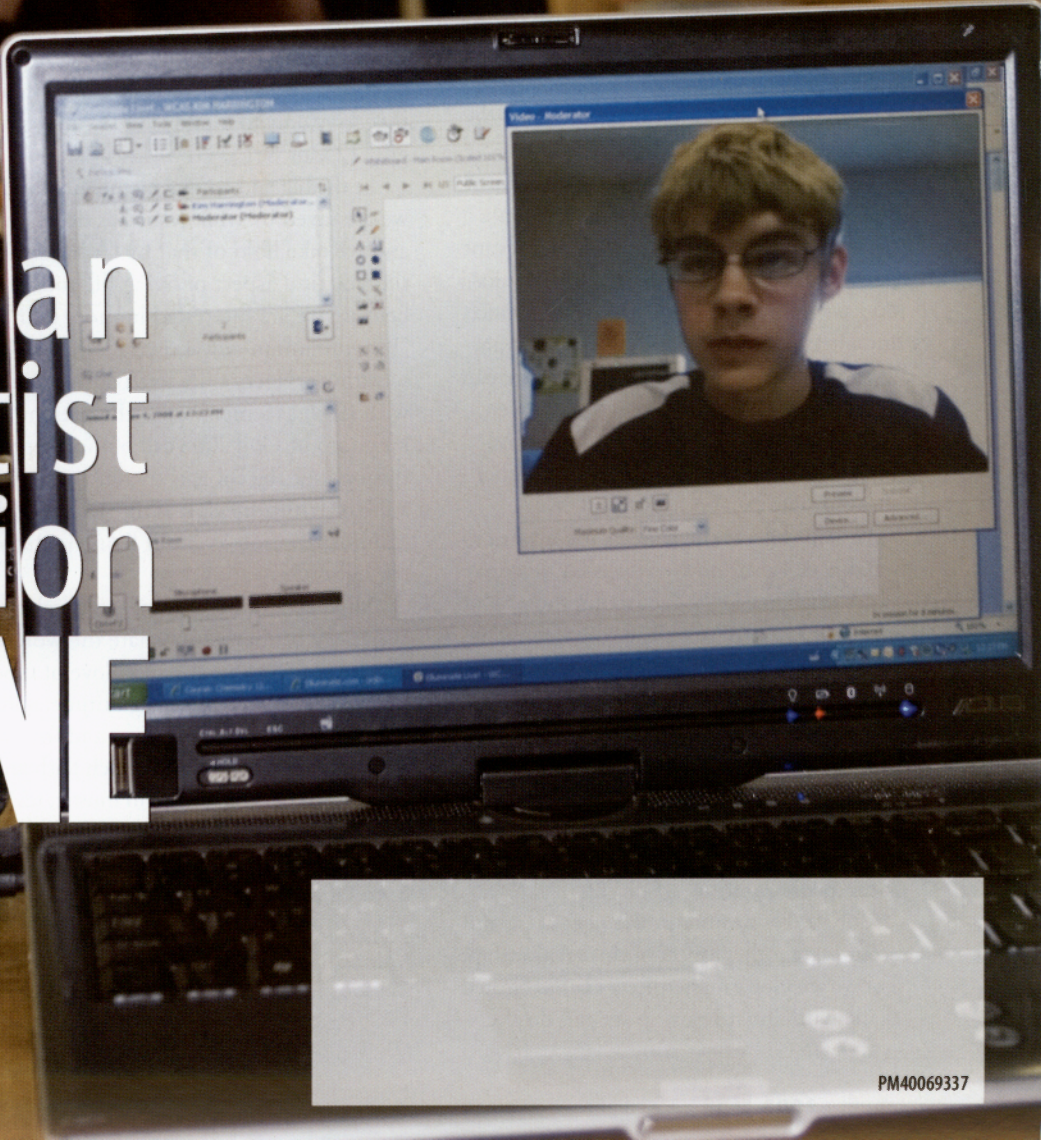
canadian adventist

june 2008

# Messenger



## Canadian Adventist Education **ONLINE**



It's my privilege to introduce Messenger readers to one of my very favourite Church writers, Nathan Brown. I'm so pleased he's agreed to write for us and am sure that you will enjoy his work. *Crystal*

# Shallow End of Salvation

Throughout Adventist history, perhaps no topic has attracted more ink, sweat and tears than that of salvation and how we get it. Undoubtedly, it's an important subject and worth significant attention. But perhaps it has been such a perennially difficult and contested subject because we have approached salvation the wrong way 'round.

Too often salvation, as we often talk about it, seems to be all about getting *me* into heaven one day. It's disappointing to think that even our theological discussions can be self-centred, but that is the result of the consumer mentality society urges upon us. When we are driven by "value for money" and "what's in it for me?" those attitudes can flow into even our most devout reflections and pious debates. In this sense, too often it seems we are looking for salvation at the cheapest price possible.

Dallas Willard describes this reductionist approach to salvation as a "gospel of sin management," in which the most significant aspect of the salvation story is me, my sins forgiven and my happily-ever-after assurance. But when it comes to discussing salvation, we should not be focussing on what we can do as a bare minimum to get into heaven. Amid the heated debates this topic sometimes engenders, it seems we would rather be saved than be good.

Perhaps one of the reasons the salvation-by-faith vs. salvation-by-works battle continues unabated—except among those who have simply given up on the whole squabble—is that the opposing camps are so insistent on their respective positions, while the two concepts are not so distinct in the Bible itself.

Undeniably we are saved only by the grace of God: "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God . . . so none of us can boast about it." (Eph. 2:8, 9).

But Paul continues in the next verse and recognizes another aspect of this relationship: "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the

good things he planned for us long ago" (v. 10). James expands on this facet of salvation: "What's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone. . . . So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless" (James 2:14, 17).

When we struggle—personally or corporately—to establish one or other aspect of living faith as the single key component in building a right, saving and eternal relationship with God, we are yet flailing around in the shallow end of salvation, at best focussed on what we have to do, too often seeking the best "deal" on salvation to suit our obsessive or casual personality, whichever it may be. Perhaps our pre-eminent doctrine should be salvation despite ourselves and our attempts that serve only to muddy God's "incredible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15, NIV).

In the big and eternal picture of salvation, we are saved by what Jesus has done for us and we take hold of that by faith. But in the practical aspect of living life today—because we are interested in more than a "bare minimum" salvation transaction—that salvation triggers a life lived in partnership with God, as a member of the present kingdom of God. The call of God repeated throughout the Bible is to a life of faith and a life of faithfulness. It is not so much about gaining salvation as about living joyfully in the light of salvation.

And beyond the shallow end of salvation? When we begin to appreciate the wonder and mystery of the unfailing love of God, we respond with faith and gratitude, and we seek His goodness in our lives and for those around us. We live with as much faith and as many good "works" as we can muster, realizing these are themselves gifts from God and that neither of them add anything to our salvation or to God's abundant provision. ■

*Nathan Brown is editor of the South Pacific Division's Record and Signs of the Times.*

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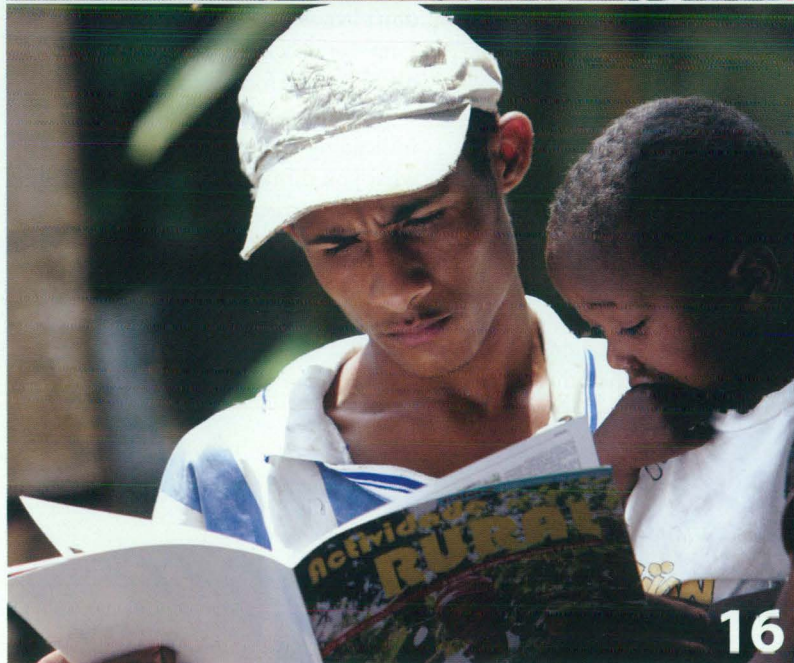
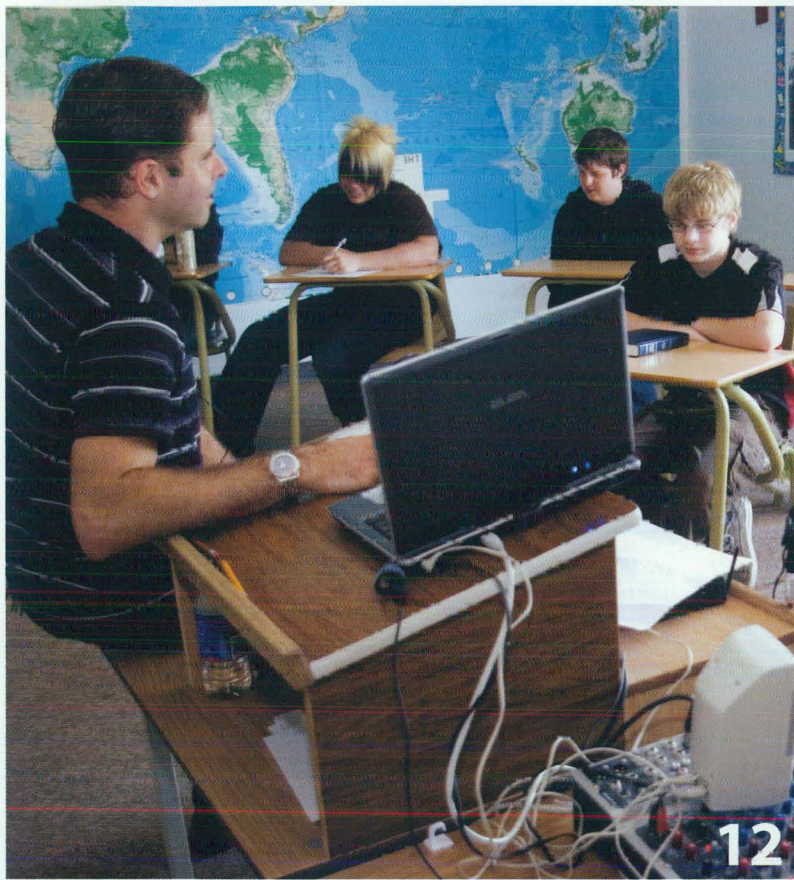
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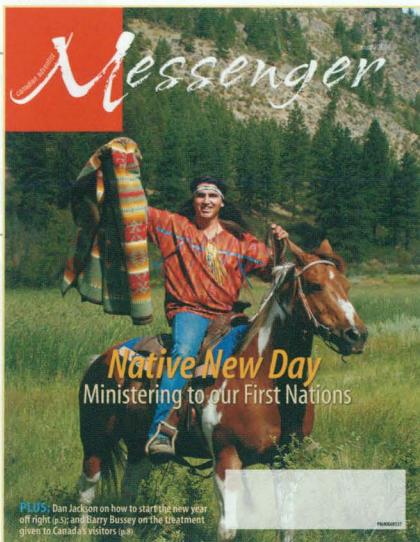
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# Your Words

“ I am not sure if the information in the *Messenger* was misleading or not, but I do know that what you think you know about third world countries has misled you.”

**RE: “God and Graceland,”  
Editorial, January 2008**

The *Messenger* is one great magazine. It represents talent, research, innovation and tremendous work, work, work! Thank you; you are appreciated.

Regarding the Elvis article: some respondents\* need to get a life. What judgement to say that millions of people were corrupted and eternally lost because of a loose-jointed pelvis! Croak! Some Adventists are certainly on the narrow road—one that leads downhill! Yipes!

Thanks again for a great paper.

— Hazel T., Rocky Mountain House, Alta.

**Re: Hat’s off to you you!**

My wife and I just returned after spending six months completing an orphanage in Mexico. When we went through our huge stack of mail, we had lots of *Messengers*. I just wanted to let you know how much we like the updated image. I hardly recognized it! Absolutely wonderful! I just wanted to thank someone for the

fresh burst of creativity. Keep up the good work.

— Sherwin G., via email

**Re: Rebuttal**

In your April edition, someone\* made this comment: “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?” I must reply to that letter:

Have you ever been to a third world country? You seem to have no idea what causes the people to die much earlier there. Often they have unhealthy water to drink, to wash dishes and to bathe in. The air in many third world countries can be seen and tasted, especially as you travel with diesel-puffing vehicles that have never been tuned up. Many people there sleep on cold mud floors don’t have blankets to keep warm. When they catch colds and pneumonia, they can’t take

their provincial medical insurance card and run to the nearest walk-in clinic; they can only get sick and die. They may not use fertilizers and synthetic pesticides, but some fertilize more inexpensively by redirecting city sewer systems. Then we hear that their life expectancy is only 40-50 years and think that their organic food does not increase their longevity!?! Their life is terrible from birth to grave. It doesn’t have anything to do with organic or not organic. **BAD COMPARISON!**

Please sign up for a mission trip and see for yourself, why these people don’t live as long as we do. Understand, I am not necessarily an advocate of organic, therefore I am not sure if the information in the *Messenger* was misleading or not, but I do know that what you think you know about third world countries has misled you. Please go see for yourself how difficult life is for those people. It will break your heart, and you might find less time to quip about *Messenger* articles.

— Beth O., via email

\*Names withheld by editor.

E-mail comments to [cholloway@sdacc.org](mailto: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.



president's perspective

# A Passion for Variety

I visit a different church every week. I don't recommend this practice; it certainly is not the way to build strong and close relationships. In fact, the church could not function in a Biblical manner if all its members were like me, but my practice does give me a little taste of what God experiences as He sees the variety of worship and enjoys the limitless and varied personalities of His children. As a former youth director and now a conference administrator, there is no doubt that a leadership role provides a unique perspective on the idea of "church." I have experienced a kaleidoscope of "church" options.

I've seen the Adventist Maasai of Kenya jump for joy and sing songs of praise with a guttural and resonating "hummmm." I've sat cross-legged on the floor of a jungle longhouse in Borneo and watched the members praise the Lord by exchanging gifts of sticky-rice. As a student missionary in the Middle East, I've watched dedicated women dressed in their traditional chadors fall on the ground to offer humble prayer. I've felt the joy that can only be experienced by being with thousands of Pathfinders praising God in Spanish, the "language of heaven." I've worshipped in quiet reverence in a floating church bobbing on the Amazon River. And now in B.C., I've been in a different church every week. Reaching the hundredth church and company mark a few months ago has caused me to reflect upon something that God seems to enjoy: variety.

God has a passion for variety. The planet He created now has over 1 million known species of insects. I've seen beetles in Malaysia that are large enough to pet, and I have felt critters crawling up my leg that were so small, I couldn't see them while looking them right

in the eye. I've checked off fewer than 100 on my bird list, with 10,000 more species still to view. Heaven will never be boring, because the variety will be limitless. There will always be one more beauty to see, one more concept to understand, one more story to hear, one more worship to experience.

But there is a destroyer of this perfect picture, for there are some who see variety as sin, those who use God, His Word and His prophets to convince everyone else that their way is the only way. I have confidence that eventually they will weed themselves out of God's garden. God does have rules. He doesn't leave his children floundering in the postmodern, humanistic fog without clear direction. Like a good parent He provides 10 clear commands to govern life here and for eternity, but then He created a variety of cultures and personalities that provide limitless ways to reveal love and worship within those guidelines.

A recurring theme throughout Jesus' preaching was, "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Luke 7:37-38).

I can't wait till to spend eternity with a God that provides endless and limitless variety that will bring new experiences every single day . . . every single millennium. ■

by Gordon Pifher

"God has a passion for variety."

*Gordon Pifher is the president of the British Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*





## Road Trip

*I just met this girl, and we get along very well. We have lots of fun together. She suggested we go on a road trip to see her family for a weekend. She's 24, and I am 19. What do you think? Should I go with her? Is it OK if we date?*

First of all, you should consult with your parents about it. Not just about the trip, but about dating her as well. Also, there are a couple of things you need to consider before both engaging in a romantic relationship with her and going on a road trip to see her family.

First, the age difference. Between 19 and 24 there's pretty much a whole college degree. There's lots of experience, knowledge and maturity all parked into those five years. You are not the same person when you finish college. You are independent from your family, have a job and usually getting serious about spending the rest of your life with someone you love. However, freshmen have little or no financial independence, and their job is to study as much as they can! A relationship between a 19 year old guy and a 24 year old woman is likely to fail. Plus, women mature faster than men! So if you add this last fact, there are overwhelmingly more cons than pros to such a relationship.

Second, the road trip. Dude, that'd be the dream of any male teenager! Going along with an older girl on a trip for a whole weekend... Hmm, that sounds very exciting and adventurous! But you'd need to be completely blind to not see the dangers of such an endeavour. I'm not talking about road hazards but moral hazards. Let's be real here, man: it would be quite difficult not to engage in intimate physical activities, if you know what I mean... Why put yourself in a situation that may jeopardize your moral integrity?

So, my friend, I guess I'm trying to show you that there are many red flags in this whole situation. Be wise and consider not going further than a simple friendship. Start thinking of her as a funny older sister or cousin :-).

# TEEN TALK



Youth Pastor, speaker & writer,  
**Josué Sánchez** enjoys sharing Jesus with teens. For questions  
or speaking engagements, contact him at [Josue@JustSmile.org](mailto:Josue@JustSmile.org)

# Creation Corner for Kids



“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” Matthew 25:13

## Northern Flying Squirrel

Sleeping soundly in my bed one night, I was startled awake by a loud CRASH! As I shook the sleep from my brain, I heard noises from the kitchen and decided it must be my husband, Randolph, getting ready to go to work. Then he sat up beside me and whispered, “What was that?”

I snuck out of bed and crept to the phone while Randolph prepared himself to face the burglar just outside our bedroom door. But when he flipped on the light switch, there was nobody there. Nobody except for the light-shocked flying squirrel which sat in the centre of our dining room table, clutching an almond in its tiny fists!



### Think about it.

The flying squirrel (a large-eyed nocturnal squirrel) had come down the chimney flue in the middle of the night to gather nuts from the kitchen. We certainly weren't expecting a visitor in the wee hours of the morning. Like the virgins in the story that Jesus told (read the whole story in Matthew 25:1-13), we were fast asleep. Jesus warns that He also will come when many are least expecting Him. Though all the girls were waiting expectantly for the bridegroom to come, some were ready, but others were not.

### Do it.

Make a paper airplane and see how far it can glide. Measure the distance and compare it to the flying squirrel's maximum glide distance of 100m. Which is the better glider? Your airplane or the flying squirrel?

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and put me to the proof now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open to you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

*(Malachi 3: 10)*

## On Tithing

Each year, the church I attended in Newfoundland would publish the list of those who gave offerings. Every name was listed according to the amount they gave, with the amount given printed beside each name. The highest givers got their names listed first. When the list was handed out at church, I remember vigorously looking through the list to see where Dad's name fell. It was very low. Even at that young age, I had the idea that Dad ought to be giving more to the church so that our name could be higher the next year. I look back on that now and shake my head a wee bit; today such a concept would be treated with scorn.

Although there are many organizations that list their donors according to categories of giving, they first ask whether it is permissible to so publish the name. That seems to be acceptable for organizations like schools and universities, but to have a church list all of its donors for public dissemination? That seems "out there." Why the practice? Was it to shame the congregants into giving more? Or was it simply passing on information to let everyone know where they stood in giving patterns of the church?

When my family joined the Adventist church, we learned of tithing and freewill offerings. The first Sabbath Dad gave his tithe, I was really excited. I cannot remember the exact amount he gave, but I do recall thinking, "Our names are going to be at the top of the list!" Every payday Dad would give tithe, and it was huge amounts of money compared to the other church we had attended, so you can imagine my disappointment when I discovered that the Adventist church does not publish a yearly list of donors and amounts—not even an acknowledgement of thanks for each donor in the church bulletin!

Of course, I now understand the spiritual wisdom of not publishing such a list—and I've developed an appreciation for the concept of "privacy"! Yet my paradigm had been shifted.

Once I accepted that initial change, I gained a sense of belonging to a worldwide religious movement tasked with informing the world of the imminent coming Jesus. I came to realize how important it is to give, to be a part of history in the making. It was fun for me to see my parents be faithful to the Lord in giving.

Giving my tithe and offerings is never a chore; it is a privilege. I am excited when I give more tithe and offerings than the year before. Not only do I get a charge out of knowing that the Lord is blessing me more with each passing year, but I know that the tithe is being used to advance the gospel message which radically changed my view of life and what it means to be a follower of Christ. I would not have had that privilege but for the faithful members of the Adventist Church who paid their tithe to allow the evangelists to tell the old, old story. So I give and I give. It is a lot of fun to realize that, because of my offerings, there will be people who will hear the message of Jesus for the first time or that there will be students attending a Christian school or that people in the third world will be assisted by the work of ADRA.

Even with all of my giving over the years, I have not had one night without food for my family. We came close once. In fact we were about to go to the food bank, but in the end we did not need to. While I was at law school, my wife and I were faced with a serious decision—pay tithe (\$100)—or buy a vacuum cleaner (it had broken that week and, with three young ones, it was a necessity). We did pause to think of maybe delaying paying tithe for a month or so, but we decided to hand in our tithe envelope. That Sabbath, immediately after that church service, our pastor presented us with an envelope he had received on his trip to the conference. He had no idea who it was from, just that he was told that it was for us. There was no name on that envelope inside or out. What was inside, however, you probably can guess: a \$100 bill!

Such experiences are more common than one would think. I am now at the point where I do not worry at all about finances. When a time of financial stress comes, I just say, "OK Lord, how are You going to work it out this time?" I am truly amazed at His leading in this regard. ■

Barry W. Bussey is General Counsel and director of Public Affairs for the Adventist Church in Canada. [bbussey@sdacc.org](mailto:bbussey@sdacc.org)







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# and He will meet your needs

In spite of living a mere 250 kilometres apart on the Canadian prairies as children, Henry Feyerabend and Frank McMiller only met each other as adults in the late 1970s. After meeting, it became evident that they had more than geography in common. In addition to being from the same area, they shared a passion for television ministry. It soon became apparent that God had an important plan for these two lives.

Frank was very interested in the Portuguese telecast. He spent time observing Henry and the whole team working at Studio One. He adopted the dream of turning that studio into something more when it became clear that the Portuguese church studio was no longer adequate to keep up with the high volumes of programming being produced weekly.

Subsequently, Frank took on the challenge. He was a man with a vision, and he was ready to offer his services on a full-time basis, knocking on door after door in an effort to raise funds. Rallies and music tours also contributed to the gathering of resources. As a result, *It Is Written* acquired its very first partners.

Spending time with Frank on the phone, I had the opportunity to hear firsthand the many experiences he had while working with this ministry. The name ARTS (Adventist Radio and Television Services) came from his mind. He also devised logos and campaigns, like the "Happy Hearts Club"—they would send a t-shirt with the ARTS logo as an incentive to everyone who raised more than \$10.

Frank's best memories, besides the hard work, were the miracles that continually occurred. One that stands out for Frank was the time when they owed \$8,000 and they had no money with which to pay

the debt. Desperation gripped Pastor Feyerabend, Tracy Bravo and Frank. All their hopes were placed on the mail due to arrive any minute. When it finally came, Tracy opened the first envelope with a prayer in her heart; in it was a cheque for \$10. The following three cheques were for the very same amount. While they were truly thankful for the donations, they still needed \$ 7,960.

With continuing prayers and faith, Tracy was still going through the mail when a Yugoslavian pastor came in. At that time, this pastor had been using the ARTS studio to record programs for the Yugoslavian community. He owed \$5,000 and Pastor Henry asked him if he could pay that day. Immediately, he wrote a cheque.

Meanwhile, Tracy continued to open the mail. When Tracy opened the last envelope, she found \$3,000. The entire debt could be paid! This generous gift was from Sadie Sinclair, Frank's friend from Loma Linda. He had visited her months before, but he hadn't heard

from her until that unexpected cheque arrived. The Holy Spirit used Sadie to help the television ministry in a time of need.

Throughout the history of this ministry, we have witnessed God performing miracles. We have come a long way, but more prayers and work are needed. Our dream for 2008, the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this ministry, is to have *It Is Written* broadcast across Canada on the CTV national network. In this way, *It Is Written* will reach Canada coast to coast, sharing the love of Jesus in every Canadian home. We need your prayers and support. ■



*Rebeca Pereira is responsible for communications at It Is Written Canada. [www.iiw.ca](http://www.iiw.ca)*

# Outstanding Generosity— *Legendary* R



Thundering applause filled the chapel as Marcus Heisler, second-year Biology major, made his way to the stage. Row by row the audience stood up recognizing his accomplishment. Friends and fellow students shouted out his name and shook his hand as he completed the short walk to the front of the chapel. That was the night Marcus became a legend.

On March 18, 2008, Canadian University College held their annual scholarship Awards Night. The evening is a chance to recognize the hard work that students put into not only academics but all areas of campus life. According to CUC president Dr. Andrea Luxton, this is her "favourite night of the year." Ten years ago, during the 1997-1998 school year, CUC hosted its first celebration program for awarding scholarships. A decade later, the scholarship Awards Night is one of the most anticipated evenings of the year.

# ecipients

It is a chance for faculty, staff and family to acknowledge the effort that students exert year round. For the students, it is a sense of validation at the close of the school year and a great excuse to don their best dresses and suits.

The growth of the scholarship program at CUC has been remarkable. During the first scholarship Awards Night in the 1997-1998 school year, thirty-five scholarship awards were given recognizing forty-one students. The total dollar value awarded that evening was \$42,200. Ten years later, the monies awarded have quadrupled. This year, 75 scholarship awards were awarded recognizing 100 students, and the total dollar value awarded was over \$160,000 dollars. The majority of the scholarships come from the generosity of alumni and friends of CUC. Donor awards have grown to over \$94,000, significantly more than the \$41,000 they started with. As more students graduate and are able to give back, and as more family and friends are touched by lives from the hilltop, the scholarship base continues to grow. Student Finance Director Debbie Chenowith is amazed by the generosity saying simply, "My heart is filled with gratitude. Praise God for the growth in this area!"

A quick scan of the scholarship awards names makes it easy to imagine the history behind each and every one of them—stories of sacrifice and unending generosity. Many of these scholarships were created long before any of the current university college students began their formal education, yet they continue to help students every year. Jennifer Pugh, winner of the Loyl and Mary Hagle President's scholarship was astounded by the award. "I'm still in shock and not sure what to say. I'm incredibly grateful and thankful

for this blessing," she stated.

The Legends Scholarship was also born out of generosity. In 1997, six CUC students decided they wanted to give back and decided to form their own scholarship award. Still in school and supported by students loans, these students, David and Trevor Cadogan, Rob Clark, Sunil Ilapogu, Ian Lund and Brad Oetman, began the Legends Scholarship by donating all they had: \$150. According to Dr. Ian Lund, they saw a need and wanted to start right way. "When we were students, we noticed that there weren't enough scholarships for Biology students. We created the scholarship because we wanted to give back to the school that helped us and where we had made lifelong friends. Our hope is that the person receiving the scholarship will make a difference in their community and to the people around them thereby becoming legends." In 2008, the scholarship has grown to \$10,400—a full year's tuition.

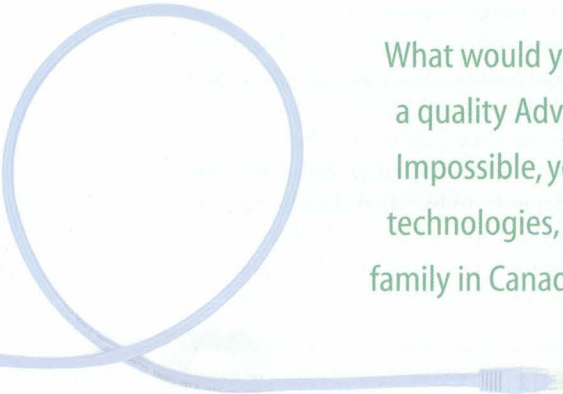
As Marcus Hiesler's name was announced as the recipient of the Legends Scholarship, he became the most recent student out of hundreds before him to benefit from the generosity of alumni and friends of CUC. "I'm completely thrilled that I received this award, and I hope that I live up to its name." ■

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



The Legends Scholarship was presented to Marcus Heisler by Dr. Ian Lund.

# Distance Education—Reaching out to *every*



What would you say if I told you that I could guarantee access to a quality Adventist education for every Adventist child in Canada? Impossible, you say? Maybe by the year 2050? No! Using current technologies, such an education can be a reality for every Adventist family in Canada much sooner than you think ...

# Adventist family in Canada



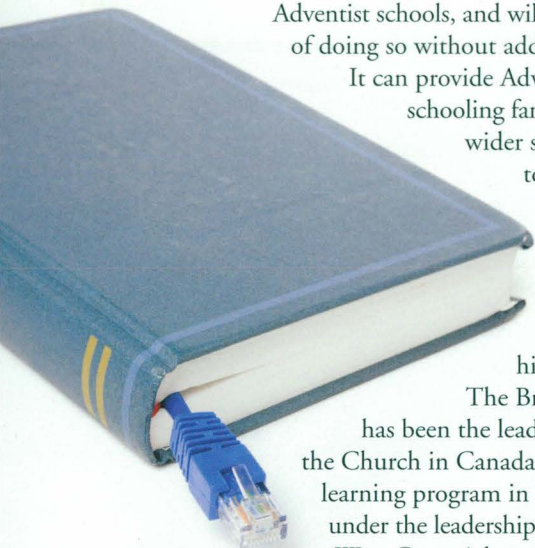
**T**he Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) currently operates a K-12 education system that encompasses more than 40 schools, employs more than 300 teachers and serves more than 3500 students. Although the numbers rank Canada as the smallest union in the North American Division, we are the largest union with respect to geographical area. Though our territory is large and our population widely distributed, we believe strongly that every Adventist family should have access to a quality Adventist education. “*All our youth,*” wrote Mrs. White, “*should be permitted to have the blessings and privileges of an education at our schools . . .*” (CG 332, emphasis mine).

It is estimated that only one quarter of the Adventist children in our churches are enrolled in Adventist schools. That means that 75% of our children are currently attending public schools, other denominational schools, or secular or U.S.-based home schooling programs. How can we reach these students, many of whom live in areas where there are no Adventist

schools? As we seek to make Adventist education accessible to every Adventist home and student, distance education is a method of delivery that the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada cannot afford to ignore.

Distance education is not new; it has actually been around for more than 150 years. In fact, one author suggests that the apostle Paul was one of the first teachers to use distance education, educating the early Christian churches through correspondence. Through the years, the mode of delivering education has evolved from a method based on print technology and relying on surface mail to a flexible learning model which today incorporates multimedia technology and interactive communication. And because of its flexibility and the new technologies available, it carries the potential of bringing Adventist education to every Adventist family.

Distance education will give access to more rural and remote areas where there are currently no



Adventist schools, and will provide a cost effective way of doing so without adding physical infrastructure.

It can provide Adventist resources to home-schooling families. It can also open up a wider selection of course offerings to students already attending smaller Adventist schools and give those schools access to qualified teachers in speciality areas that they cannot afford to hire themselves.

The British Columbia conference has been the leader in distance education in the Church in Canada, establishing a distributed learning program in 2006. Currently operating under the leadership of Principal R. Lee Richards, West Coast Adventist School (WCAS) offers BC-approved course materials, follows the BC conference's Office of Education timeline for standardized tests (CAT3) and participates in governmental testing for Grades 4 and 7. Each student receives three formal reports per year. During the 2007/2008 school year, WCAS offered an accredited K-12 program taught by BC certified teachers across Canada. Using a combination of paper-based and online materials, with live sessions (via the internet) for Grades 9-12, this distance education program provided over 50 students with Adventist courses taught by Adventist teachers using web-based technologies. WCAS currently employs nine fully certified Adventist teachers from Victoria to Halifax. Students are enrolled across the province, both in home settings and in smaller BC schools who use the program to expand their course offerings or provide high school programs that keep children at home longer. Richards has seen the program grow through the past two years, and is enthusiastic about the possibilities for the future, planning an expansion of this service to all interested students and schools from elementary through high school.

In September 2008, the Alberta conference will be offering a K-12 distance education program through Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool established in 2007. Janet Hall, principal, has organized each grade with a web page of its own that students access for learning materials and links to fun learning activities. PACeS offers Alberta-approved course materials, follows the Alberta conference's Office of Education timeline for standardized tests (CAT3) and will take part in the governmental testing for Grades 3, 6 and 9. Communicating with students and parents by email, phone, website and fax, Janet looks forward to building relationships with her students and encouraging them to learn in many exciting ways. The Ministry of Education in Alberta was so pleased with our program that they have expressed an interest in further meetings

with conference personnel to assist them as they establish a provincial distance learning program using the web-based model Janet has established.

Our newest distance learning program in Canada is currently being established in the Maritime conference under the leadership of Karen Landry. Plans are underway to offer a grades 1-8 program beginning in September 2008 with plans to eventually expand, as needed, to a full K-12 program. Using a program similar to the B.C. and Alberta models, students will log into a virtual classroom where they will "meet" with Landry and other students across the Maritimes to participate in real-time lessons. Assignments will be completed independently at home or at a satellite school site under the supervision of an onsite teacher's assistant. The curriculum will meet the objectives of the Maritime provinces and the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Best of all, East Coast Adventist School will be, in Landry's words, "a school where Christ is invited to be the Master Teacher" and "where students can reach toward that high goal of 'God's ideal for His children.'" Plans include group field trips for all enrolled students and a personal visit from the teacher at least once each grading period.

The SDACC Office of Education is committed to facilitating distance education programs across Canada. As part of this support, the SDACC has recently negotiated a license for Elluminate, a widely-used, real-time web collaboration software package designed for distance education. This software creates a virtual classroom which connects online and onsite students and teachers and facilitates real-time discussion and interaction, small group breakout rooms, remote guest speakers, presentation templates and more. Using this technology, distance education teachers can duplicate learning activities from lectures and presentations to small group discussions and debates. Class sessions can be recorded for students who miss a class or need help preparing for exams. Instructors can also offer virtual office hours to enable real-time tutoring and mentoring of students. Because the SDACC has subsidized this license, access to the software is available to conferences for their distance education programs at a fraction of the usual cost.

As we continue to develop distance education across Canada, we invite your response. A survey is included in this issue of the *Messenger*, soliciting information about your needs and the needs of other Adventist families across our union. If you have children who would benefit from learning at home through a quality distance education program that meets the requirements of both the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and your province, please complete our survey and mail it to us using the self-addressed postage-paid envelope you will find

**We need your input . . .**

## SDA Church in Canada Office of Education Distance Learning Survey

If you are interested in Distance Learning for your child, or know of any families who may be interested, please complete this survey to help us plan for the future:

### **Parent/Guardian Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

- I am interested in distance learning for the children listed below for September 2008
- I may be interested in distance learning for my children (listed below) in the future
- I would like to see my local SDA school supplement course offerings with distance learning (feel free to suggest courses in the space below)
- If there are enough interested students in my area, I would be interested in being a satellite site, hosting a group of Distance Learning students
- I have no school aged children, but would like to support distance learning



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Sept 2008: \_\_\_\_\_  
School currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Sept 2008: \_\_\_\_\_  
School currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Sept 2008: \_\_\_\_\_  
School currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Sept 2008: \_\_\_\_\_  
School currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions/Comments:**

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your input will help us shape the future of Distance Learning across Canada. Please use the included self-addressed, postage-paid envelope to mail the survey to the SDACC Office of Education by August 1, 2008. If you would prefer, feel free to fax (905-433-0982) or email (bbayer@sdacc.org) the survey or to complete it online on the SDACC CATnet website: <http://catnet.sdacc.org>.

SDA Church in Canada  
Office of Education  
1148 King St. E.  
Oshawa, Ontario L1H 1H8

Fax: 905-433-0982  
Email: [bbayer@sdacc.org](mailto:bbayer@sdacc.org)



inserted in the *Messenger* this month. We want to hear from you.

The distance learning model of education will never replace face-to-face classroom instruction, nor should it. But further developing this option in Canada will benefit all our stakeholders. Families will have greater access to Seventh-day Adventist education, students and small schools will benefit from a wider selection of course offerings, Adventist schools can strengthen their existing programs and recruit new students for the future, and as a church, we will be able to reach out to more families.

In 1913, Mrs. White wrote: "Nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children and young people. The church should arouse and manifest a deep interest in this work" (CT 165). We live in a world much different from the world of the early 20th century. Today's students are faced with increasing pressures, dangers, and temptations. How much more important is it, then, for us to provide access to Christian education for every student. Through distance learning, today's students, who have grown up immersed in technology, can have access to a quality Adventist education, taught by trained and caring Adventist teachers, using the technology they are accustomed to, and supported by a church that recognizes that its future is its youth. ■

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*Betty Bayer is Associate Director of Education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.*



>> **We want to hear from you!** Do you have children who would benefit from learning at home through a quality distance education?

Complete our survey and mail it to us using the self-addressed and postage paid envelope you will find inserted in the *Messenger* this month. <<

### Want to know more? Contact ...

#### **West Coast Adventist School**

Principal: R. Lee Richards  
Address: 1405 S. Lakeside Drive, Williams Lake, BC V2G 3A7  
Phone: 250/392-4741; 1-877-853-5053  
Email: [dlschool@bcadventist.ca](mailto:dlschool@bcadventist.ca)  
Website: [www.adventistdlbc.org/](http://www.adventistdlbc.org/)

#### **Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool**

Principal: Janet Hall  
Address: 37541 Highway 2, Red Deer County, AB T4E 1B1  
Phone: 403-342-5044  
Email: [jhall@albertasda.org](mailto:jhall@albertasda.org)  
Website: [www.albertasdadl.com](http://www.albertasdadl.com)

#### **East Coast Adventist School**

Principal: Karen Landry  
Address: 121 Salisbury Rd., Moncton, NB E1E 1A6  
Phone: 506-857-8722  
Email: [karenlynnelandry@hotmail.com](mailto:karenlynnelandry@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.eastcoastadventistschool.org](http://www.eastcoastadventistschool.org)

#### **SDA Church in Canada Office of Education**

Associate: Betty Bayer  
Address: 1148 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8  
Phone: 905-433-0011, ext. 2074  
Email: [bbayer@sdacc.org](mailto:bbayer@sdacc.org)  
Website: [www.sdacc.org](http://www.sdacc.org)



# Gone Fishing



Sao Tome farmers



Sao Tome River

**C**onfucius' famous quote, "give a man a fish and he will eat for a day—teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime," is a simple illustration of how the "Development" part of Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) works. In fulfilment of its mission to empower the poor around the world and in Canada with the resources, skills and opportunities to live a better life with dignity and hope, ADRA Canada is currently teaching people to "fish" in 15 countries around the world.

One such country is Sao Tome, the smallest African country with an area of only 1,001 square km. While the island's tropical climate, spectacular volcanic mountain terrain, beautiful beaches and unique species of flora and fauna make Sao Tome very attractive to tourists, those who live in the country struggle with poor quality roads, no electricity and little access to medical help and education. A 50% rate of unemployment means jobs are scarce, and many people live in poverty.

ADRA Canada's Promoting the Exchange of Information, Fruit Tree and Gender Balance program is an example of successful agricultural development that is changing lives and improving communities. Through this program, the people in rural Sao Tome are learning a variety of skills so they can generate income for themselves and their communities.

Along with providing farmers and their families the skills to earn an income, this program also offers management training to women. Participating women study the market and inflation, learn concepts of economy and are taught how to budget.

The goal of a development program is to empower the local people by making resources, opportunities and skills available to them so they can become self-sufficient. Development is not a "quick fix" but requires concentrated effort and commitment over a significant length of time to ensure that the improvement in the lives of the people is sustainable without external help.

Because of faithful supporters, ADRA Canada is able to continue initiating and maintaining successful development programs such as the one in Sao Tome. Thank you for helping ADRA Canada to create opportunities. ■

*Elizabeth Horniachek, ADRA Canada Donor Relations.*



**GEOGAME  
CONTEST**

Enter our GeoGame contest online at [www.adra.ca](http://www.adra.ca) to test your knowledge of ADRA's world. **You might even win something!**

**TEST YOUR  
GEO IQ!**

**What are the three national sports of Mongolia?**

- a) Archery, wrestling, horse racing,
- b) Downhill skiing, horse racing, skateboarding,
- c) Ice-skating, windsurfing, hang gliding, or
- d) Football, ice hockey, wrestling.

**Correct Answer—**a: Archery, wrestling, horse racing. Archers use a bent bow made of layers of horn, bark, and wood; arrows are made from willow branches, and arrowheads from bone. Mongolian wrestling is similar to other (Olympic-style) wrestling except there is no weight limit and no time limit. There are no tracks for horse racing, just open countryside. The young riders sing a traditional anthem called a gingo before the race and scream "Goog" at the horses during the race. The winner is declared "tumny ekh", or "leader of ten thousand."

## North American Division

### \$10 Buys 200 New Churches

It seems impossible, but Maranatha Volunteers International builds churches for \$10! Now donors and recipients are celebrating the 200th miracle \$10 church. These solid sanctuaries are the pride of their communities, and many have served as a refuge in earthquakes or tropical storms. Faithful donors from around the world have been giving small gifts to build churches for 20 years now. In March 2008, the 200th \$10 Church was built and paid for.

The \$10 Church Fund, initiated in 1988, combines small monthly donations to build churches for Adventist congregations in urgent need. People want to be a part of a ministry that makes such tangible difference. The program now has more than 4,000 individuals participating every year. These faithful donors just built the 200<sup>th</sup> church building with monthly donations of \$10 each.

Maranatha President Don Noble says, "People love being part of the \$10 Church Fund. They feel good about making an important difference in the world. I can assure you that these churches truly make an impact for Christ. It is all happening because thousands of people join together to help."

Donors to the \$10 Church Fund are very diverse. Sabbath School groups, elementary schools, college students, business people, children, families and retired folk contribute each month, and delight in the monthly update letter with a picture of the church they built. A donation of \$10 is so manageable that anyone can be a part of this solution. Through the years people have discovered creative ways to raise funds for churches.



A happy congregation in Huaynacancha, Peru in front of the new \$10 church.

Many people have a special place to drop their spare change at the end of the day. God blesses those jars full of pennies, and turns out churches! Others collect aluminum cans and glass bottles for recycling refunds or donate all money found on the ground to a \$10 church. Others are even more industrious, selling soda or popsicles at school or the workplace or holding other small fundraisers. The result is something that 20 years ago, no one could have imagined: today 200

congregations are meeting in a building, instead of a shack, and statistics show that within a few years of receiving a church building, membership increases by 300-400%.

For more information or to join the \$10 Church Fund, visit [www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org) or call 916/920-1900. Maranatha Volunteers International is a non-profit organization that mobilizes volunteers to construct urgently needed buildings all over the world. ■

## Churches Get Online Access to View and Change Sabbath School Orders

Pacific Press® in cooperation with local Adventist Book Centers® has developed a website to provide online access to churches for viewing and making changes to their Sabbath School standing orders.

In the past, churches have complained about the long lead-time needed to make changes to their standing order, says Warren Riter, director of marketing

services at Pacific Press. "With this new system, churches will have an extra month to get in their changes plus they can instantly view what Sabbath School materials they are currently subscribed to," says Riter.

Since April 20, churches have been receiving instructions with their standing order form on how to access their account online. Each church has its own church

ID and password. All churches will be able to view their order and most will be able to make changes online as well.

For more information about the Sabbath School standing order website, contact Warren Riter at [warrit@pacificpress.com](mailto:warrit@pacificpress.com) or contact your local Adventist Book Center toll-free at (800) 765-6955. ■

## North Americans Highest Priority: Relationships

God doesn't top the list of important relationships in North America. Noted researcher and author George Barna, citing a new study, indicated that "family surpassed Heavenly Father as the key personal connection" for North Americans.

Barna specified that 70% of adults mentioned family or family members as their most important relationship; 30% endorsed their entire family as their priority while 22% and 17% gave top importance to their spouse or their

children respectively.

"God, Jesus Christ, Allah and the Trinity were among the names listed by one out of every five adults (19%)" as important, according to Barna's latest research.

*What is your most important relationship?* At Andrews University, our priority is to honour God through our families, not to leave Him out. The graduate certificate in Family Life education prepares Christians to strengthen families through equipping and training methods

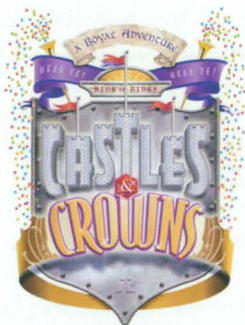
that intentionally draw on discipleship values with God at the core. Family has such rich meaning and purpose when God is at the center.

Make a point to make a difference. Consider joining our summer intensives and gain valuable skills that can be helpful immediately to families including your own. More information can be had at 269/471-6186 or email at [reled@andrews.edu](mailto:reled@andrews.edu). ■

## Castles and Crowns: A Royal Adventure

The Review and Herald Publishing Association®, in partnership with the North American Division, is proud to introduce a uniquely Adventist Vacation Bible School program and child evangelism kit that focusses on the character of God through kings and queens of the Bible.

This five-day program incorporates the many different learning styles to reinforce the message of our true



heritage as children of the King. The kit includes music that is upbeat with

motions that engage the child while maintaining the sanctity of the sanctuary. With manuals for each station of learning, the kit also includes a CD of printable resources that can be printed at the local church or quick-print business.

The kit was released for purchase Monday, February 11, 2008, and is available through the local ABC. ■

## Insight Goes with “theFlow”

*Insight* magazine has opened its own social networking website for youth, “theFlow: where people talk about the Water of Life.” Visitors can create their own profiles, upload videos, start discussions, and join groups. The benefits are the same as joining MySpace or Facebook, but with a cleaner, Christ-centered atmosphere.

“Our goal is to connect with youth on their level and interact with them in a way they are familiar with” says Nick Bejarano, administrator of theFlow. “Secondly, we want to create a place where youth of all faiths can come and learn about our unique Seventh-day Adventist message and what it has to offer them in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our website receives a lot of traffic from non-Adventists, so this site is open to anyone looking for answers—not just SDA youth. And thirdly, we’re hoping to create relationships, not just network. Relationship is the key to discipleship.”

To join theFlow visit [www.insightmagazine.ning.com/](http://www.insightmagazine.ning.com/) ■

## Manitoba - Saskatchewan

### Big News from Biggar

After two years of hard work and dedication from Don and Marlene Sinclair, Biggar, Saskatchewan now has an established Seventh-day Adventist presence. A community centre and a small chapel now operates on Main Street right beside the post office.

The Sinclairs have been working to build a rapport with the people of this small town, and have lately been joined in their efforts by Doug and Fran Gorbenko, Marge and Mike Fortney, Hazel Weber, Marilyn and Dale Sparks, and Jason and Erika Weber with their two children, Raine and Wynter. What a blessing when God assembles a team to work together for mission!

As the group prayed and worked, a building with two separate usable spaces was rented and transformed from merely acceptable to truly delightful. A grand opening of the facility was held on Saturday, March 8 with the town mayor and the MLA present for the ribbon cutting. The community was invited to a come-and-go tea in the afternoon, and more than



Pastor Steve Little (centre) is flanked by Mayor Ray Sadler (right) and MP Randy Weekes (left) at ribbon cutting ceremony.

20 community members joined the celebration. Now the centre is open on Wednesday afternoon with a potluck supper and prayer meeting that evening and on Monday evenings for a gospel jam session. There are plans for a vegetarian dinner club, a stop smoking seminar, and a children’s after-school program. ■

# British Columbia

## OKAA Time Capsule Under Bennett Bridge

Okanagan Adventist Academy's grade nine Socials class had an opportunity to represent their school in an historical way recently as the British Columbia government and the city of Kelowna invited local schools bury a time capsule under the nearly-complete 5 lane floating bridge linking Westbank and Kelowna. Each school was asked to paint, label and fill their capsule in a way that would represent the school and the students.

"Because the Socials 9 class was learning about time capsules and community history, this project had perfect timing," said the teacher. In 2035, when someone from OKAA returns to open the capsule, they will find student pictures, pop culture symbols, items that the class thought would be obsolete by that date like plastic shopping bags, pop cans and disposable cameras. That person will also find a letter the students wrote detailing 27 goals they set for themselves for the next 27 years and giving their favourite Bible verses and OKAA memorabilia.

Two students from the class were on hand to present the school's time capsule at the highly publicized event. Kevin McCarty and Juliya Bilous went with teacher Kevin Littlechilds to Kelowna's City Park and made the presentation to BC's Minister of Transportation Kevin Falcon and Kelowna Mayor Sharon Shepherd. MP Ron Cannan was also in attendance and later welcomed the OKAA students.

"Keeping our SDA school students involved in relevant community events sends an invaluable message," says Littlechilds. "It says that Adventist schools are involved, included and important to the greater circle of education. I want SDA students to feel that being involved in all levels of community can bring opportunities for witnessing while opening a door of understanding in society." ■



OKAA Students Kevin McCarty and Juliya Bilous with Kelowna-Lake Country MP Ron Cannan (centre).

## announcements

### Legal Notice

#### Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador

Notice is hereby given that the 11th constituency meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador will convene at Camp Woody Acres, Southwest Pond, Nfld. on Sunday, the July 27, 2008 at 9 a.m. NDST. This meeting concerns the new model bylaws. (06/08)

## CANADIAN ADVENTIST YOUTH SUMMIT

TO DO AS JESUS DID

SEPTEMBER 18 - 20 2008




**Who should come:**

- Youth ages 15 - 29
- College aged young adults
- Sponsors from across Canada and beyond

**What to Expect:** Daily workshops, family groups and nightly worship.

**Keynote Speakers:**


- Pastor Eddy Hypolite (London, England)
- Pastor Manny Cruz (NAD Assoc. Youth Dir.)



Registration: Visit [www.AdventistYouth.ca](http://www.AdventistYouth.ca) before August 15, 2008.

## CAMP PUGWASH, NOVA SCOTIA

For more information: [youthmin@adventistontario.org](mailto:youthmin@adventistontario.org)



Think it - Believe it - Do it

**■ Announcements**

**Kingsway College is inviting all former Aerials** for the 25th Year Reunion. Mark your calendars because May 8-10, 2009 will be the most memorable weekend ever. Contact Gary Dooks at [dooksg@kingswaycollege.on.ca](mailto:dooksg@kingswaycollege.on.ca) for more information. Check out our Facebook group "Kingsway College Aerials 25th Year Reunion" for the latest info. (4/09)

**Missing Members**—The Brampton church is currently looking for the following members: Stephanie Addison, Barry Alexander, Brad Alexander, Helen Alexis, Abigail Alexis, Lorna Barnett, Greg Bennett, Simone Biggs, Lincoln Boodram, Althea Brown, Kelly Bryan, Roslyn Campbell, Warren Campbell, Ephraim Clouden, Clifford Corbyn, Loyetta Corbyn, Othneil Cropper, Nicolas Fafma, Beverley Fennell, Jennifer Gilling, David Kelly, Carol Lambert, Dennis Langley, Erica Miller, Ruddy Miller, Tania Miller, Terina Miller, Nickiesha Perry, David Plummer, Jean Plummer, Shaunette Rose, Charles Russell Sr., Eugenia Salazer, Omar Shirley, Ezekiel Stewart, Beverley Thomas, Felecia Thompson, Ivor Toney, Andria Watson, Grace Wedderburn, Cynthia Williams and Sean McIntosh. If you have contact information please phone Ann Graham at 905/495-8255 or 905/455-3496 or email [bramptonclerk@adventistontario.org](mailto:bramptonclerk@adventistontario.org)

**You are invited to join the Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church** for their Mortgage Burning Celebration: Ordinary People, An Extraordinary Celebration. Please join us on the following Sabbaths leading up to the grand celebration week: May 31, 2008 with Pastor L. David Rogers; June 28, 2008 with Pastor Omar Palmer; July 19, 2008 with Pastor Andrew King. Grand celebration week is August 2-10, 2008: Pastor Fitzroy Maitland, Aug. 2, 2008; Pastors Steve Cassimy and Derrick Nichols, Aug. 9, 2008, and Aug. 6 and 8 weeknight services; Aug. 10, Fun Day. Ordinary people, an extraordinary celebration.

**■ New Members**

**Earlean Grant, Lillth Mullins, Kala Burt, Courage Nsengawyc, Gayle Roberts and Arnold Tshuma** were baptized in LaSalle, Que. on Feb. 2, 2008 by Oneil Madden. They are now members of the La Salle New Life church.

**Okusun Cho** was baptized in Winnipeg,

Man. on Feb. 9, 2008 by Dae Suk Seo. She is now a member of Winnipeg Korean church.

**Sunae Yoon** was baptized in Winnipeg, Man. on Mar. 8, 2008 by Dae Suk Seo. She is now a member of Winnipeg Korean church.

**John Barry Brown** was baptized in Regina, Sask. on Mar. 5, 2008 by Darren Godsoe. He is now a member of the Spirit of Truth Community church.

**Al Stobbe** joined the church by profession of faith on Dec. 22, 2007. His original interest in the church was a result of viewing the *It Is Written* television program. He is now a member in Campbell River, B.C.

**■ Births**

**Airlyn Raemy Browne** was born Apr. 8, 2008 to Jana-Leigh (Crabbe) Browne of Grande Prairie, Alta.

**Landen William Letniak** was born Mar. 13, 2008 to Angela (Sparks) and Kevin Letniak of Consort, Alta.

**Briana Maryn Weich** was born Apr. 6, 2008 to Kimberly (Beardsley) and Steven Weich of Grande Prairie, Alta.

**■ Weddings**

**Ashley Lerena Richards and Joshua Paul Thomas** were married Aug. 13, 2007 on the L'aboteau Beach near Shediac, N.B., and are making their home in Lacombe, Alta. Ashley is the daughter of Lee and Cheryl Richards of Williams Lake, B.C. and Joshua is the son of Dianne and Paul Thomas of Moncton, N.B.

**Jenna Tabolong and Sean Meagher** were married Nov. 16, 2007 in the Philippines and are planning to make their home in Canada.

**■ Anniversaries**

**Margaret and John Boardman** of Kelowna, B.C. celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Feb. 2, 2008. They worked in Zimbabwe, Africa



and for many conferences in Canada including Ontario, Maritime and Manitoba-Saskatchewan conferences. John was a literature evangelist, publishing secretary and a pastor. The Boardmans have three children: Cheryl of Bellevue, Wash., Russell (Marcy) of Saskatoon, Sask. and Karen (Jud) Wickwire of Guyana, S. America. They have three grandchildren.

**Mary (Tataryn) and Edward Gallant** of Kelowna, B.C. celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Feb. 23, 2008. Edward served as the



Executive Director of West Park Manor Care Home in Winnipeg, Man. for 26 years. Edward and Mary have two daughters, Winsome and Janet. They have five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

**■ Obituaries**

*Note: While we are honoured to remember your family and friends in print, we must insist that obituaries be submitted to us on our obituary form. The traditional form is available at your local church or conference office and may be submitted by mail or fax. The online form is available at [www.sdacc.org/messenger](http://www.sdacc.org/messenger) and is submitted electronically.*

**Eva Dolores (Abbot) Easterbrook** was born on May 28, 1931 in Toronto, Ont. and died Apr. 21, 2008 in Willowdale, Ont. Eva and her husband, Bill, worked in education in India, Pakistan and Ontario. She also worked as a secretary for Branson Hospital, the Ontario Conference and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. She is predeceased by her husband William. Surviving: son William (Carolyn) of Roseville, Cal.; daughter Jo-Anne of Thornhill, Ont.; brothers Robert of Pickering, Ont. and Paul of King City, Ont.; sister L. Joan Brown of Newmarket, Ont.; three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**Fred Grabo** was born Jan. 30, 1911 in Calgary, Alta. and died Apr. 10, 2008 in Strathmore, Alta. He is predeceased by his brother Alfred

and sister Bertha Palmer. Surviving: wife Bertha (Will) Grabo; sons Barry (Gail), Rodney (Pat) and Cameron (Colleen); brother Albert (Margeurite); five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

**Agnes (Schleppe) Litke** was born Dec. 20, 1922 in Beiseker, Alta. and died Mar. 11, 2008 in Calgary, Alta. Agnes served as hostess/greeter and assistant Sabbath school secretary for many years in the Airdrie church. She is predeceased by her husband Elmer, sons Larry, Harold and Wade, brothers Jack, Lenard and Julius, and sister Eva. Surviving: sons Lorne (Susan), Howard, Perry (Juliette); daughter Marilyn (Lou) Riley; brothers Frank and Anthony; sisters Mary, Florence, Elnora, Edith, Shirley and Donna; 18 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

**Kenneth Driscoll** was born Nov. 21, 1949 in Gladstone, Man. and died Dec. 6, 2007 in Kelowna, B.C. He is predeceased by his parents, Frances and Joseph, and his sister Patricia (Wilf) Davis. Surviving: wife, Faye; stepson Keith Lawton; stepdaughters Shelley (James) Sippial and Michelle Lawton; brothers Fred (Madeline) and Donald (Dale); sisters Marjorie (Herman) Graf and Jean (Leo) Bulach; and six grandchildren.

**John Hubert Wells** was born Aug. 18, 1923 in Montreal, Que. and died Feb. 15, 2008 in Hendersonville, N.C. John was a literature evangelist for 14 years working across Canada from Newfoundland to the North West Territories. He was also church pianist in many churches in Canada and the U.S. Surviving: wife Madelene; son Alberta of Oshawa, Ont.; daughter Marvel (Allen) Strutt of Merritt, B.C.; stepson Albert (Ann) Wallstrom of Milton, Mass.; stepdaughter Shirley Wallstrom of Hendersonville, N.C.; and three grandchildren.

**■ Advertisements**

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 September issue: **July 2**  
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**The Tantallon Seventh-day Adventist Church**, 12494 Peggy's Cove Road, Tantallon, NS B3Z 2M7, is pleased to announce the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding with special services to be held on Friday evening, Aug. 8 and Sabbath, Aug. 9, 2008. The Tantallon Church is the second oldest continuing Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Canada. Former conference president Lawton Lowe will be the guest speaker. Everyone is welcome to join us in celebrating this milestone in our Church history. For more information, call David at 902/826-0099. (8/08)

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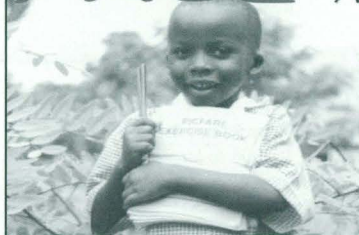
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**More exciting news from the Messenger!**

Yet another new feature has been added to the *Messenger* website. An electronically submitted Subscription Change Form now allows you to submit new subscriptions, changes of address, and cancellations. Simply go to [www.sdacc.org/departments/messenger/address.php](http://www.sdacc.org/departments/messenger/address.php).

Just another way the *Messenger* is working to serve the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

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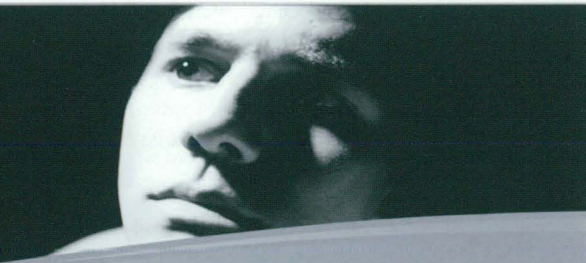
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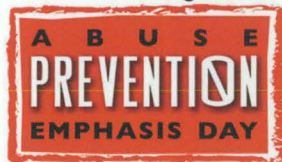
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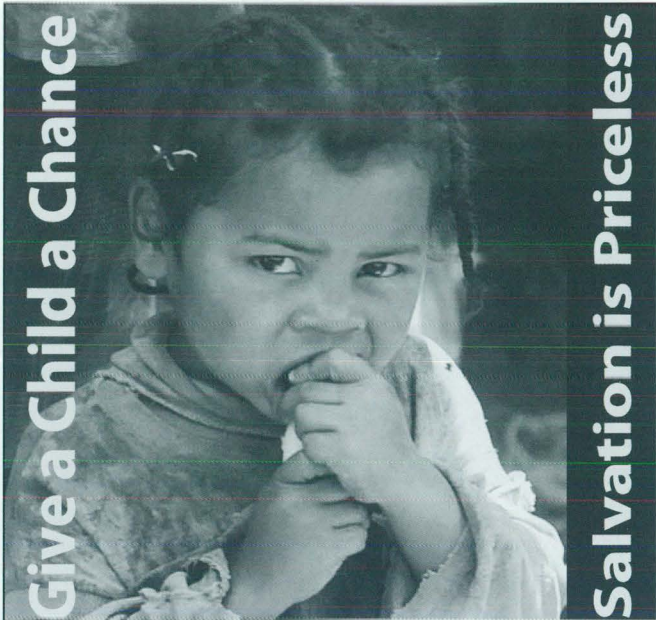
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# Sometimes I Don't Feel Like Praying

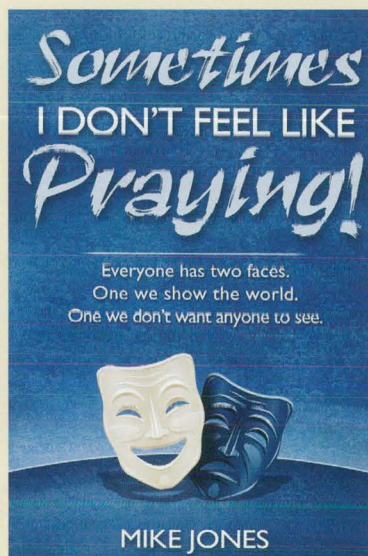
*"...accessing and utilizing God's grace."*

**"This is a book primarily about grace.** In it you will also find out how God's grace can enable you with spiritual power to exchange your old life for a new one. As you read this book you will find tools to handle the worst that life can throw at you. How? By becoming a new you. Don't wait, start now."

With that type of back-cover hook designed to lure me in, I opened this book with some trepidation. I don't look upon self-help books too fondly, and this one seemed to have the familiar "operators are standing by" pitch which I find comparable to telemarketers interrupting my suppertime. Upon completion of the book, I found that it was partially true. There were areas that I found cliché, I also discovered some positive areas that surprised me.

The content in *Sometimes I Don't Feel Like Praying!* primarily focuses on counseling the reader on grace and how, through God's grace, we can accomplish anything. Various areas that author Mike Jones approaches include: "The Exchanged Life," "You Can Defeat Depression," "When Everything Goes Wrong" and sundry other topical chapters. Strictly on content, I felt the book was stretched a little thin on some issues and some of the advice given was rather glib. I found the chapter on overcoming panic attacks somewhat redundant considering the earlier chapter dealt with grace in crises. More real life examples would have added to the book's impact. When Jones did add personal or biblical examples to augment his advice, I found myself more engaged and intrigued; his advice about not going backward after God gives you a victory in "How to Survive a Crisis" is wonderfully enriched with the story of Elijah and Ahab/Jezebel. I would have preferred more elaboration in fewer chapters, ultimately making this book a more poignant resource for accessing and utilizing God's grace.

That said, Jones knows his Bible. As English teachers such as I tend to point out repeatedly, if



one is going to promote a point, there needs to be supporting evidence. Jones shines in this facet. He provides more than ample biblical promises and texts, adding credence to his message. His referencing in this book is thorough and serves to enlighten the reader. Frequent footnotes add to the experience by providing further insight into textual ideas without breaking up the narrative flow.

This book does have good qualities. The writing style is informal, first person and comparable to a friend discussing issues at a sidewalk café. I was

easily absorbed into its opening pages where Jones' personal testimony kick-starts the reader's journey. His reflections about his youth, his religious experience, his falling away from the church during his divorce and his exchanged life all personalize this book and promote its readability. In fact, these personal revelations are the strongest part of the book.

In small units, Mike Jones' work is commendable and offers good advice on God's saving grace and how people need more reliance on the divine. On the other hand, reading it as one would a story-based novel reveals repetition in the advice which can easily be summed up as pray more, think positively, and trust in God's power. The book is designed for those seeking clarification of what grace is, and any reader, from adolescent to adult, would find it helpful when facing a specific challenge or desiring a new direction in life.

As with the beginning of the book, Jones finished his book with a relevant experience about traffic tickets and mercy. It's about who one knows rather than what one knows that counts, and that sentiment summarizes the book well—even though one sometimes doesn't feel like praying to God, it's imperative to do so to ensure total understanding and acceptance of grace. ■

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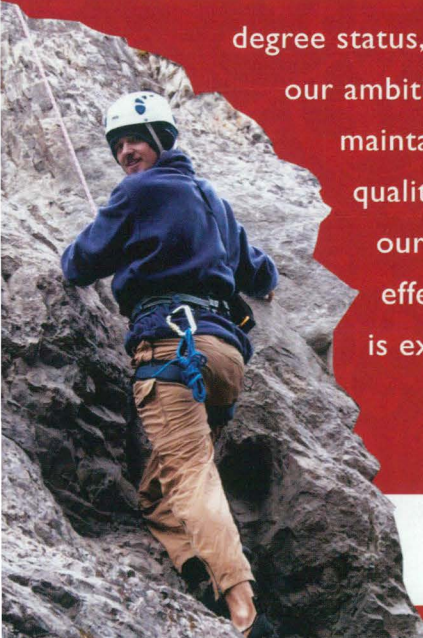


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