

canadian adventist

# Messenger

july 2008



Auditing allows members to

## CONTRIBUTE WITH CONFIDENCE

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**PLUS:** Andrea Luxton is  
"Running on Empty" (p.6);  
Scott MacDonald reviews  
the CD *Albertine* (p.31)

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# To Love Me is To Know Me

There are some verses in the Bible that, although they are located in something pathetically dubbed ‘the love chapter’ and recited in a sugary-sweet kind of way at too many weddings, represent my favourite concept in literature anywhere: “For now, we see through a glass, darkly; but then [in heaven] we shall see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known” (1Cor. 13:12,13).

I’ve theorized that the underlying premise of these verses is an unappreciated truism about human nature: we all want to be known. This may be a weird assertion considering that we so carefully construct walls between us and masks to hide us (or maybe that’s why it’s not weird), but I stand by it. We want someone to care enough about us to truly know us. To study us and know us without judgment, without an agenda. We want to be known.

Not convinced? I have space to offer up only one piece of evidence; consider the ‘social networking’ phenomenon—Facebook, blogs and the like. What is the motivating factor behind all those profile pages? A need to be known, I expect. It seems to be this generation’s method of revealing themselves, of daring someone to look closely enough to know. It’s as though we are saying that somewhere at the intersection of what movies I like and what my mood I’m in right now and who my friends are, hidden in the mass of seemingly unimportant information about me, that’s who I really am.

And why do we so badly want to be known? Perhaps because we sense that we cannot truly be accepted or loved

until we are known. These days, love is cheap. We “love” burritos and this new song and sunsets and our family all in the same breath. But that isn’t the connection we desire.

It isn’t the connection the God desires, either. As badly as we want to be known, His desire for it is multiplied across infinity. As scary as it is to put ourselves out there, to be honest and vulnerable, it is absolutely necessary if we are to follow His example. If we would be like God, we would be open and knowable. The human race’s greatest blessings—nature, Scripture, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit—all exist as His method of revealing Himself to us, of daring us to look closely at Him, because only in that close scrutiny can our love and acceptance be substantive.

No matter how often we update our status on Facebook, no matter how willing we are to share life’s secrets with friends and strangers alike, the best connection that we can hope for this side of heaven is one in which we know each other and God “in part.” We are now only able to see “through a glass, darkly” and even that requires tremendous effort at times. But the time is coming when we will experience a connection with each other and with our God that transcends the most intimate relationship that we have now. The time is coming when we can “know fully, even as we are fully known.” ■

*Crystal*

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# Your Words

“Caring and concern for conversion go hand in hand, at least Jesus’ version of Christianity.”

## RE: “You May Be Right,” May 2008

In the first paragraph you state that Christ was “The child of an unwed mother...” Please read Mathew 1:18-24 and tell me what you think.

—Ed Z., via email

*[Editor’s response: Oops! Yep, you caught my mistake. I should have indicated that Christ was conceived, not born, out of wedlock. Thank you for giving me a chance to clarify.]*

After having read your article, “You May Be Right,” I felt the need to make a response.

Your concept of “wobble room” is left vague and undeveloped, and therefore is misleading. The church of Jesus’ day had no “wobble room” as you put it, but Jesus knew nothing of “wobble room” either. He did know what was right and what was wrong, what was true and what was not, what had God’s authority and what had only human authority behind it. And, just as importantly, He knew how to tell the difference!

Then you proceed to declare that, if honest, we will acknowledge “a vast grey area through which every church and every person must find their own way.” Jesus did not acknowledge the existence of this large, grey expanse in moral, spiritual issues. It is a creation of our own, and many of us—if we are honest—need to admit that we prefer to have grey areas and to keep them. They let us feel like we can dodge certain

things about God’s will we don’t like, and have certain things of the world that He commands against.

Then you attack the stability of the Truth. You despise it by characterizing it as a “concrete mass from which the anointed can chisel off bits to hand over to the congregation on Sabbath mornings.” Do you understand the nature of Truth? What has given you this spirit of bitterness and rebellion? Jesus identified Himself as being The Truth! Are you and your friends—generations X, Y, and Z—more “highly educated” than God Himself? Are you admitting that Jesus—who is The Truth—is no longer good enough, and that your education has taught you this attitude? When has the Church asked you to “blindly accept and question nothing”?

Yes, you are questioning the validity of the pillars of our faith. By attacking the basis upon which they stand, you are attacking them, most assuredly.

Caring and concern for conversion go hand in hand, at least in Jesus’ version of Christianity. People’s need for conversion is absolute, or they will never see the Kingdom of God. Jesus said that Himself to Nicodemus. If you and I care like Jesus for people, we will be very concerned with cooperating with the Holy Spirit in

the process of their conversion. Please do not belittle the science of salvation which God Himself has established in His mercy and grace, for that is the taste left behind by the tone of your words.

—Ken L., via email

I have no problem with the first two paragraphs of your editorial. In fact, I thought they are a piece of thoughtful writing. But the paragraph beginning, “Recently, I listened . . .” is something else.

To say, “you may be right” may seem an ingenious way of pleasing or placating someone who doesn’t see eye to eye with us on our doctrines, but, in fact, it is not only insincere but downright hypocritical.

Furthermore, the person to whom we say, “you may be right,” might just turn around and say, “then you may be wrong.” How then would we respond to that?

Instead of saying, “you may be right,” far better it is for us to say, “you are entitled to your view.” And we won’t ruffle any feathers at all, if we say those six words.

Sad will be the day when the church indeed gets comfortable with saying those four words, “you may be right.”

—Andrew C., via email

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.

# From *Destiny*

BY REBECA PEREIRA

January 14, 1992 was a momentous date for It Is Written Canada. Prior to that, the programs that were aired in Canada were called *Destiny*. Canadian residents were acquainted with the program, and families from several parts of Canada would turn on their televisions and watch the wonders of God and His love for His children. In 1992, *Destiny* and *It Is Written* became one.

It all started when Pastor Glenn Aufderhar, president of the Michigan conference at the time, called Pastor Henry Feyerabend: "Elder Vandeman has decided to retire," he said, "and Mark Finley will take his place as *It Is Written* speaker. We would like you to be the speaker for Canada." Henry was delighted, and he accepted promptly.

*It Is Written's* first telecast was officially aired on Sunday, February 16, 1992. Young Mark Finley came to Toronto to tape the new programs with Henry. They were hoping to tape at least 26 new programs. The production crew worked so efficiently that a total of 41 programs were taped, including 10 in Portuguese. The content of the program varied from health issues to science and the Bible, offering a rich variety of information.

Sixteen years ago, the It Is Written Canada team was excited about the evangelistic potential of this new merger. Pastor Henry was getting ready to conduct as many evangelistic meetings as possible. He had his heart set to winning of souls for Jesus. Local churches were being encouraged to use the telecast as a witnessing tool for their community.

That same enthusiasm is still vivid today. Bill Santos has taped many programs since he has accepted the position of speaker/director. Last month, he spent two weeks at the CTS studios in Burlington taping the new season. We truly hope that you enjoy the new programs and inform your neighbors and friends about them. The evangelistic series—10 of which have been conducted since 2004—are also of a high quality. Other series have been scheduled for the following years; the next one is in North Bay, Ontario, this fall.

This ministry survives through the support of partners and viewers, through whom God has blessed in a very special way, providing what is needed, when it is needed. This year we celebrate 35 years of existence. The biggest dream for this celebration is to have *It Is Written* on the CTV network, reaching our country from coast to coast. Your prayers and support are very important. When by faith, the church members take hold of the urgent work of evangelism, they are working to the most important event of their lives, the return of Jesus Christ. ■

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



# Running on

# EMPTY

BY ANDREA LUXTON

It was December 2007, and I was taking a visiting friend for a trip up to Jasper in the Rockies. The day was perfect and everything was carefully planned. We left Lacombe, Alberta with a full tank of gas, and I knew I could get to Saskatchewan River Crossing where there was a gas station; then it would be an easy ride from there to Jasper on a full tank of gas. But some of you Albertans are already shaking your heads. You know what I didn't know in December 2007. When winter hits, Saskatchewan River Crossing takes a break from providing gas. Bad news if you arrive there on empty with the next nearest gas station 70 kilometers away. That was me. What to do next? In the past I have run for a few kilometers with the red fuel light on, reasonably confident that I'll just make it, but 70 kilometers?

I want to digress for a moment. It is interesting how tempting it is to just wait a few more kilometers. Have you ever rented a car and paid for gas in advance? You don't want to waste one cent more than necessary, so you push the car to the limits, even coast down a few hills, to get the car back to the car hire facility with nothing left in the tank. Running on empty—it's a dangerous game to play.

Yet it is not just gas tanks that can be empty.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible focuses on Elijah. Elijah has experienced success after success up to this point. He has performed miracles; he has raised a young man from the dead; he has forecasted a drought and it has happened; and, as an unquestionable sign of his closeness to God and his authority as a prophet, he calls down fire from heaven to burn up his water-drenched offering and then destroys the prophets of Baal. He is a man at the pinnacle of spiritual success. And yet the next we hear of him, he is running into the desert, desperate and suicidal. Why? Because he hears a rumor that Jezebel wants him dead.

Doesn't Elijah remember all that God has done for him? Does he really think that God is going to let him down now? How can he be so successful and then suddenly lose his direction? Perhaps he has just been burning up spiritual fuel so quickly that he suddenly finds himself running on empty. He simply needs a refill!

Until I was running on empty on a deserted road 70

kilometers from the nearest gas station with no cell phone signal, I had not really been that concerned about running on empty in a car. The worst I had imagined was a bit of inconvenience, but this was more serious. And it is easy to underestimate the seriousness of running spiritually on empty. It may happen before we even realize it because we have been so busy running on God's business. It may happen just because we let "life" push out our time with God. Maybe sometimes we don't even see the red light flashing before it is too late. That certainly seemed to be Elijah's experience as he spiritually crashes.

I love the way God treats Elijah. He doesn't ask him to contemplate deep spiritual issues. When he is on empty he needs to be filled. God starts by feeding him physically and then letting him sleep. Then he feeds him again and once more lets him sleep. Only after his strength returns and he is ready does God come and speak to him and as we know, when he does so it is with a still small voice, a whisper, a call to his soul. Soon Elijah is on the road again.

I was fortunate at Saskatchewan River Crossing. I saw a building with a light on just one kilometer off the road. I was hoping to make a phone call, get a little help. Out came a lady with a big smile. "Come with me!" Back we went through the snow to a tank—a tank of gas! She explained that she and her husband kept it full all winter, just to help travelers like me who had found themselves "running on empty." Twenty minutes later, with half a tank of gas and much wiser we were once more on the road.

As Adventists we are doers. We witness, we work hard, we help others. As a result we are susceptible to trying to run on empty. As Christians in 2008 we live a life that is fast-moving and demanding. I know God will come and find us if we do end up empty, under the broom tree and unable to go anywhere further. However, I know too that he would rather we keep our tanks full by filling up on his goodness and love daily. One close shave was enough for me. What about you? ■

Andrea Luxton is president  
of Canadian University College.



# DRIVE-THRU

# OPEN

## Faithfulness Supersized

*I got a job at a fast food restaurant. They even let me take the Sabbath off... well, kind of. At the time of the interview, sunset on Saturdays was at 7p.m., and they said it was OK for me to come at that time. (The restaurant is open 24/7). I was so happy! But then I realized that the sun keeps setting later and later throughout the summer! What do I do? Should I tell them? I feel so embarrassed to even ask! Will God care much if I work a couple of hours on Sabbath? It will be just a few weeks...*

Congratulations on your new job! If you work under the big golden "m," make sure that you don't eat what you cook! Ok, just kidding. I know they have great salads... LOL

Alright, let's go to your question. Will God care? Hmm... How can I say this? Okay, this might sound weird but it is the first thing that came to my mind when I read your question: what if a wife asked her husband, "Honey, do you mind if I kiss my boss from time to time? I'm afraid I'll lose my job if I don't. Just a little kiss on the lips?" How do you think the husband would feel about that? Probably something like: "No way! How can you even ask me that question?" Simply entertaining the idea of kissing her boss hurts the husband.

Well, the same thing happens with God. We keep the Sabbath out of love for God.

The simple thought of cheating Him should make us feel sick. We obey Him because we trust Him. And the more we love and trust Him, the less effective are Satan's temptations. What temptation am I talking about? The temptation of letting God down out of fear to lose a job or feeling embarrassed.

Don't be afraid to stand up for what you believe. Don't be afraid to lose that job, if it comes to that extreme. Jesus promised to bless those who are persecuted because of Him. Your manager may or may not accommodate your schedule to your religious needs, but I'm sure that you will gain his respect. And God, well, what can I say? He'll be so happy to see how much you care about Him... You'll be closer than ever.

## 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)



## Wood Duck

The wood duck is so named because it makes its home in water bodies near wooded areas. Unlike most ducks that haven't got a hope of perching on a tree branch, the wood duck has claws that were designed for perching as well as swimming. Wood ducks use tree cavities for nesting near water. When it's time to hit the water, the babies leap from their nest (often high in a tree) and take to swimming with ease.

Spotting a male wood duck is a treat for the eyes! Dressed in deep green and shades of purple with contrasting black and white markings, the male wood duck is our most colourful and easily recognizable duck. The wood duck's Latin name is from a word that means betroth—a promise to marry. The idea is that the male wood duck appears to be dressed for a wedding.

### Think about it.

Weddings are such joyous events. Everyone in attendance is dressed in their best clothes. The bridegroom often wears the most formal of men's wear: a black tuxedo. And all the guests seem to hold their breath waiting for the first glimpse of the bride in her glimmering white gown. Jesus' second coming is often compared to a wedding. Won't it be wonderful!

### Do it.

What does the colour white mean in the Bible? Find out by looking up these verses: Ps. 51:7; Is. 1:18; Rev. 19:7,8. For more information about wood ducks, go to [www.ducks.ca/resource/general/nat\\_urenotes/woodduck.html](http://www.ducks.ca/resource/general/nat_urenotes/woodduck.html)



*When human rights tribunals take on cases just because someone has been offended, they have simply gone too far.*

## Freedom of Speech: the Right to Not Offend?

**T**he current focus of freedom of speech issues in Canada is the misuse of human rights tribunals to extinguish unpopular speech. Human rights legislation throughout the country have provisions that say a person cannot communicate “any matter that is likely to expose a person or persons to hatred or contempt” by reason of their age, gender, religion, ethnic origin and such, but we already have protections against libel, slander, and hate crimes in our law. So why is this human rights provision necessary?

The procedure of defending against a human rights complaint like this has been widely criticized, mainly because the respondents are always in a no-win situation. First, they must provide their own legal counsel while the complainant has the government take up their case; second, it causes people who have a legitimate opinion to not speak their mind, fearing the hassle of an investigation. Third, the regular legal rules such as presumption of innocence are not applied; respondents are presumed guilty and have to prove otherwise. The tables are turned, throwing a major douse of cold water on the fires of free speech.

Ezra Levant, the publisher of the now defunct *Western Standard* is being prosecuted in an Alberta human rights tribunal for his publishing of cartoons that were offensive to Muslims. You will remember it caused much rioting throughout the world when they were published in Europe a couple of years ago. Levant sought to exercise his freedom of speech by publishing them, but a Muslim imam filed a complaint against him. At the tribunal, Levant recorded his interrogation and put the recording on the web. The result has been a firestorm. Editorials have called for the amendment of human rights legislation and the curbing of the powers of the tribunals. In fact, Keith Martin, a Liberal MP from British Columbia, has

put forward a private members bill to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to remove the provision.

It would seem that we are witnessing a major shift in the public perception of human rights tribunals. The tribunals are extremely important to protect minorities—and certainly Seventh-day Adventists have benefitted greatly from them, particularly in the areas of housing and employment—but we must preserve our freedom of speech. When human rights tribunals take on cases just because someone has been offended, they have simply gone too far. For this reason, I always counsel pastors not to limit the views expressed from the pulpit out of fear of a human rights complaint. We speak our convictions with Christlike charity, of course, but if they offend, so be it. Our views are bound to be unpopular today, but should that mean we must restrain them?

Now, this also means that we must not get self-righteous when someone says something unsavoury to us. We have to be mindful that everyone is entitled to their opinions. The best way to deal with those who offend us is not to keep quiet but to engage them in discussion. By communicating, we learn from each other. That is how freedom of speech works.

Obviously free speech has its limits. We will suffer legal sanctions if we defame or promote hatred. But we need to ensure that sufficient opportunity is given for dialogue. Let each one have their say in peace, because by discussing together we learn together. We do not need to take umbrage because someone has a different view. We are entitled to our opinions; it is part of our great freedom of speech. ■

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



# GRADUATION 2008



For some it was three years, others four, and for a few a little more than that. After countless quizzes and tests, labs and classes, their university college career had come down to one weekend. Years of hard work culminated in graduation weekend and, the most important moment of all, commencement Sunday. After a busy weekend of entertaining family and friends, of attending programs and receptions, their moment had arrived. Dr. Loren Agrey, CUC's vice president for Academic Administration, stepped up to the podium as capped and gowned students in the first six rows of the centre aisle rose to attention. "President Luxton, on behalf of the faculty I'm pleased to present to you the 78 candidates of the graduating class of 2008. The registrar has carefully checked their academic records and has verified that each is eligible to participate in this degree conferral ceremony." Thunderous applause and a few heartfelt "amens" greeted the statement as family and friends celebrated the moment. One by one, students walked onto the stage then exited it as proud CUC alumni.

The weekend was important in many ways but especially so for the Education department. Graduation 2008 marked the last year that graduates from the School of Education would receive degrees from Union College through the partnership established in 1980. In effect for 27 years and graduating more than 400 alumni, the Union College partnership has been an important part

of CUC's history—but it *is* history. This year's ceremonies also gave us the first graduates of CUC's very own Alberta-based Bachelor of Education degree. CUC becomes only the sixth teacher preparation institution in Alberta to offer an Alberta Bachelor of Education degree. It joins a prestigious group that includes among others the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary.

The parade of graduates came to a close as one last student was announced and given the distinction of being the final graduate through the Union College program. "Landon Bryce Saylor, Secondary Education, Biology, Magna Cum Laude, Lacombe, Alberta," announced Agrey. For Landon that moment was a thrill. After taking some time from school to go as a student missionary, it had sometimes seemed that graduation was years away. As with many of CUC's students, Landon was kept busy not only by schoolwork but with his constant involvement with campus ministries. During this year, as Campus Ministries Missions coordinator, he focussed on building a more discipline-specific missions program.

According to Landon, his experience at CUC has changed his life—not only academically, but socially and spiritually as well. "While at CUC, my professors in the Education department helped me to learn how to teach my students to think in a way that will make them productive citizens in society, but even more importantly, how to be thinking Christians in today's ever changing

world. I recognize the importance of Adventist education and have benefited both mentally and spiritually by being at this school. The greatest things that CUC provided me with were friends and opportunities. I have made many friends who were not afraid to challenge me in my spirituality and to push me to recognize the calling that God has for my life. I have also greatly benefitted from the opportunity for ministry that CUC and the community has offered me." His long years of hard work paid off, and shortly after graduation Landon was offered a job as Science teacher at Parkview Adventist Academy.

At CUC, the complete university college experience is encouraged. Students graduating from CUC have been challenged academically, physically, socially and spiritually. Shortly before receiving their degrees, the graduates were encouraged by one more message from their president, Dr. Andrea Luxton: "The board of trustees of Canadian University College has empowered me to award diplomas and to confer degrees in accordance to rights granted by the province of Alberta . . . May you use them for the glory of God and in the service of others." ■

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





## First Nations People— an ADRA Canada Concern

*"Diabetes is an epidemic for First Nations people," said National Chief Phil Fontaine. "Right now, diabetes impacts practically every First Nations family. The Unite for Diabetes Campaign has stated that diabetes is as deadly a disease as HIV/AIDS, and we are concerned that this disease is three-to-five times more common among First Nations than other Canadians."*

Many may ask, "What business is it of ours to reach out to First Nations communities across Canada?" Others state it this way: "The government takes care of them," or "Native people have loads of money; just take a look at their casinos." This article doesn't provide enough space to discuss the complicated history of First Nations people across Canada, but it does let me share some very harsh statistics with you:

By applying the United Nations' Human Development Index (a comparative measure of life expectancy, literacy, education, and standards of living for countries worldwide) to Canada's First Nations communities, we discover that they rank 68th among 177 nations. That is the equivalent of Albania (68), Bosnia (66), Russia (67), Macedonia (69) and Brazil (70).

It is often stated that Canada's child poverty level is one in six, but First Nations child poverty in this country is one in four. Approximately one in 30 Native people live in homes without hot running water (3.7%), cold running water (3.5%) or flushing toilets (3.5%). Five thousand four hundred and eighty-six of the 88,485 houses on-reserve (6%) are without sewage services. The rate of disabilities among First Nations children—about one in eight—is almost double the rate among other Canadian children.

More than half of First Nations children are either overweight (22.3%) or obese (36.2%). Many First Nations children and youth are at high risk of developing diabetes, with 42% of youth and close to 60% of children being either overweight or obese.

Diabetes among First Nations people is at least three times the national average.

Suicide accounts for 38% of all deaths for First Nations youth aged 10-19.

Tuberculosis among First Nations people is 8 to 10 times more common than among the other Canadian populations.

About one in three First Nations people consider

their main drinking water supply unsafe to drink. In fact, 12% of First Nations communities have to boil their drinking water. And the list goes on.

It is clear that there are extreme needs within the Native communities across Canada. "So," I hear you ask, "what is ADRA Canada doing about it?" One project began four and a half years ago when ADRA Canada formed a partnership with Native Ministries North West/Canada and PC Productions for a project that will deliver a 13 DVD series called Native New Health. Topics include: diabetes, heart disease, cancer, depression, suicide, tobacco, alcoholism, and drug abuse. The series will premiere on SafeTV and will be available to the public on DVD later this year. If you wish to be kept informed of the progress, please contact ADRA Canada and ask to be added to the Native New Health contact list.

Another part of the answer was formed on May 2-5, 2008, as ADRA Canada held a Native Outreach Summit in Alberta. The goal was to bring together people who have a desire to serve First Nations people. Topics included "Native History—Myths & Misconceptions," "Understanding Native People: Native Spirituality vs. Christianity," "Working with Aboriginal People," "Getting Started and Maintaining Programs," "Native Health Issues & Interventions" and "Partnering with ADRA Canada for Funding and Resources." An estimated 70 participants attended from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Montana, Washington, and Alaska.

ADRA Canada invites churches, schools, and individuals to join us in serving our Native brothers and sisters. There are many myths and misconceptions regarding Canada's Native people. Do some research, learn the facts and reach out to this special group of people. We look forward to hearing from you.

[Additional resources: [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)] ■

Nick Trent is a field specialist with ADRA Canada. [www.adra.ca](http://www.adra.ca)



*If you would like to know more about the Native New Health project, or if you think you can contribute to this vital ministry, please contact him. [ntrent@adra.ca](mailto:ntrent@adra.ca)*

## GEOGAME CONTEST

Test your knowledge of world geography. Answer all the questions correctly and you will be eligible to win a prize!

Go to [www.adra.ca](http://www.adra.ca) for contest rules and to play the Geo Game.

## TEST YOUR GEO IQ!

According to legend, the city of San'a was founded by what biblical character?

- a. Abraham
- b. Cain
- c. Shem
- d. Joshua

Correct Answer—c: Many believe the city of San'a was one of the first human settlements founded by Noah's son, Shem. Other sources believe the city began in the 2nd century A.D. The city is on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

# Checks and B

for the good of the



# balances membership



by Lori MacDonald

When a church member places his or her tithe envelope or free will offering in the plate on Sabbath morning, it is not only money that is being put in. Members are depositing something much more substantial in that plate. Symbolically, members are also placing their trust in the plate—trust that the money will be used appropriately. Members hope that their money and their trust are well given, but what some members in Canada may be unaware of is that it *really is*, because of a very specific system and very qualified people who check on that system.

In 1976, the General Conference set up a system of checks and balances to make sure our church is being fiscally responsible.<sup>1</sup> The General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS), officially an internal auditing service, provides legitimacy and transparency to the financial operations of the church. “The Auditing Service is made up of some 220 auditors worldwide who audit the financial records of some 2,500 church entities.”<sup>2</sup>

In 1988, GCAS set up a full-time office in Oshawa to serve the Canadian territory. Today, there are four full-time auditors and one part-time auditor who are responsible for checking and ensuring that the money that is faithfully given by the members in Canada is being used appropriately. The dedicated members of this team are Jeremy O’Dell, Tammy Sittlinger, Alexis Luttrell, Rose Jacinto, Mavis Northam Page and their secretary, Colleen Page.

When asked about what they do, each team member answered very similarly. Words like “accountability,” “integrity,” and “confidence” came up in each definition: to make sure that, as Alexis stated, “you and I can feel confident about how our tithes and offerings are being used.”

All incorporated entities of the church in Canada are audited every year. The auditors review the financial records of each one to be sure that they are correct and that the policies and procedures are followed appropriately. Jeremy commented that GCAS “lends credibility to the financial statements as a whole, so that when church members, board members or constituents look at the financial statements provided by their management, they are given some confidence . . . that [the church] is operating within acceptable general accounting standards and principles—the same standards that all not-for-profit organizations have to comply with.” Although GCAS is not a public practice, everything that they do is done in accordance with the same standards that are required of a public practice.

While Jeremy is the district director, each member of the team is responsible for “leading” on different audits, and unless circumstances dictate otherwise, they continue to lead on the same audits for up to five years consecutively. Tammy stated that this is one of the rewards of her job, to “connect with the same people each year.” Rose added that her favourite part of her work is “seeing the improvements that are being made . . . seeing the positive changes that have happened over the year” when she returns.

Because each of the auditors is responsible for several audits across the country, they spend about 30 per cent of their year away from home. It can be difficult for them to leave their families and friends so often, but as one of the team members put forward, “most people look at the finances they put into the local church, but the auditors look at the much bigger pictures. I don’t think there is any entity out there under the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada’s umbrella that is not being audited by someone.” And while it is hard to be away, each of the auditors knows that what they do is important—for them personally and for the church community as a whole.

Each of the auditors working for Canada is a certified public accountant and holds degrees from established institutions. They are required to do 40 hours of continuing professional education annually and thus they are always up-to-date on the latest accounting policies and standards. Increased skill and professionalism are reward enough in themselves, of course, but the high quality of our Canadian auditing team has brought other accolades as well: Jeremy was awarded “Auditor of the Year” in 2007, and, in the same year, the office together won the “Outstanding Performance” award from the General Conference. “Their educational qualifications and their background with the conferences and people across Canada give the Canadian auditors an in-depth knowledge of the policies and needs of

the church in Canada as a whole.”<sup>3</sup>

Not only are these people highly qualified, they are also—as they call themselves—detail oriented. At any given time, one can walk the hall that houses their offices and see them sitting at their desks, surrounded by huge binders of paper containing thousands of numbers. They sit completely engrossed in their work, checking each fact, making sure everything is correct. And they do it well whether they are alone or together. From her vantage point, the department’s secretary, Colleen Page, is uniquely qualified to comment about the team as a whole: “I have to say that they are one of the most interesting groups of people I have ever worked with simply because they are so good at getting along and working together. I am just amazed at how the spirit here is one of teamwork. They are like a jigsaw puzzle; they fit together so well, and they maintain a level of professionalism that I admire.”

Given this spirit of professionalism and teamwork, it is not surprising that, when asked what the average member of the Canadian Adventist church should know about GCAS, they replied in the same way: “GCAS auditors are very separate; they are an independent group with total division from the unions, conferences and such, so that when they go out to do an audit, people do not need to be concerned about collusion or anything of that sort. They are people paid by the General Conference, and they are not connected to any of the individual conferences or entities that are audited. Therefore, they are free to totally do their job the way it is supposed to be done. They audit . . . for the good of the membership.”<sup>4</sup> Even better, they are members involved in their church community, both professionally and personally. ■



Lori MacDonald, one of the Messenger team, is passionate about many things—her family, her faith, her friends—and uses that energy to fuel her life and her writing.

1 “Auditors—Who Needs Them?” *Client Connection*. General Conference 2005 Session Edition. 6:1.

2 Lechleitner, Elizabeth. “Not-for-Profit Status No Excuse For Slippery Accounting Standards, Say Church Auditors.” *Adventist Review*. Online. 2006. <http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=1059.3/17/2008>.

3 Tammy Sittlinger in interview, March 2008.

4 Colleen Page in interview, March 2008.



## Jeremy O'Dell

Jeremy O'Dell is GCAS's Canadian district director, but he terms himself "team leader." He oversees the audits in Canada, manages staff and client relations and schedules the team's audits for the year. He hails from New Brunswick originally, but was lured to Oshawa to be part of the GCAS team. Jeremy is married to Karen who also works in the Church's Oshawa office for the retirement department. Jeremy has been working with the auditors in Canada for six years now. When interviewed, Jeremy was the epitome of professionalism—indeed detail oriented! He had already done some research and was ready for every question he was asked.

Jeremy calls his work "very fulfilling and very challenging." This year, Jeremy is challenged by changing auditing standards, not because the changes themselves are demanding but because implementing them can be very time consuming and because he wants to do it while still keeping costs down. His favourite part of the job is the end of an audit when any issues that may have arisen have been worked through. He's happy when the client is happy, but he is happiest "when I know we have done a good job, that it was completed in a proper manner." When he is not working, Jeremy enjoys movies and building and flying remote controlled airplanes. Although travelling is sometimes difficult, he enjoys having opportunities to visit his family in Lacombe, Alberta or to go skiing during a few hours off in B.C.



## Tammy Sittlinger

Tammy Sittlinger, one of the first members hired to work for GCAS in Canada in 1988, is originally from Fort Worth, Texas. Before working in Canada, Tammy worked for GCAS in Texas, but her Canadian husband "didn't like the heat" so when they were asked to come to Oshawa and start the office here, they jumped at the chance. Both Tammy and her husband, Bernard, have held the position of director at different points in time, and the two of them, together with Mavis Northam Page were the first auditors to work full-time in Canada. Tammy has now been working with GCAS for about 16 years.

To focus her attention upon her family, Tammy took several years off from auditing and then later returned on a part-time basis. Now, she works full-time again, and her daughters, Jackie in grade 8 and Cady in grade 10, help Tammy fill her free time. Along with family, church is also very important to Tammy, and she is eloquent when speaking about both. Although she finds travelling and the changing accounting standards

somewhat challenging, she is confident in her place and about how she contributes to her church. "The business of the church is sometimes difficult to understand, but there are checks, standards and double-checks to make sure that things are done right. The GC cares about the church as a whole and wants to make sure that each region in the world is working within the official standards. The GC is trying to make sure that the business of the church is beyond reproach, trustworthy and, above all, worthy of the church's members' confidence."



## Mavis Northam Page

Mavis Northam Page was one of the first full-time auditors employed for the Canadian Union (as the Church in Canada was called at the time), and she was also director from 1996 to 1999. Originally from Calgary, Alberta, she was a full-time employee until 1999 when she decided to work part-time to spend more time with her family. She has just returned to work after a maternity leave. She now works part-time from Calgary where she balances work and three children aged 6, 4, and 20 months. Her husband, Ron, manages real estate property. Working across the country from the rest of the team has its challenges, but Mavis enjoys her work. She works primarily with Trust auditing—going into conferences to review policies and procedures of their planned giving departments, ensuring that they comply with the appropriate standards. The majority of her work is in Western Canada.

"Teaching people so they can understand how to do something, to do their job better and faster" is what Mavis finds most rewarding about her job. Mavis recalled a memorable auditing moment: she was working with an external auditing firm which had an SDA accountant. "That accountant told our team that they were so good to work with that the other accountants in the firm were envious of him! It is great to work with non-Adventist professionals and show our professionalism and our Christianity."

In her spare time, Mavis enjoys reading children's books, camping, hiking and baking. A person who enjoys nature, Mavis remembered one spring when she was in Oshawa. The team had been travelling so much that she had not been in her office very often, and a robin had built her nest on the window sill; she couldn't open her window or her blinds without scaring the bird. She recalls fondly watching all the babies, and one night while she was working late, she saw all the little birds take their first flight. "God throws a little experience like that in here and there to say 'thank you.'"

## Alexis Luttrell

Alexis Luttrell, originally from Winchester, Virginia, graduated from Andrews University in Michigan. She has been with the Canadian auditing team for three years, but has been working for GCAS for five years. She has been deemed the “computer whiz” by her colleagues, and she enjoys working with leases; she finds them “fun.” When she is not working, the always smiling and impeccably dressed Alexis enjoys riding her Harley Davidson Sportster, doing home renovations and making people laugh.

Alexis has had some interesting reactions when she tells people that she is an auditor, usually something like, “you’re kidding?” And she is quite candid about the job: “If you are interested in pursuing this field, you really should be sure it is something you want to do. Sometimes there are long hours, sometimes you travel a little too much, but in the end, I am happy when I go to work.” And it shows. She enjoys “giving credibility to the financial side of a lot of the entities, assisting people in answering questions and keeping them up to date on changes.” Alexis just returned from an audit in Kenya and said this about her job: “I am not a preacher, I am not good with words, I am not a missionary, but I like knowing that God has given me an outlet to use my skills for Him. That is probably one of the best things about my job.”



## Rose Jacinto

Rose Jacinto is a local Oshawa girl and exudes a quiet confidence everywhere she goes. She attended College Park Elementary and Kingsway College where she met her husband, Domenick, who works for Kingsway College in their accounting department. She has been working for GCAS since 2001. Like all the members of the team, Rose enjoys her work as well feeling that “it is important, because it makes people more comfortable when they give to the church.” She enjoys cycling, flower gardening and is looking forward to working on the landscaping for her new house.

The part of her job that she finds both most rewarding and most challenging is the travel. “It is nice to go back each year to see the changes and improvements,” but “it is hard to be away from home so much.” Although travelling is sometimes difficult, Rose appreciates the experiences she has had while away: “One of the unique experiences I have had is when we have gone to the Quebec conference. We join them for their worships in the morning, and everything is in French. They sing joyfully in French, and we try to follow along not knowing very much French although they do translate for us afterwards. It is a fun experience.”



## Colleen Page

Colleen Page is the secretary for the auditors in Oshawa. She is married to Campbell Page, pastor for New Life church in Oshawa. They have two children, Spencer in grade 5 and Dani in grade 3.

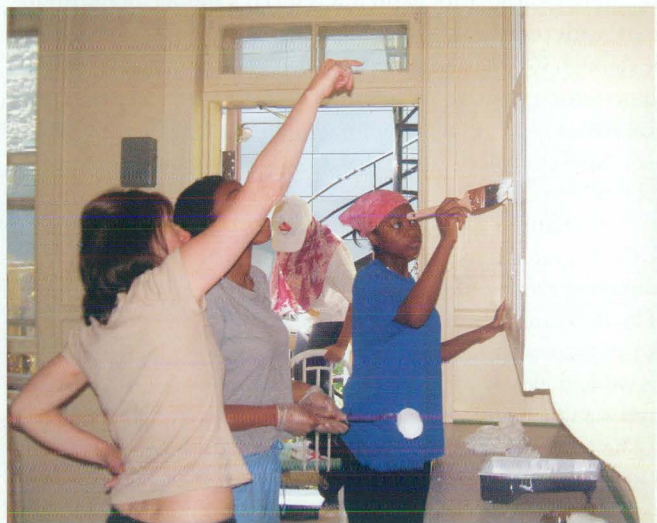
Colleen has worked with GCAS for four years now, and when asked what she does, she said,

“It is hard to answer. I do a lot of things. I help prepare for audits, and when the audit is finished, I am responsible for editing, printing and sending the reports to the appropriate people.” She enjoys working for GCAS because she “love[s] the detail, the organizing, the fine tuning of reports and documents.” The most challenging part of her job is when everyone is travelling. “There are a lot of things I can do here on my own without direction, but when I do need direction, it is sometimes difficult to reach the auditors what with time changes and cell phone service and such. And sometimes it is just challenging to work things out over the phone or through email.” Colleen adds, though, that “these people are so task-oriented and so even-keeled” that they are easy to work for.



## Quebec

### Greaves Students Reach Out in Service



For three weekends in May, grade 11 students from Greaves Adventist Academy spent time at Elizabeth House, a community outreach facility in Montreal, where they spent time and energy in service. They painted and made improvements to the building which houses a youth sector educational program, a day care center program for teenage mothers, a support system for up to 22 pregnant adolescents and counseling services for these and other at-risk teens.

The GAA students also visited the Geriatric Institute of Montreal and performed a musical concert for the residents. One student even extended her help to an old lady who refused to eat, but after some tender loving care by this student, the lady ate her snack. ■

### Quebec City SDA Children Doing Community Service

The main service activity for the children of the Quebec City church this year is to go around visiting the local nursing homes with a message of love, peace and joy in the name of Jesus. On the afternoon of the fourth Sabbath of each month, the children's choir—with its 20 members aged 4-12—gives a mini-concert in the residences of Beauport.

The highlight of the concert comes at the end when the seniors and the staff of the institution are invited to join with the choir in singing a joyful song about the second coming of Christ. It is always a touching moment, after which the parents and the children invariably receive a big hugs and gratitude! ■

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# Ontario



Left to right: Pastor Rob Putt, Pastor Dave Schwinghammer, Lavonna Bussey, Bonnie Sharpe, Pastor Gerardo Oudri.



Kingsway College Aerials drama presentation.



Some of the spectators at the Gathering of Hope.



One of the display tents — Adventist Health Ministries and Screening

## Bringing Hope to a City in Despair

Oshawa is a city in crisis and in need of hope and transformation. Economic, social and spiritual problems weigh heavy on the city. Some areas of the city have residents that struggle with substance abuse problems which threaten to compromise family and religious values. The recent announcement of GM's layoffs has been an additional financial blow to the city.

In 2006, College Park church was given a unique opportunity to work with other local Christian leaders to bring the message of hope through Christ to the city. Christian groups had not previously been permitted to make use of the Memorial Park band shell, but a local pastor of another denomination brought the issue to Barry Bussey, legal council for the SDACC, who agreed it was religious discrimination. When it was brought to Oshawa's city council, the bylaw was changed to allow Christian gatherings. The College Park church set about planning and coordinating an exciting and encouraging event at the venue.

The third annual Gathering of Hope was held in Memorial Park in Oshawa on June 7. Pastor Dave Schwinghammer and his team worked closely with the city council as well as other city churches and agencies to make this an event meaningful for the city. The motto of the gathering is "making a difference together."

Hundreds of city residents filled Memorial Park as the beauty of blue sky and sunshine provided a perfect day for the event. Gospel music and prayer filled the air throughout the day. Kingsway's Aerials gave an expert presentation of acrobatics and a moving drama presentation, and the school's choir presented a mini-concert. The Durham Adventist Choir also presented a number of choral selections. Many praise groups from Durham region churches brought a message of hope in Christ Jesus through their musical interpretations. Mayor John Gray gave a message, and several area pastors prayed for the city and its residents throughout the day. Local agencies brought tent displays to the park including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Durham Mental Health agency, Durham Legal Services, the Gideons, the John Howard Society, and the Community Development Council. A food drive was also hosted.

Many of our Adventist church groups participated: *It is Written* presented information about their programming and gave away DVDs; College Park Adventist Health Ministries provided a health screening booth and First Aid station; New Life Neighbourhood Centre, New Frenda youth camp and the Adventist Community Center were also represented. Approximately 1500 veggie-burgers and cold drinks were provided to those visiting the park during the day, and 500 more were given to local agencies that provide food for the homeless.

We thank God for the success of the day and look forward to bringing the message of Jesus to the city again next year. ■

— Marilyn Jerome,  
church communications coordinator

## Health Expo

Several weeks ago Pastor Rob Putt received an exciting invitation from Eddie Kolo of the local newspaper, *Oshawa This Week*. He invited College Park church to partner with the paper to sponsor a health expo and nurses' job fair. Kolo was aware of the church's work in the area of health and felt that this would be an excellent opportunity for our Health Ministries department.

Members Sandra Palinka, physician, and Beverley Edwards-Miller, registered dietician, participated in the event by giving presentations on various health issues. Another member, Frances James, recruited more than 20 volunteers to run several booths based on the NEW-START program. Nurses were on-hand, taking blood pressure all afternoon. One of the most popular stations was the "Health Age" where you were to answer a series of questions and were assigned a health-age based upon your answers;



one attendee was assigned a health age 10 years younger than his chronological age. Fifty-six people completed the questionnaire while approximately 47 people did a step test.

The event ran for several hours and was followed by an evening program. Dr. David Jenkins from the University of Toronto was the featured speaker. Jenkins is a world famous researcher on the glycemic index and how it relates to various diseases. The entire day was well-attended and seemingly appreciated by the enthusiastic audience. ■

—Marilyn Jerome, church communications coordinator

## Bowmanville Maple Fest



Signs saying "Adventist Health Screening" and "Blood Pressure Taken Free" directed people toward a screened tent. Bowmanville church volunteers had turned out in force to host a health screening booth at the town's Maple Fest. Greeters took names and vital statistics before other staffers recorded the blood pressure and pulse. In addition, we measured body mass index, and prepared health-age appraisals. Participants eagerly took part and seemed genuinely pleased with the service provided.

Despite the day's drizzle, more than 80 townsfolk came in for testing. Starting with our first clients of the day—Bowmanville's mayor, Jim Abernethy, and his wife—participants were both eager and pleased with the service we provided. ■

—Robert Russell, pastor

## 30 Years in Brockville

Treasured memories of wonderful times in fellowship with the Lord and believers shine bright in the memories of those who will be celebrating Brockville church's 30th anniversary this September:

"It was a place where I wanted to be and a place where I wanted to go on Sabbath because we looked forward to the fellowship and we felt close to each other," says Bonnie Levere, one of those whose membership spans the entire ministry in Brockville. "We had good times and good programs." Vacation Bible School, Sunshine bands, concerts and a church school were a few of the projects undertaken by the congregation in those years.

Claude and Jane Osborn remained faithful right from the humble beginnings to the place where the congregation is today looking to expand to a new building. "When first moved from Kingston, we were having meetings in [a member's home]. It was more personal." But moving from place to place "was hectic," they recall, "and it wasn't ideal sometimes, but it was still worth it because we knew we were starting something." Jane's fondest memory is of Pastor John Howard whose warm and friendly manner seemed to swing open the doors to the church for her. "He used to come to visit every week, just about suppertime. He was very faithful in visiting people." And she remembers that he was never shy about inviting people to his house even if his wife wasn't prepared!

Jackie Dagenais remembers the pioneer days with tremendous longing: "I felt like I belonged to happy group. The church was really booming then. Even ingathering was fun!" Over the years, pastors conducted excellent programs and a church school prospered, but it was the fellowship that generated the sweetest memories: "I liked that we had sweetheart parties. The church was interesting, and there was something always to look forward to." Jackie's home was often open to services and remembers it was "more of a family then." Activities made a big difference. "We had potluck almost every week for a while and that made a big difference.

It made us a lot closer. We had church picnics twice a year and even went swimming at Upper Beverly Lake."

Pat and George Cove were married in the church, and Pat says the day her husband was baptized is her fondest memory of all. Career opportunities took them away from Brockville, but have returned just in time to be part of this year's celebration. "I just rejoice that the Lord brought us back; we have never been anywhere else that we felt so much at home as we do in Brockville." George remembers the pastor putting the "harness" on him shortly after baptism. "I was never one for getting up front. But they put me in as head deacon

the first year I was here, and it was the best thing they could have done. And I really loved greeting people at the door." Church membership was never a hardship for George through all these years. "Some people feel obligated to be at church on Sabbath but I always wanted to be here."

And these are just a taste of the memories that will be shared on September 20 as the congregation marks this special anniversary in a celebration. Former members and friends are invited to attend on this special day. Join us as we honor the past and plan for the future. ■

—Dan Trafford, member

## British Columbia

### Comm Named Citizen of the Year

Like most people who volunteer their time and energy to their community, Marjorie Comm doesn't do it for attention. And, like most people named as Creston's "Citizen of the Year, the honour took her by surprise. Comm was lured to the opening festivities of the Creston Valley Blossom Festival on May 16 to sing the national anthem, not exactly a strange invitation for a woman whose operatic voice has entertained audiences for decades. "I wondered why they wanted to open with the national anthem, but I thought, 'O well, I've never been to the event before,'" she said in a recent interview."

An impressive listing of Marj's community efforts include being the first woman in B.C. to represent an arts council, member of the concert society, fundraiser for the local museum, charter member of two Toastmasters clubs, writing and producing a play for the Creston Concert Society, packing and sorting clothing to be shipped overseas for 25 years (through our ADRA community services outlet), soloist in numerous musical productions, a member of the Refugee society, and working with the local community radio station.

Marj, an active member of the Creston church, has lived in Creston since 1972 and has run the "HI neighbor Welcome Service" for more than 25 years. She says of her community involvement, "We should always be polite. It's a lesson I learned as a child and I have never forgotten it."

Perhaps that is one good reason why she was nominated to be Creston's Citizen of the year. ■

—Lorne Eckersley,  
Creston Valley Advance newspaper



## Manitoba-Saskatchewan

### Biggar Health Seminar

On Saturday, April 5, a health seminar was held in Biggar's new community center. Twenty-five members of the community attended a morning service, a heart-smart vegetarian lunch, an afternoon meeting and a health screening activity in the new facility.

Dr. Carol Henry, professor of

Nutrition from the University of Saskatchewan, spoke at the morning service while Dr. Dewa, a cardiologist from the University hospital, spoke in the afternoon and Allison Noble, a registered nurse, took charge of the health screening. The attendees appreciated the useful information and were amazed

by the food. Many simply could not believe that the entrees were meatless and that even dessert—a cheesecake—contained no dairy products.

The hardworking church members in the Biggar area are pleased to serve their community in this important way and in this new building. ■

## SDA Church in Canada

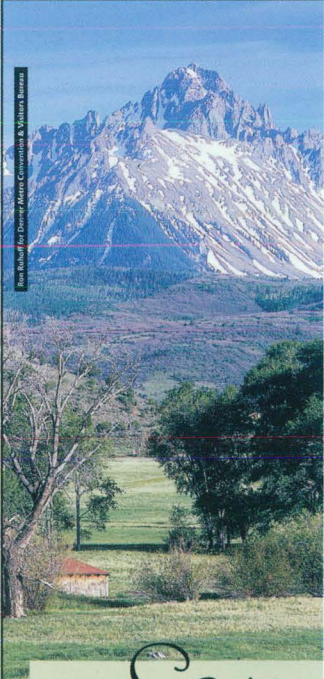
### ADRA Canada Secures Half-Million Dollar Grant for Myanmar Relief

ADRA Canada has been awarded a \$500,000 grant by CIDA /HAPS (Canadian International Development Agency/ Humanitarian Assistance, Peace and Security) for emergency relief supplies to aid victims of Cyclone Nargis, which devastated Myanmar (Burma) when it struck on May 3.

The Honourable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, announced on Friday, May 23, 2008, that the Government of Canada is partnering with the United Nations and Canadian and international organizations to provide much-needed additional humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar affected by the cyclone that devastated the country. This additional support is being allocated to trusted Canadian and international partners with direct access to the affected population.

This grant to ADRA Canada will provide improved sanitation for people displaced by cyclone Nargis; specifically, the construction of 1,150 latrines, 267 washing areas, 267 solid waste disposal areas, and the distribution of 5,348 hygiene kits. Volunteers will also be trained and mobilized to provide hygiene education messages. ADRA Canada will manage the funds to ensure that Canadian dollars are used appropriately, and will monitor and evaluate the six-month project which will be implemented by ADRA Myanmar.

ADRA Canada is grateful to the Canadian government for this expression of confidence that will create more opportunities for ADRA to help the survivors of Cyclone Nargis. ■



# 2008

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# Get in the Game

by Josué Sanchez



Spain and Germany played the EuroCup finals in Vienna this past Sunday afternoon. Soccer is by far the most popular sport in Europe, especially in Spain, so it is not an exaggeration to say that millions of Spaniards were glued to their TV sets to watch this last game. Even I—although I am thousands of miles away from Europe and have no cable or satellite at home—I felt that I just had to watch the match. So after checking with my good friend Phil, I jumped on my bicycle, flew to his home, ran to the basement and dived into his cozy couch ready to cheer on my team.

And what a match! We scored early and kept the Germans busy chasing after us. We rocked! And . . . we won the cup! The first time in 44 years that our national team won such an important cup! I was so proud of my team! We deserved the cup; we didn't lose a single match throughout the whole competition. We were invincible!

Phew . . . Okay, now that my adrenaline levels are back to normal, I'm reflecting on the whole deal. Millions of people across Europe united in watching a bunch of players hit a ball for about 90 minutes. Billions of dollars spent on advertising, players salaries, TV deals, stadium maintenance, booking dozens of planes for the fan's travels, and a long

list of collateral entertainment/sport industry expenses.

And all that to watch a few young men hit a ball.

Fair? Probably not, especially when we take into consideration the overwhelming number of people that could have eaten and received proper care if those resources were administered properly and in a better way.

Before you nod, though, think twice. Aren't we doing the same thing with our heavenly resources? Aren't most of us sitting in our pews, paying a few dollars into the offering plate so we can watch others play church? God Himself, in the form of the Holy Spirit, along with billions and billions of angels fill this world to assist us in spreading the Gospel. What a waste of resources if only a small group of people is actually involved in soul winning, while the vast majority of us merely watch!

So come on! Stand up, leave that pew, get ready and kick the ball! ■

*Josue Sanchez regularly contributes to the Messenger with his Teen Talk column; we really appreciate him sharing even more of his insights when he can!*





■ **Announcements**

**Missing Members**—Immanuel Adventist Church in Toronto is searching for the following members: Jasmin Adebisi-Romero, Taiyewo Adebisi, Kehinder Adebisi, Yemi Adebisi, Michelle Allen, Janette Allen-Moses, Christina Alexander, Nola Baptiste, Laura Baker, Mala Bowman, Reginald Bowman, Christine Brunelle, Fay Campbell, Jodi-Ann Carpenter, Carlos Carrion, My-Linh Foo, Hollis Fraser, Myles Fudge, Andrew Gallimore, Elizabeth Gallimore, Laura Gallimore, Miguel Gallimore, Kenneth Godfrey, Lorna Grey, Tesfaye Hailu, Dawn Henry, Noel Herdman, Juliet Herdman, Janice James, Paul James, Bessimi Kalaba, Jaime Koivula, Helena Koivula, Ari Koivula, Christine Laan, Michael Ladanyak, Nada Ladi, Leo Legault, Cora Legault, Roy Lewis, Nicole Lewis, Irene Lucoff, Serghei Lugover, Frank Magermans, Shirley Magermans, Timo Marttinen, Adelin Mocanu, Kenny Morgan, Linda Ostojic, Carlos Pastrana, Nelly Pastrana, Eric Puranen, Mika Puranen, Henry Puranen, Phen Quach, Marcus Ragot, Leroy Rodney, Kenroy Rubin, Iris Smith, Veronika Stefanova, Gordon Sutter, Ivan Sutton, Arian Sutton, Janel Thompson, Sharon Turner, Ildiko Varga, Chris Williams, Corey Williams, Debbie Williams, Pearlita Witter, and Christopher Woods. If anyone has contact information for any of these people, please contact Pastor Pule or Marlo Pandit at 416/223-1992.

**Health Summit West**—English 2008 at Loma Linda University. The North American Division, Pacific Union and Loma Linda School of Health announce the 4<sup>th</sup> health certification training program Oct. 17-20, 2008. "Tell the World Christ Brings Health and Wholeness" will present featured speakers Jose Rojas and Hyveth Williams. Six "train-the-trainer" seminars will be conducted. Go to [www.nadhealthsummit.com](http://www.nadhealthsummit.com) for more information. (08/08)

■ **Legal Notice**

**The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church**

Notice is hereby given that the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the College Heights Christian School, Lacombe, Alta. on Sept. 28, 2008. The Regular business meeting will be called at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 28. There will be a meeting of the Organizing Committee at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider reports and financial statements, elect officers and members of the Executive Committee of the Conference for the ensuing quadrennial period, to consider any proposed changes in the Bylaws, and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the session.

The Bylaws provide for representatives from each duly organized church in the Alberta Conference as follows: one delegate per church without regard of membership, and one additional delegate for every fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof. (08/08)

*William Olson, President  
Romulo Daquila, Vice President  
for Administration*

■ **Births**

**Emily Jean Allen** was born Apr. 15, 2008 to Darcy and Maralee (Pond) Allen of Okotoks, Alta.

**Nolan Gerald John Berard** was born Aug. 12, 2007 to Aaron and Julie (Rooney) Berard of St. Albert, Alta.

**Jorjah Hope Dubyna** was born May 2, 2008 to Chris and Julie (Phare) of Gull Lake, Alta.

**Finn Willem Hillier** was born May 11, 2008 to Grant and Jolene (Bell) Hillier of Vientiane, Lao PDR.

**Vanessa Elizabeth Jean-Pierre** was born Apr. 21, 2008 to Woody and Crystal (Thom) Jean-Pierre of Langley, B.C.

**Tobias Michael Kettner** was born May 28, 2008 to Michael and Heidi (Charles) Kettner of Abbotsford, B.C.

**Ruby Adeline Miranda** was born May 18, 2006 to Julian and Rachel (Obery) Miranda of Calgary, Alta.

**Jasmine Victoria Miranda** was born April 5, 2008 to Julian and Rachel (Obery) Miranda of Calgary, Alta.

**Rylea Isabel Adalaine Roque** was born July 4, 2005 to Jeremy and Donna (Mercado) Roque of Calgary, Alta.

**Kiara Audrey Adalaine Roque** was born May 13, 2008 to Jeremy and Donna (Mercado) Roque of Calgary, Alta.

**Madeline Dawn Wright** was born Feb. 15, 2007 to Philip and Heather (Lund) Wright of Calgary, Alta.

■ **New Members**

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Laura Domke** was baptized in Aldergrove, B.C. on June 21, 2008 by Massiel Davila. She is now a member of the Aldergrove Adventist Church.

**Bruce Last** was baptized and his wife, **Rajinder (Agula)**, was rebaptized in Elk Lake, B.C. on May 17, 2008 by Manuel Silva. They are members of the Victoria Adventist Church.

**Kelly-Ann Melnychenko** was baptized in Aldergrove, B.C. on May 17, 2008 by Massiel Davila. She is now a member of the Aldergrove Adventist Church.

**Vineetha Nakka, Karla Calimoso, Angeline Abinoja, Wintana Amanuel, Emerson Bayoneta, Francis Olit, Nicholas Weir, Soullivan Tangkpanya and Jaime Acosta** were baptized in Surrey, B.C. on April 19, 2008 by Brian Wahl, George Ali, Jimmy Acosta and Abner Olit. These baptisms were a result of a series of Bible studies with Pathfinder leaders. They are now members of the Surrey Adventist Church.

**Alex Tanaka and Brodie Nielsen** were baptized in Aldergrove, B.C. on June 14, 2008 by Massiel Davila. They are now members of the Aldergrove Adventist Church.

■ **Obituaries**

**Jessie (Woodland) Blackmore** was born July 16, 1918 in St. John's, N.L. and died May 8, 2008 in Gander, N.L. Jessie was a charter member of the Glovertown church where she held many positions, including that of treasurer for 25 years. She was also a teacher at the academy in St. John's. Surviving: husband Wilfred; sons Rex and Derek; daughters Sharron Stroyles, Rae Blackmore, Beverly Nolet and Andrea Burton; brother Robert; and eight grandchildren.

**Mildred (English) Cole** was born Oct. 15, 1937 in Paris, Ont. and died May 15, 2008 in Cambridge, Ont. Millie was one of the first students of the Grand Valley School in Paris, Ont. Surviving: husband Tom, son Deryl Eggen, daughter Kimberly Eggen and three grandchildren.

**Myrtle Viola (Hey) Embleton** was born Oct. 28, 1931 in Paris, Ont. and died May 28, 2008 in Langley, B.C. Myrtle taught Sabbath school, served as a deaconess, and worked with community services as part of her work for the church. She is predeceased by her husband Ernest and daughter Darlene. Surviving: son Estol (Gwen) of Langley, B.C.; daughters Rena Schuler of Napa,

Calif. and Lori Embleton of Surrey, B.C.; sisters Isabel Close of Paris, Ont., Doris Von Gunten of Oshawa, Ont., Lillian Dodd of Paris, Ont., and Ruby Hillock of Loma Linda, Calif.; and 6 grandchildren.

**Clifford Fifield** was born June 21, 1925 in St. John's, N.L. and died Feb. 5, 2008 in St. John's. Surviving: wife Ruby (MacBay), sons Keith (Christine) of St. John's and Brent (Stephanie) of Hamilton, Ont., sister Alice of St. John's, and one grandchild.

**Harry Kinney** was born April 22, 1921 in Carlingford, New Brunswick and died May 10, 2008 in Stoney Creek, Ont. He is predeceased by daughter Mary Townsley and sons-in-law James Townsley and Max Ritchie. Surviving: wife Elizabeth of Stoney Creek, Ont.; son Clarence (Edna) of Hamilton, Ont.; daughters Margaret Townsley of Stoney Creek, Nellie Ritchie of Hamilton and Judy (Malcolm) MacPherson of Hamilton; brother Arnold (Shirley) of Perth Andover, N.B.; sister Jenny Day of Reva, Va.; 12 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

**Lauretta (McInnis) Moffet** was born Feb. 22, 1920 in Kelfield, Sask. and died May 22, 2008 in Meadow Lake, Sask. She is predeceased by her husband John "Irvine". Surviving: sons Don (Olga), Jack (Pauline) and Leroy; daughter Connie (Carl) Moore; brothers Bob (Nell) McInnis and Art (Madge) McInnis; sister Isabel Scherr; 18 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

**Elsie (Roth) Reile** was born Feb. 13, 1916 near Beiseker, Alta. and died Apr. 26, 2008 in Loma Linda, Cal. Elsie worked for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference, and later as a missionary in the Colombia-Venezuela Union, Antillian Union, Central American Union and Greater New York Conference. Surviving: husband Lloyd, daughters Carol Powers and Loella Johnson, and six grandchildren.

**Anna (Pylypiuk) Samograd** was born Dec. 25, 1910 in Musedora, Alta. and died May 4, 2008 in Lacombe, Alta. Anna was the first MV leader for the Innisfree church and was honoured as Pathfinder parade marshall at Alberta campmeeting in 2006. She also worked tirelessly sewing hundreds of quilts for ADRA. She is predeceased by her husband Phillip, daughters Gladys and Alice, brothers Metro, Bill, John, Eugene, and Mike, sister Pearl Radomsky and great-grandchild Brandi. Surviving: daughters Elizabeth (Alex) Tym of Lacombe, Alta., Lillian (Ed)

Matiko of Millet, Alta. and Esther (Ernie) Polishuk of Edmonton, Alta.; son-in-law Karl Bancarz of Innisfree, Alta.; sister Mary Krysowaty; eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Ernest Louis Stein** was born Nov. 1, 1921 in Melville, Sask. and died June 9, 2007 in Victoria, B.C. Ernie served as deacon in his church and as a colporteur after his retirement. Surviving: wife Hildegard, son David (Linda), stepson Timothy Mayer, and two grandchildren.

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- All advertising should be submitted with local conference approval.
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September issue: **July 2**  
 October issue: **Aug. 5**  
 November issue: **Sept. 2**

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**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 for more information. Check out our Facebook group "Kingsway College Aerials 25th Year Reunion" for the latest info. (6/09)

**The Division of Science at Canadian University College** invites qualified individuals to submit curriculum vitae for a position in Chemistry. Preference will be given to candidates who hold a doctoral degree in Chemistry, masters degree may be considered, as well as having experience in teaching a variety of classes at both lower and upper division levels within the discipline. Areas of teaching emphases include Introductory, Analytical and Organic Chemistry as well as the ability to teach other courses. Responsibilities include instructing students, engaging in research and participating in the life of the institution. Qualified candidates should send a letter of application, a curriculum vitae and names of three references along with contact information to Dr. Loren Agrey, Vice President for Academic Administration, Canadian University College, 5415 College Ave., Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5. Phone 403/782-3381, fax 403/782-3170, or email lagrey@cauc.ca. Further information at www.cauc.ca. (08/08)

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**All are invited to attend** Maranatha Volunteers International's 2008 Convention Sept. 5-6 at Rolling Hills Community Church in Tualatin, Oregon (Portland area). Experience God moving around the world and get involved! Inspirational speakers from India, Mozambique, Ecuador and Chile. For information contact Maranatha at 916/920-1900 or www.maranatha.org. Join us! (8/08)

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# The Art of *Albertine*

I admit it: I judge books by their cover. I judge CDs by their cover as well. The adage “never judge a book by its cover” may be sound advice for dealing with people, but it seems to be the opposite for mass media. The cover of Brooke Fraser’s new CD, *Albertine*, interested me with its simplicity. The image of the 24-year-old New Zealander sitting alone on a hardwood floor suggested a thoughtful and reflective quality—a judgment that, after listening to the album, was bang on.

Moving beyond the cover, I flipped the CD over to view the track listing on the back. There I was immediately drawn to song titles like “Albertine,” “C.S. Lewis Song,” and “Hosea’s Wife.” That did it. My curiosity about the content of the music was piqued. I plugged the disc into the drive, pulled out the lyrics and followed along. Once again, I was not disappointed.

The album features acoustic instrumentation. The piano and acoustic guitar, which dominate the music, easily drew me into the album. The fact that she incorporates the underused glockenspiel is a welcome indication to me that Fraser seeks a unique sound. Helping to achieve that uniqueness and entwining with the musical tones, Fraser’s vocals are clear, rich, and soothing in a Sarah McLachlan/Chantal Kreviazuk manner. I was completely drawn into the artistic experience that is this CD, which, by the way, was what the cover led me to believe was packaged inside.

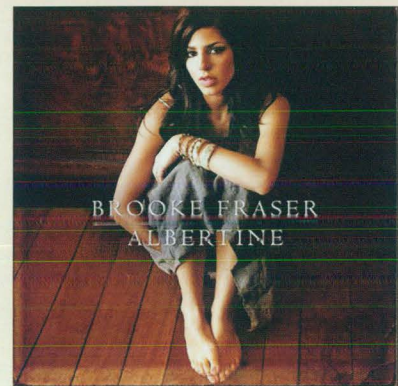
The best part of the album, though, is the lyrics. Although great music and instrument choices are vital for an album’s success, so too is the lyrical content. I was impressed by the fact that Fraser herself wrote all the lyrics and music for the album, which gives even more credence to her abilities as a true musician and artist. I was particularly intrigued by the songs “Hosea’s Wife,” which compares humanity to the unfaithful wife of the biblical prophet and “C.S. Lewis Song,” which creatively pays homage to the titled author and his Christian writings.

An added bonus is that Fraser’s integrity goes further than just musical ability; she genuinely seems to wish to put her faith into motion. The CD liner notes that she visited Rwanda in 2005, 11 years after that country’s horrifying genocide, and was introduced to a Rwandan girl named Albertine, about whom the title song was written. Fraser’s lyrics sum up her newly crafted mission statement beautifully: “Now that I’ve seen, I am responsible/Faith without deeds is dead.” Her going beyond the recording studio to experience first-hand the horror of war-torn Rwanda impressed me that her motives are more than materialistic fame.

*Albertine* stands up to scrutiny on all fronts. It is crafted with ingenuity, both lyrically and musically. Reviewing this album was a pleasurable experience, and I highly recommend *Albertine* as a positive addition to the contemporary Christian music scene.

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*J. Scott MacDonald is an English teacher at Kingsway College.*



CD review



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