

canadian adventist

august 2008

Messenger

Standing Near

PLUS: Nathan Brown laments (p.22);
Crystal Holloway questions (p.2)

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An Open Letter to God

Dear God,

I know I usually call you "Father," but today I just can't seem to do that. If you are my Father, shouldn't we be a little alike—you and I? Shouldn't I at least sort of know You? More and more these days, I feel like I don't. In fact, the whole reason I wanted to write You today is to tell you that I just don't get You at all. Not that I have to 'get' You, of course. You are God and I am not, so how could I understand You, really? I don't know my own mind sometimes, never mind knowing Yours. But I need You to know that I really don't understand what You are doing here. I don't understand Your plan. You do have one, right?

I'm sure You are sick of us asking why bad things happen to good people—I am rather tired of it myself—but it is a good question. My reasoning says that if You really are a loving God with a plan of love for all Your people, then cancer shouldn't exist. There should be no car accidents or plane crashes. The climate shouldn't be changing and babies should always be healthy.

I don't understand why 10-year-old Bolivian boys die while my 10-year-old boy lives—happily, if only I'll agree to sign him up for hockey this year. I don't understand how people, made in Your image You said, can hurt each other. I don't understand how almost a million innocent Rwandans can die within a few months without anyone noticing. I don't understand how love turns to hate or why friendships fade or who any of us really are.

The easy answer points to our freedom of choice and speaks of the "gift" You gave us when You gave us free will. I don't mean to be critical, but I wonder if, in retrospect, that still seems like a good idea to You? I mean, I've given my kids things that, as it turned out, they weren't able to handle. Is it possible that this fits into that category? Do You sometimes want to take it back?

I'm glad that You don't mind me asking You this stuff, and I guess in a way I'm glad that You don't seem too concerned about giving me all the answers, either. You don't have to explain Yourself to me. I wouldn't understand it if You did. Except that I do believe that I'm meant to be filled with more than just questions. Faith, maybe? Or is that a cop out for when the questions get too hard?

Anyway, that's all I wanted to say; just that I don't really know what all this is about. Once in a while I think I find an answer to some small question, but I do wish You'd drop a hint about some of the big stuff sometime. Just like a father, though, You seem to think that I need the search as much as I need the answer. You leave me to struggle; hopefully it'll make me stronger. Today, though, I'm not feeling very strong.

You do have a plan, right? Just checking.

Crystal

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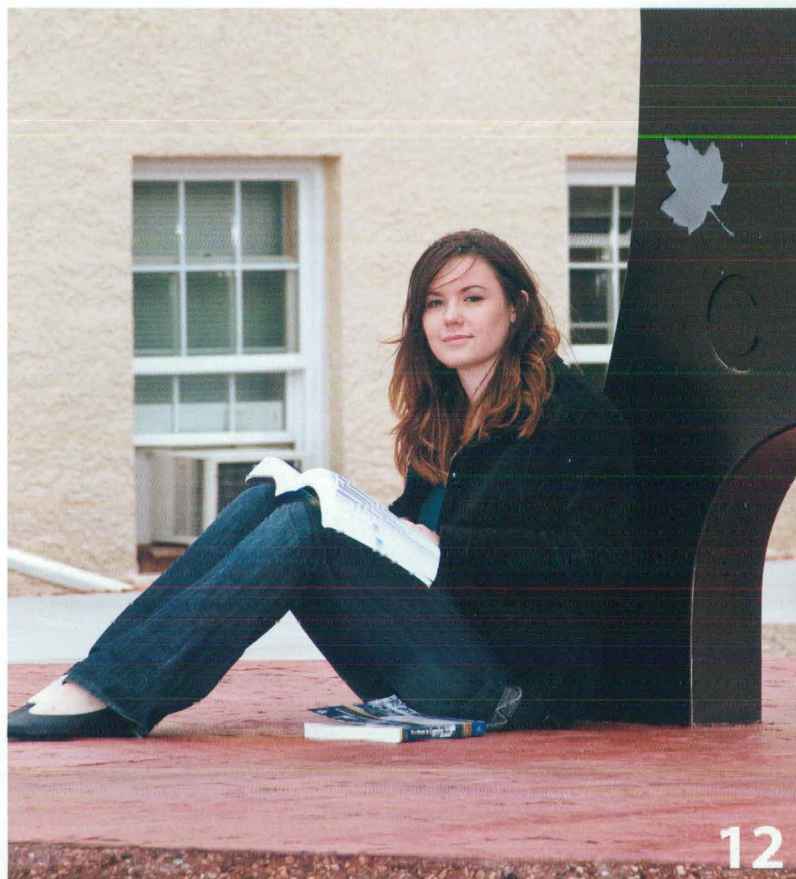
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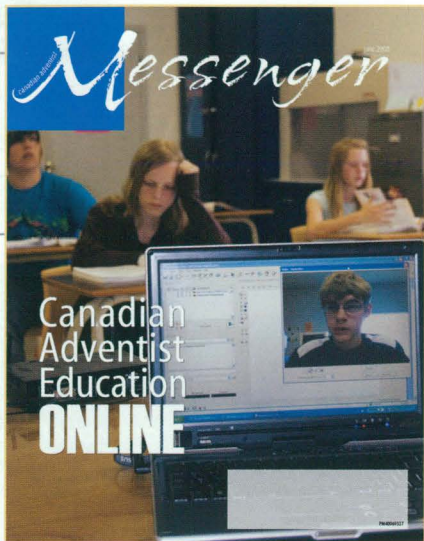
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Your Words

“God’s variety contains the incredible, beautiful universe He has made!”

RE: “A Passion for Variety,” June 2008

Elder Pifher’s “A Passion for Variety” made some excellent points. God certainly loves variety! The application of this truth, however, seems to have omitted some important factors. Pifher states that God “created a variety of cultures . . . that provide limitless ways to reveal love and worship within those guidelines.” Do not the 10 commandments “limit” us to expressions of love and worship harmonizing with His nature? Second, does God inform us that He “created” earth’s cultures? Hasn’t humanity devised human culture, a humanity loving sin and rebellion against God, almost invariably choosing cultural expressions of devil worship? We need to avoid elevating human culture to a position of influence which obscures divine truth.

Another excellent point was Jesus’ command not to judge certain things. However, Jesus commands us to judge certain things, also. We need to study this subject carefully in order to discern between the two. Only a complete understanding will guard us from falling into either ditch—judging everything or judging nothing. Each is an unhealthy state of being!

God’s variety contains the incredible, beautiful universe He has made! But let’s be watchful, that we don’t beguile ourselves into identifying sinfulness with His glory and joy.

—K. Lemky, via email

RE: “On Tithing,” June 2008

I am just writing to thank you for running Mr. Bussey’s article on tithes. It was very touching for me. As a teenager, I often have a hard time choosing to tithe when there is something else that I would like. This article reinforced my beliefs, and the verse given was very inspirational. Thank you.

—K. Palinka, via email

RE: letter in response to “Team Jesus” (printed February 2008), May 2008

I am writing to you in response to the letter written by the B.C. reader on “Team Jesus.” Yes, the *Messenger* is published by Adventists, but is it published for Adventists only? By publishing articles by non-Adventist authors we are getting different points of view, and we can take those points of view and decide for ourselves if we agree or disagree. What if we were to give some of our Adventist reading material to a non-Adventist and they just said, “It doesn’t come from my church so I don’t want to read it?”

Are we to just stay in our little box and not admit any outsiders? I know a lot of non-Adventist friends who make sense of the Bible more than some of my Adventist friends, and if I’m not sure what to believe, I’ll read the Bible and find the truth for myself. If you don’t want to read certain articles, don’t, but I think the *Messenger* can have a message for and from everyone.

—A. Imler, Alberta

RE: national v. international ministry

If I understand the purpose of the *Messenger*, it is to report on what is taking place across Canada and to encourage everyone and keep everyone informed as to what is happening in various fields across Canada. However, I read about the president of Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference going to Mongolia, the president of the Maritimes going to reformation lands with his workers, the president of the union and a leading lay member going to Africa, the president of one conference visiting another conference, several students from CUC going overseas, and I ask myself, “What about Canada?”

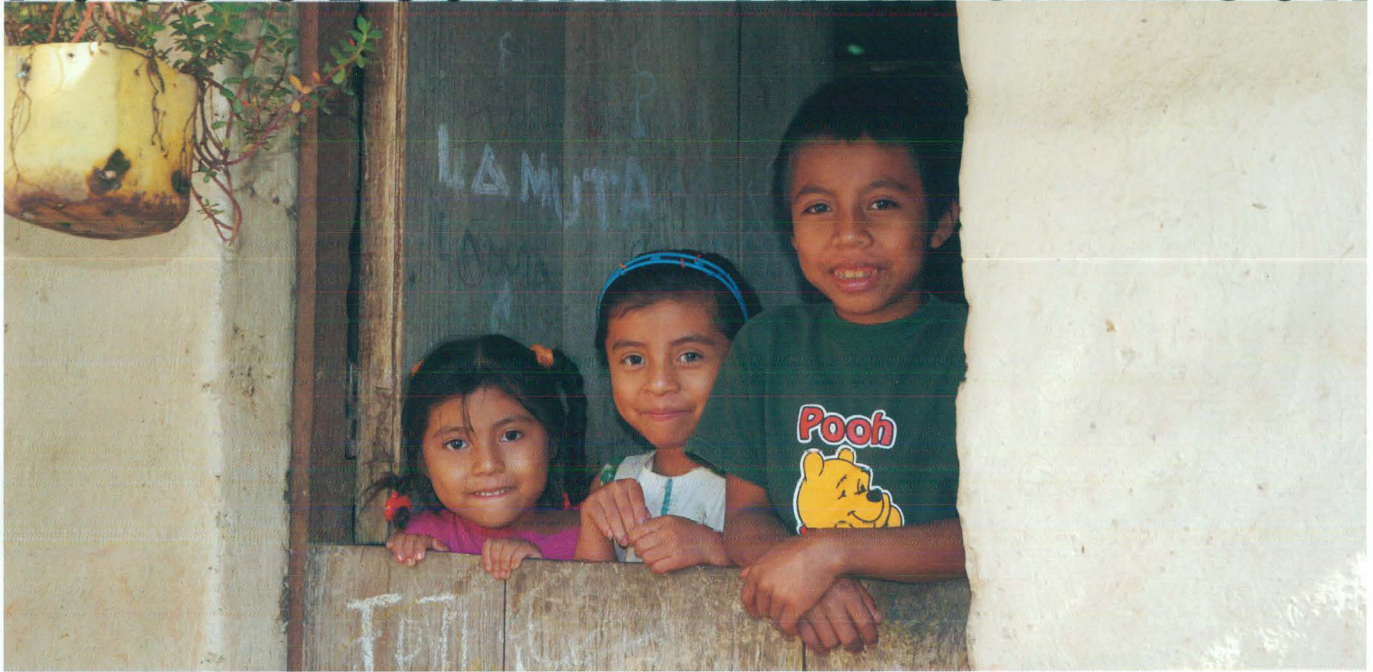
No one can find fault with doing good outside of Canada—even though some may ask how much good is really being done. What some of us know is that it costs money and time for these trips and that these are not in the budget. So the money is coming from someplace, and the work at home is being neglected while these people are away! It is easy to see that the work in Canada is not very exciting, and there is little going on for you to report, however the more trips that are taken by our leaders the less you’ll have to report about the work in Canada, right?

Maybe I have said enough now for everyone to know that this old retiree reads our church paper and would love to read something exciting about the work in Canada!

—L. & E. Lowe, British Columbia

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

FOOD SECURITY IN NICARAGUA



In light of the world's current global food crisis, food security issues and related initiatives have never been more relevant than they are today. One of the many factors contributing to the food crisis is the increased use of ethanol as an alternative fuel source. Because it is derived from corn, the popularity of ethanol has started, and will continue, to impact many nations—particularly Latin American states—that rely on corn as a main food source.

In December 2007, we had the pleasure of visiting Nicaragua with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). As a member of the CFGB, ADRA Canada is able to collaborate on food security related projects, and on our study tour in Nicaragua we had the opportunity to see firsthand how the CFGB works with local people on agriculture and nutrition projects to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

While visiting the local partner organization, Soynica, in Ocotal, a small town in the mountainous region of Nicaragua, we not only saw the project site but spent two nights with a local family in order to gain a better understanding of the challenges they face daily. Being city dwellers, we had not spent much time on farm land before; it was an enlightening experience to see how connected to their food source the family was. Growing enough food to sustain a family of seven and, hopefully, selling what remains at the market, not only makes them very dependent on their crops, but also very vulnerable.

Nicaragua is prone to hurricanes, earthquakes and heavy rains that result in landslides and flooding, making subsistence

farming a particularly risky business. When disasters strike, or even during bad growing seasons, families rely on supplementing the fruits from their own crops with what they can afford to buy at nearby markets. Unfortunately, rising food prices not only make food unaffordable, but also make staple foods, specifically corn, unattainable as it is in high demand by ethanol producers.

We both developed a deep respect for the importance of food security projects as we came to understand the potentially devastating consequences that could be felt by farming families, due to the volatility of both the environment and market.

With the support of the CFGB, Soynica is helping farmers build their capacities, making them more resilient and therefore less vulnerable to changes in their environment. Among its many activities, Soynica teaches farmers to make organic pesticides and fertilizers, allowing them to avoid buying expensive synthetic ones while preserving the environment; Soynica seeks to improve project beneficiaries' health by teaching them which local plants can be added to their diet to provide additional vitamins; and Soynica also encourages program participants to diversify their crops in case some are susceptible to pests.

It is through projects like these that ADRA Canada, in collaboration with the CFGB, is able to help increase capacities, bringing people out of poverty, reducing their risks, and improving the overall health and wellbeing of whole communities. ■

Christina Masching and Karen Widdecombe work for ADRA Canada.



What country is the smallest North African country? A. Morocco B. Chad C. Tunisia D. Egypt

Geo Game Contest: Test your knowledge of world geography. Answer all the questions correctly and you will be eligible to win a prize! Go to adra.ca for contest rules and to play the Geo Game.

"...THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO BEAR IT"

THE PROMISE THAT God will make a way of escape when you are gripped by the "common temptation" or trial gives hope to the one who questions if s/he should throw in the towel during the struggle. It is God's promises that carry us through the tough times.

One of the great promise texts of the Bible is 1 Cor. 10:13. Many of you can quote the text: "No temptation [trial as well] has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

You have a very involved picture of God in this verse. He is aware of your temptations and trials and evaluates them as common, assuring you that you are not alone. However, the impacting revelation is that He places boundaries and limits on what He permits to come your way. Even in the midst of the troubles He does permit, His method of taking the pressure off is to make a way for you to escape from the grip of the experience. It doesn't say He forces you to take the escape route, but you will be impressed that there is a way and you don't have to be overwhelmed.

The second impacting thought that I find in the passage is in the context of the verse. (Often we enjoy

the promise text and fail to realize there are gems of truth surrounding it.) The promise starts with the words "no temptation," and is really the conclusion of Paul's listing of five areas of temptation that he says are there for the record, as examples for us so we don't fall into the same as God's people did in Bible times. A quick look at these five temptations shows they are universal and for all time:

TEMPTATION #1: The temptation to go back to our old ways (verse 6)

Verse 6 says, "We should not lust after evil things as they also lusted." This takes you back to the story of Numbers 11:4-6 when God had provided manna for the Israelites to eat. The multitudes yielded to their intense craving for, "the fish we freely ate in Egypt, the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic; but our whole being is dried up; there is nothing but this manna." What is the temptation? To be drawn back to our old ways, before we accepted Christ.

The multitudes of God's people wept over the good old times when they had all the tasteful food items in Egypt. How sad that, in remembering the "good ol' days," they forgot they were slaves and that the good old days were not so good. So is the temptation today. We are at times tempted to yield to our lifestyles before



we made our decision to love Christ. “Boy, could I be the life of a party, drink, fool around, do what I wanted and make thousands before giving up my job to keep the Sabbath,” we think. Yes, maybe. But you were a slave to sin, discontented with the hang over, the broken relationships, the fear of getting caught or of contracting disease, of being empty emotionally and without hope. The promise of 1 Cor.10:13 is for those tempted to follow “memories” back to the days without Christ, without hope. God will make a way of escape.

TEMPTATION #2: The temptation of placing something before God in our life (verse 7)

Verse 7 admonishes us, “And do not become idolaters as were some of them.” As Moses was with God within the cloud on the mountain, the people, who had recently entered in a covenant with Him

at Sinai, were dancing around a golden calf. (See Ex. 32:6.) They could see by the cloud on the mountain that God was near, yet they placed something else first in their lives and made it supreme in importance. “Terrible,” we say, and yet how easy it is for us to place something before God. This verse calls for us to evaluate our time, priorities and passions to see if God is first and if all else is in relationship to Him.

TEMPTATION #3: The temptation to yield principles/values in order to be accepted in the community (verse 8)

Numbers 25:1-9 tells of a time when the Israelites were in the final camp before entering the Promised Land. There was some quiet time, and the people of the area invited them to come to their special community event. Flattered and wanting to be accepted by their new neighbors, they went. One thing led to another, and they ended up offering sacrifices to the dead (Ps 106:28) and committing immorality. Twenty-four thousand died or lost their way with the Lord over this choice.

We like to be accepted by our families and the people in our communities. We don't want to stand out as odd or different because we like to be well thought of. This is okay, but there will be times when participating in family or community events will destroy our relationship with Jesus. It is painful, but there are times we have to say “no” and feel the rejection or wrath of others because we won't participate. We accept that, because Jesus suffered for us.

TEMPTATION #4: The temptation of being ungrateful (verse 9)

The people of God had become discouraged because they had lost trust in God and now were in a desolate place on their journey. They felt they were having it

hard and became ungrateful of God's blessings (Num. 21:4-9). God was not pleased with their attitude and withdrew His protective hand; the poisonous snakes in the region slithered amongst the tents, and soon everyone realized they had had it pretty good.

Woe to us when we utter expressions of ingratitude. We have it so good with food, clothing, shelter, freedoms . . . when, at the same time, there are peoples in the world who are displaced, hungry, abused, without religious freedom and without any means to provide for their families. God is displeased when we are ungrateful. When tempted in this area, we need to remind ourselves of all we do have and be thankful. If in doubt, give ADRA a call.

TEMPTATION #5: The temptation to not trust God's ability to finish what He has started (verse 10)

Ten of the spies returned with a good report of the land but with a negative report on their ability to overcome the obstacles in the way (Num. 13:33-14:4). They complained that God had led them to the borders of the promise land only to be destroyed and decided it would be better to select a leader and go back to Egypt.

This temptation is of unbelief. At times we consider our personal struggle with temptations and need to be reminded of the message of Jude 24 and 25, that Jesus will keep us in His love and that we can have victory in our lives. He doesn't start something without giving the guarantee and accepting the responsibility of completing what He starts.

The same with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is God who has called this movement into existence, called it to be His voice in preparing people for His return. He hasn't called us out for this special message of Rev. 14:6-9 without the certainty of completing what He has started. Has the task ever seemed overwhelming at times? Are there giants in the land—giants of numbers, finances, presence of a Laodicean attitude? It might seem so, but, fellow believer, we must trust God, He is able to complete His work and take His people into the heavenly kingdom. Be of good courage; we are in good hands. I never want to be influenced by numbers, by our standards of success or by the strength of the opposition. My God is able, and I Trust in Him and His ability and strategy to complete what He has started.

It is only after presenting these five temptations of the past as examples for the present that Paul states the precious promise text of 1 Cor. 10:13. It is a promise for our encouragement as we resist the five universal temptations that press in on us, that cause us to lose hope in God, His leading, His lifestyle, and His ultimate resting place. Let us not fall into the trap but always remember those important words, “God is faithful.” ■

Ken Corkum is president of the Maritime Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Not Hell's Kitchen

All my life I've wanted to be a chef, but in the last few months I've wondered about it. Would my life be better spent as a missionary? Or a teacher? I've been trying to think how a chef could be a witness for God, but I haven't thought of any ways. I'm not sure what God wants me to do, or really what I want to do. All of my friends and family know me as the chef and say that one day I'm going to grow up and become famous for my cooking. I believe God gave me that talent, but I'm not sure how to use it. Any advice?

A chef? Wow, that's so cool! You probably know that there's a show on TV called *Hell's Kitchen*, and, although the name is kinda weird, it's very interesting to see how the cooks work with the ingredients, different tastes, keeping up with the customers, etc. It's definitely a fast-paced profession.

As Christians, we try to do everything to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31)—professional chefs included! You don't have to be a pastor, teacher, missionary or elder to do God's job.

A good Christian chef can be a missionary and a teacher at the same time. How? Quite simple: food is something that is present in every human. (Obviously! LOL). However, most people eat the first thing that comes to their mouth, which is not

always the best choice. You can teach people how to eat healthy, and with your professional skills, you can help them to achieve good eating habits without compromising the taste. In areas of intense poverty or lack of resources, you could be a missionary chef that educates the local people on how to make the best out of what they have.

If God gave you that talent, then your responsibility is to develop it to its maximum. And based on what you said, it seems that you will enjoy becoming a professional chef! It's cool that you have your family and friends' support—that will certainly make it easier. Just remember, the goal is not to be famous, but to be faithful to God. =)

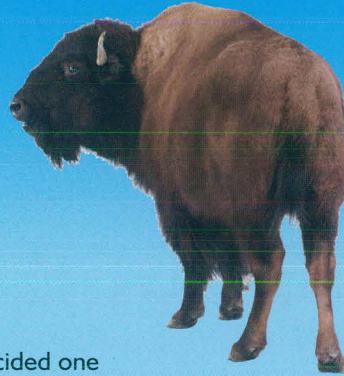
TEEN TALK



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

Creation Corner for Kids

“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:2 NKJV



American Bison

George, the bull bison from a neighbouring farm, decided one day to go for a walk. Coming to the fence that kept him in, he pushed against the six strands of barbed wire unbothered by the piercing barbs, until the wires stretched and the heavy-duty “staples” popped. Squeezing his enormous body between the sagging wires, suddenly he was free!

There's not much that can stop a full-grown bull bison. Unless he's pastured inside a fortified fence, if he wants to go somewhere, he just goes. Farmers who keep bison usually use fences that reach almost 3 metres in height, with metal-pipe fence posts cemented into the ground and heavy-gauge wire mesh.

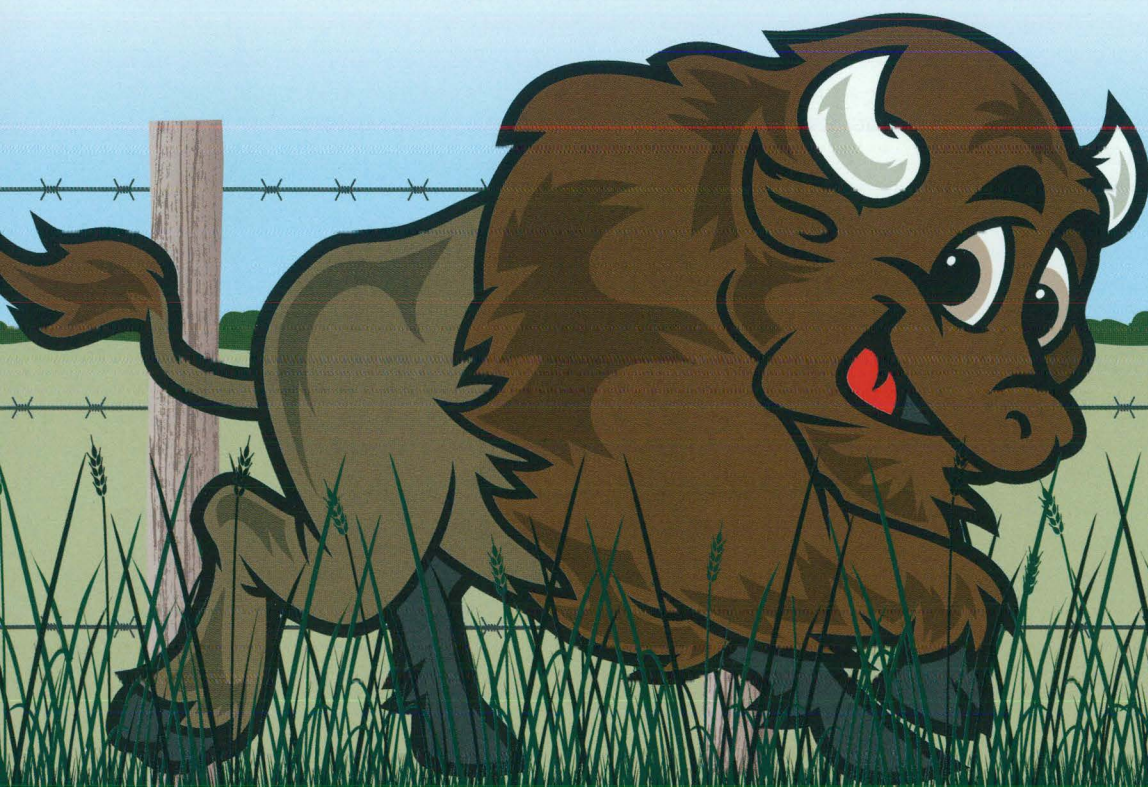
If strength alone could protect a species from enemies, the bison might still own the prairies. But their protective strategy of stampeding proved to be no match for human wit. A favoured hunting practice long ago, native hunters used to drive whole herds of stampeding bison over cliffs, killing hundreds of animals at once. With the invention of guns, the American bison was brought almost to extinction just before the last century by hunters who shot into stampeding herds.

Think about it.

The tendency to stampede turned out to be the one habit that made it easiest for bison to be killed in great numbers. Jesus warned us that following the crowds is a most dangerous habit for Christians as well.

Do it.

Trends popular with the masses are often anti-Christian, going against the Bible's clear teachings. Flip through a magazine and see how many popular trends in society might actually endanger our eternal salvation.



—Tammie Burak writes from Cherry Grove, Alta., where she enjoys studying nature with her husband, Randolph, and their three children, Samuel, Emily, and Joshua.



Less and less thought is given to whether something is moral or ethical, whether humanity will be helped or hindered, healed or blown apart.

Science Gone Wild

The young Whissell family made their way through the crowd toward an opening on the side of the hill. The town of Huberdeau was celebrating St. Jean Baptiste Day, and the parade was about to pass by. Steve sat down beside his wife, Johanne, and their five children. It was a bright sunny day. The children were excited. It was going to be a great time.

Further up that hill, a parked car slipped out of gear and began its descent, picking up speed as it went. As it careened toward the young family someone screamed, "Get out of the way!" Steve looked behind and saw the runaway vehicle. Instantly, he knew what he must do. He pushed his three-year-old twin boys out of harm's way just before being run over. He died underneath that car. What started out as a wonderful family excursion turned into a heart wrenching tragedy.¹

Another tragedy is unfolding in our world that has people off guard. There are scientific "advances" being made in the world's laboratories that are nothing short of science gone wild. Animal-human embryos are experimented on. Human cloning is already yesterday's news. The military industrial complex is creating sinister weaponry. Everywhere we turn we see cameras and x-ray machines monitoring us. We are assured that all these things are for our own good, that they will make us safer. Can that be true?

As technology advances, boundaries are pushed back. Scientists are on the hunt for the unknown. They do things just because they can. Less and less thought is given to whether something is moral or ethical, whether humanity will be helped or hindered, healed or blown apart.

I wonder if we are simply taking up where Nazi science left off. Consider the military industrial complex and the new weaponry. The current push is for weaponry that requires fewer soldiers. In other words, we're moving towards war being fought by someone at a computer screen. The advantages are obvious: fewer soldiers on the field mean fewer will be killed. However, the person pushing the murderous

buttons may well consider it like a video game and be callous toward human suffering.

In 1961 President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned of the dangers of the industrial military complex:

... this conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence—economic, political, even spiritual—is felt in every city, every State house, every office of the Federal government... we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications.²

We have long since forgotten that admonition. In late June 2008, President Bush signed a bill for another \$162, 000,000,000 to be used in the war on terror. The amount of money now expended on the war on terror is beyond our comprehension. War is big business. Science is a commodity for the highest bidder. Government, business, military and science have merged, and as a result scientists are letting go of costly scruples.

We are living in a time when science has gone wild. The vehicle is careening down the hill, and we desperately need to get out of the way. We are being warned to be mindful of what is going on. The first casualty of war is truth and freedom of information. In the midst of this current war on terror, scientists might be tempted to believe that politicians of democratically elected governments know best. That assumption is naïve in the extreme.

Unfortunately, our lifestyle has meant that we do not make the effort to stop and consider the time in which we live, to reflect on the dangers that are before us. The current crisis points us to the necessity of spiritual reflection on what it means to be human. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." (Prov. 1:7) ■

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>> Our Partnership and Sponsorship meetings—"Stepping Out in Faith"—start next month. If you wish to take part, please call 905/404-6510. <<



FINISHING THE WORK

Her family's history of commitment to the mission began with her father. Her mother's sickness put a lot of strain on the family, so her dad looked forward to the Sunday morning television program as a moment when he could take a break from the stresses of life. "My dad used to watch Henry Feyerabend, Shawn Boonstra and then Bill Santos," she says. "And he devoted himself to completing the mission, even after his death, with his support of the ministry."

Dawn Kirkby, along with her husband and children, carries on with her father's devotion. She believes that her support of It Is Written Canada is important in completing the work assigned to her—the spreading of the gospel. "Jesus is coming soon, but there are people out there dying to hear of Him right now. This way I feel like I am helping somehow," says Dawn.

The Kirkby family is not alone. Many people around Canada take part in this mission of spreading the good news. Luiz Leão from Montreal has a strong sense of commitment to the work because he knows that we are closer than ever to Christ's return. He says, "I believe that during these last days God wants to raise workers that are entrusted with the end of the last work and that a great part will be done through the means of communications such as television."

There are many stories to tell to describe people like Elaine Pappajohn whose happiness is contagious, Monica Wettstein and her tales of Jesus working in her life and Angele Hamilton and her unswerving commitment to the ministry. They know, as we all do, that Jesus calls us to complete his mission. He asks us to be "fishers of men." All of these supporters and the hundreds of others who work with us have embraced Paul's words passionately and seriously: "But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God" (Acts 20:24)

Like a bonfire burning, our hearts should be ablaze with passion for the work. All of us can give our support in one way or another. You can contribute with your prayers or telling others about the It Is Written program. You can testify about Jesus and what a blessing it is to have Him as your own Saviour. You can take part in the mission. We can come together and partner in proclaiming the Good News. ■

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

rebeca@iiw.ca





You MAKE IT HAPPEN

by Andrea Luxton

Do you have an unwritten list of places you want to go or things you want to do at sometime in your life? I do. Playing in a bell choir happened a few years ago. A trip to Alaska was another fulfilled dream. Then there was the desire to visit the Grand Canyon. That was ticked off my list just this summer.

Have you been there? It is truly awesome sight. The depth of the canyon and the variegated layers of the rocks are breathtaking. What left me speechless, however, was the range of colours and the way they change as the sun shifts position and the clouds pass by. Isn't that the way God fills our lives? With constantly changing colour, both literally and figuratively. And isn't that the way God is too? He is too big for us to grasp His character and the depths of His love. But just as God allowed Moses to see His back through a cleft in the rock, He constantly shows us colourful glimpses of His character and love.

I see God's character and love each day at CUC. It is there in the smile of a student as I walk to my office. I hear it in laughter of our chaplain as he talks to students. I hear it in the prayers of the prayer group meeting outside the administration building just under my window. I experience it as I see the spiritual growth of young people and watch them graduate with commitment to future service. I know it is here when young people choose to take a year out to be student missionaries. It is present when colleagues and students show compassion to those who face loss. I even see it in the way our sports teams play their games. I am one of the fortunate ones.

I share this with you, the constituency in Canada, because it is you that allows CUC to be the place it is.



Today (June 26th) is the day our choir leaves for Beijing, China. They are one of only two choirs throughout Canada invited to sing in a mass North American choir in the pre-Olympic celebrations. What an opportunity to share the values of CUC and represent Adventists and Christianity. How was this trip possible? Only because many of you have supported the students who are going.

Each March we have our awards night. This is one of the highlights of the year for me, as I give students scholarships that will often make the difference between them being able to continue their education or take time out. This year we gave away a record \$160,000+ in merit-based and need-based awards. Where do the scholarships come from? From church members and alumni of CUC. Thank you for making a difference.

This last September students at CUC were delighted to return to campus and see improvements to the facilities. Not extravagant ones, but ones that needed to happen. Now we have a plaza outside the administration building that provides a great meeting place and stops snow being trekked into the building. Also for the first time since the 1970s the front of the building had a new paint job. Instead of gravel and mud holes, the halls of residence and cafeteria had

paved roads. Our campus needs to represent the church well. We are getting there, but again only with your help. It is the donations that we receive annually that ensure we can constantly move forward and represent you, the Church, well.

I could give you more pictures. Of our mission trips that you support. Of our piano project to ensure our music program operates at the highest possible level. This year our support from voluntary gifts from church members, alumni, and friends exceeded \$750,000 for the first time. Donated money is, of course, the way that all higher education institutions today ensure their futures. But that does not minimize our thanks to you. This year the offering for CUC around Canada will be August 31st. Please do help us continue to change the lives of students, to show the incomparable character of Christ through your University College in Canada. Help us to teach them to live our motto: THINK, BELIEVE, ACT in the commitments and choices they make both today and into their future.

Thank you. 🌸

Andrea Luxton is the president of Canadian University College.



Healthy Financial Picture for Voice of Prophecy Canada



Voice of Prophecy's (VOP) airtime coverage in Canada is set to expand as a result of a significant increase in the organizations net assets. The annual Executive Board met April 23, 2008 and reviewed the 2006 Audited and 2007 Pre-Audited Statements. The auditors reported there is a growing strength in the organization with donations on the rise and overall expenses well in check. Both 2007 and the first quarter of 2008 boast a comfortable operating gain.

All members of the board unanimously agreed that the organization should explore and cultivate new airtime venues. As providential opportunities converge with increased funding to boost the spread of the gospel through Voice of Prophecy, multiplied millions more across the nation of Canada will hear the good news as we "lift up the trumpet and loud let it ring!" Our time-buying agency is responding to Dan Jackson's specific request to the Canadian VOP Board that we search for a station in the Sherbrooke area of Canada's largest city, Montreal.

I was only a year old when I first left Saskatchewan with my parents and went to the Voice of Prophecy, where Dad sang bass in the King's Heralds Quartet from 1948-1950. Who could have dreamed a little tyke from the prairies would assume responsibilities as director-speaker of the second-oldest continuous religious broadcast in the world?

The Voice of Prophecy was begun in 1929 by H.M.S. Richards after he worked as evangelist in the Oshawa area until 1926. As we count down to our 80th anniversary in a few months, we are now aired either weekends or daily on more than 400 stations in North

America, on shortwave worldwide, and on the internet as audio-on-demand at the VOP website (www.vop.com). A weekly telecast, *Exploring the Word*, airs on Adventist satellite networks. Overseas, programs in dozens of languages are aired by more than 1,000 radio stations, including shortwave facilities whose signals reach nearly every country.

Of special interest to Canada is the brand-new development of our DISCOVER Bible study guides in Chinese. Perhaps even more exciting is the production of 24 KidZone lessons for boys and girls (ages 8-12) also in Mandarin and Cantonese. Church members in Canada's largest cities can now use these lessons to reach the growing Chinese populations in Toronto, Vancouver and other large metropolitan areas.

The Lillooet church in British Columbia launched the very first local Discover Bible School in North America in 1995. Today, 60% of the churches across Canada have their own Discover Bible School. Every conference in the country is participating. Jim Zackrison, who serves as a special assistant to the VOP Bible School, has conducted training seminars in Ontario in both 2007 and 2008. His classes cover the topics of small groups, Sabbath School, and local Discover Schools.

We're growing in Canada in other ways, too! We are pleased to announce that our newest VOP field representative is J.D. Serhan from Hope, B.C. who will serve as a consultant for all of Canada. ■

Lonnie Melashenko is the speaker-director of Voice of Prophecy.

If you have questions or suggestions, you might wish to get in touch with any member of the Canadian Voice of Prophecy Board of Directors. They are:

Lonnie Melashenko, president
Roy Hunt, secretary/general manager
Gordon Pifher
Carol Domke
Ike Cadogan
Sherry Griffin
Derrick Nichols

Dan Jackson, vice-president
Joyce Jones, treasurer
Jacob Hiebert
John Howard
Ken Corkum
Cathy Smith

by D. Douglas Devnich

standing
near

*... God will always
be with us.
He never abandons
His children.*



To know God more fully and more accurately is the quest all Christians are privileged to undertake. It is the task of a lifetime, and even at the close of our lives, we'll have only made a small beginning.

Crystal Holloway, editor of this journal, wrote in the January 2008 edition: "We should be dedicated to preserving an accurate representation of God, especially when the rest of society seems bent on misrepresenting Him." She is right. More and more the evidence is before us that the world is deliberately trying to either deny God's existence or to portray Him as what He is not. As Christians, have we done any better in that regard?

In the book of Acts there is a story that illustrates what God is really like, and we in the postmodern church of God would do well to learn from it. It deals with the issue of what God is like towards us when we fail to do what He reveals is the best for us. Does He punish us? Does He cause us pain to awaken us to our folly? Or, does He "give us more grace" (James 4:6)? And, by the way, how does God draw His children to Himself: through retribution or through unlimited love and presence? When we answer these questions according to Scripture, we can more fully rise to Ms. Holloway's challenge of representing God more accurately.

PREVENTING OR ALLOWING —LESSONS FROM PAUL

Most of us who like to study the Bible know the story of the Apostle Paul and the ubiquitous opposition he had from the Pharisees and Sadducees. As they did with Christ, they persisted in trying to kill him. In Acts 20:23, the Holy Spirit warns Paul at the end of his last missionary journey that going to Jerusalem will bring harm to him. God tried to redirect Paul toward another choice so that his ministry would not be cut short. While many Christian writers say that God allows bad things to happen when He wants them to, I am convinced that God tries to prevent bad things from happening to us. In this case, God wanted to prevent harm toward His man. This is borne out more fully in Acts 21:4 which tells us that the Holy Spirit encouraged the Church to urge Paul not to go to Jerusalem. Seemingly God could not get through to Paul directly about the dangers ahead of him. So, in a second effort, God tried to prevent harm to his dear son, Paul, through the Church. That also didn't work.

In a third attempt to get Paul's attention in Acts 21:10-12, we read that the prophet Agabus, along with several other friends urged Paul not to go. But Paul insisted on going.

What would you do if one of your children insisted on doing what you absolutely knew would bring them harm and you had already tried three times to convince them to do otherwise? God did not abandon His child in this situation but remained close to Paul as he continued to do what he was urged not to do. God did not prevent Paul from going, yet it cannot be said that God allowed Paul to go. Paul exercised his freewill, and the rest of the story brings the saga of Paul's ministry to an end.

One could rightly ask: What might have yet happened for the good of the gospel had Paul listened to the Holy Spirit and to the Church? Great evangelistic breakthroughs had been made under the ministry of Paul. God was sure to have used Paul in even greater ways if he had not been so insistent on going to Jerusalem. But God has limited Himself in what He can do by having given humans the power to choose.

STANDING NEAR NO MATTER WHAT

Finally, consider the further development in the story. Paul was in deep trouble as predicted. In Acts 23:10 and 11, we note that by the wisdom and kindness of the tribune, Paul is granted a safe night of rest. Otherwise he would have been "torn to pieces." Scripture says, "That night *the Lord stood near him* and said, 'Keep up your courage! For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome'" [emphasis mine]. I suggest that though Paul did not follow the counsel God had given him earlier, God remained present with Him all the way. Paul did suffer harm by reason of his own choice to go to Jerusalem, nevertheless God stood by His man. And, as always happens, "all things God work[ed] for good" (Romans 8:28), and Paul is given an opportunity to witness in Rome.

From this story we can learn the irrefutable truth that no matter what choices we make and irrespective of the consequences, God will always be with us. He never abandons His children. This is the central idea of how we must interpret God and His revelation to us. We may make many mistakes, and we may suffer great pain because of the decisions we have taken, but God remains present with us through our suffering. He never causes suffering but He remains present for its duration.

STANDING NEAR NON-MEMBERS

I believe it to be true that we live and behave and treat others according to the way we perceive our God to be. Those who believe God to be authoritarian and punishing are, in turn, authoritarian and punishing of their children and others. Those who believe God to be merciful and gracious, they lead their families and

...HOW DOES GOD DRAW

T HIS CHILDREN TO HIMSELF: THROUGH RETRIBUTION OR THROUGH UNLIMITED LOVE AND PRESENCE?

other relationships with mercy and grace.

This simple message is far reaching: the nature of God's character is that He is with all His children, even the disobedient ones. Luke 6:35 says: "... you will be children of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked."

Think then of how this view of God, if we grasp it as we should, can affect our way through this world, our way of relating with the world. No longer can we see a vast multitude of people less loved by God than ourselves. We can see that our neighbours, though not Adventist in their beliefs, are one with us as brothers and sisters in the family of God. We can go to them not as strangers but as friends. We can associate with them within the family of God. We minister to them as we do among ourselves. We embrace them and welcome them into our homes and churches as brothers and sisters.

Too often we have in our heads an alienation mentality toward those who differ with us. We emphasize our differences before we contemplate our similarities.

STANDING NEAR INSIDE THE CHURCH

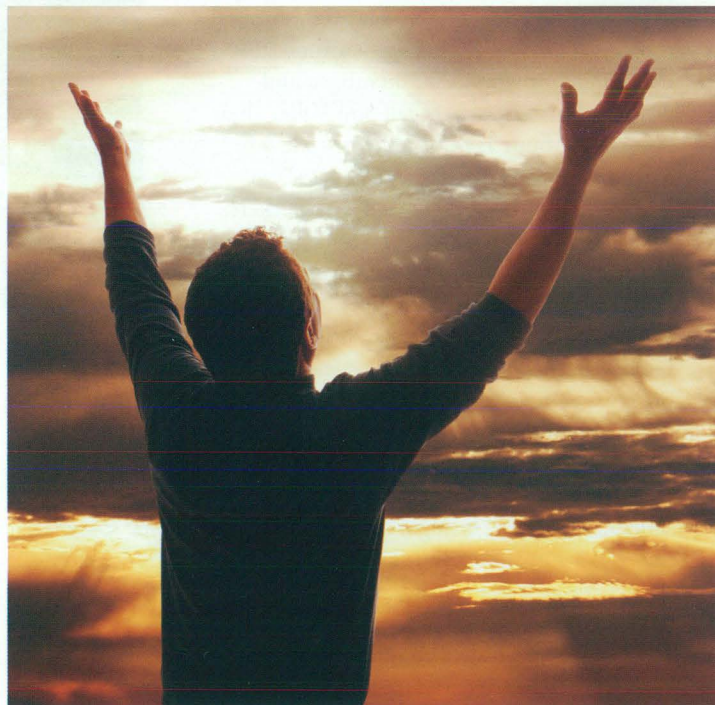
The story of Paul also helps us to change the way we understand and communicate with each other within the church, as well. If we believe that God is a punishing God, when someone in the church does not perform our will, we immediately think of how we can make them pay for it. We tend to want to punish the wrong-doers, but God did not show Himself to be a punishing God toward Paul. Paul did suffer the consequences of his choices, but rather than punish him, God stood by him. In the church, we need to stand by each other even when we do wrongly.

Especially is this all so important when we consider the youth of the church. I dare say that if we could have embraced this picture of God in the church over

the past hundred years or so, we would have retained thousands upon thousands of our youth who have now left our ranks. We would have stood by them through their dalliances until they matured. They would not have left the church because of our harshness toward them when they erred. I wonder how many people reading this article know that it is true that often we have been harsh and punishing to the youth and that we would have acted more like God if we had loved and embraced them when they were misbehaving or thinking differently?

We must be more God-like. Even as He does not prevent the consequences of evil or of our wrong decisions, so loving each other means that we must allow them to experience the consequences of their choices. But we must also follow His example in how we relate to others as they experience those consequences. Through it all we need to be like God who stood by His man. Even in the dark times of life, let us stand near one another. ■

D. Douglas Devnich has is a former president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Even in retirement, he contributes to the Church through his writings and occasional speaking appointments.



British Columbia

Global Rain—Phase Two

“Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on God.” (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 175)

These words couldn't feel more true to the members of the Three Angels church in Penticton, B.C. than they did as they came together again in May

for phase two of Operation: Global Rain—10 days of prayer. As they studied the ten commandments, one each night, they discovered the deep meanings of each word in each commandment and realized more than ever their nothingness and their need of God. With humble hearts and a desire to serve with all their might, they prayed for the outpouring

of the Holy Spirit

It's such an awesome thought to know that thousands of God's children are united in a prayer chain around the world. ■

—*Gabriela Dascalu, communications secretary*

Son Valley Receives Building

Son Valley Fellowship, established in 1995, has been without a home of its own for almost 14 years. We have rented from a variety of churches and schools over the years, moving eight times. During that time, the church has grown to 200 members, and dozens of non-members call Son Valley their home. Our hope is to be able to settle into a place where we can do ministry 24/7.

Rick Reece, owner of Westbank Packers, has given Son Valley Fellowship a 13,000 sq. ft. steel building. It comes with insulation, electrical wiring, lighting and heating equipment. The value of the materials is over \$250,000. One of our members has the contract to dismantle and move it. God willing, it will be placed on a new foundation and finished on the inside. The plan is to build within the structure a 300 seat sanctuary plus a balcony, a small gym/fellowship room with a kitchen, and 2 floors of classrooms, offices, restrooms, storage, etc. There is an additional section that will act as an entrance and foyer. The building is designed in such a way that more additions can be added on quite easily in the future.

This gift came at the end of a year long Bible study by various small groups, leaders and finally the church as a whole on the topic of “Experiencing God—How to know and do



God's will.” The key idea that we have learned from our study is to stop making our own plans and then asking God to bless them but instead to keep our relationship with God such that we can see where He is working and then join God in His work. This gift of a church building was a “God thing” and so we figure that since God has given us a building this size, He must have a great ministry plan for its use and some land to place it on as well.

We are asking the members of the BC conference to pray for Son Valley Fellowship's ability to both hear and obey God's directions on how to proceed with the next steps. ■

—*Don Straub, member*

Peace Christian School Hosts Eco Challenge 2008



Sunday, June 8. Seventeen 3-person teams and their supporters along with race organizers, marshals, friends, family and reporters from two newspapers convene at the junction of Highway 97 and Wildmare Road for the 10 o'clock start of the first annual Eco Challenge.

Traffic is halted and the signal given. Fifty-one bicyclers roll across the highway and, muscles not yet in pain, begin the ascent of the ridge that divides the Pine River valley from the Moberly Lake valley just west of Chetwynd. Two thousand feet of vertical ascent and descent in 25 miles of rugged bush roads, seismic lines, bog and erosion bars, fist-sized gravel, mud and ruts on deactivated logging roads challenge the toughest of the intrepid riders.

The race included about six miles of running (walking, slipping, sliding, wading) on the top of the ridge with

bicycling on the up and the down sides. A final three miles of canoe paddling on wind-whipped Moberly Lake brought the racers to the finish bell in principal Darren Shankel's front yard.

Racers came from as far away as Kelowna and Lacombe, Alta. to join several teams from Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge in the fun. While everyone's competitive spirit was alive and well, it did not eclipse the spirit of the good Samaritan; many people stopped on a couple of occasions to assist racers in trouble. On one occasion, a racer went so far as to give up a bicycle to another racer who had broken down on the trail. If one racer had to drop out, the whole team was disqualified so it required team consensus to give up a bicycle.

The first team to the finish bell had a time of 4:46. The second team rang

in just over an hour later, and the last team took over nine hours to ring the bell. We were all a wee bit tired and hungry by then and eager for the food provided by our local SuperValu store.

Why did we do it? We're not crazy. We don't crave punishment. Why would we put ourselves through hours of brutal effort, getting muddy, exhausted and hungry just to ring a silly little bell in the end? Why would we give up a day's work to watch somebody else do it? It was a world-class opportunity to get acquainted with new people from the community—to meet them on neutral ground; to make friends. And we did just that. From reporters to sponsors and curious friends, we have new people that recognize us on the street and who know a little more about Peace Christian School. ■

Quebec

Legal Notice: Quadrennial Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Notice is hereby given that the Quebec Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will hold its 7th quadrennial session at the LaSalle New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (7780 Champlain Blvd), September 13,14, 2008. The regular business meeting of the session

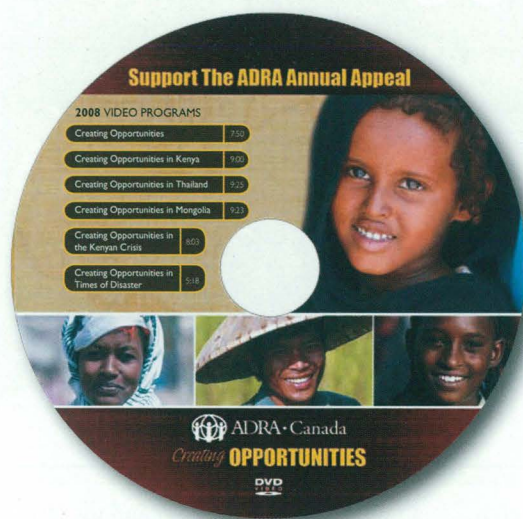
will be called at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 13. Registration of delegates will begin at 6:30 p.m. All matters pertaining to the general session: elections, reports, etc. will be on the agenda.

The Bylaws provide for representatives from each church in the Quebec

Conference to attend. The session is open to everyone, but only the delegates will have the right to speak and to vote. ■

*Dragan Stojanovic, President
Hector Jurado, Secretary*

SDA Church in Canada



ADRA DVD

Have you ever wondered how ADRA Canada works? If so, come with Hus on a virtual journey to faraway places and meet Orphan Mong Kompagit, a young Thai woman who cares for girls who have fled their villages to avoid being sold into slavery.

Continue on to the beautiful country of Kenya and meet Linet and Ferdinand, two young people with amazing stories of rehabilitation.

Join Llewellyn Juby in Mongolia for an introduction to two women whose lives have been changed forever.

Call or email the office to request your complimentary copy of the Summer 2008 DVD, *Creating Opportunities*. ■

North America

Weimar Re-opens

The Amazing Facts and Weimar boards have voted to keep the renowned Weimar Academy and College open this coming school year.

Early in 2008, Weimar College faced a serious financial shortfall that handicapped its ongoing basic operations. With great reluctance, the acting Weimar board voted to cease the operations of the college. However, soon after, a miraculous agreement was reached to join Weimar with Amazing Facts.

Now, the recent partnership has provided Weimar Institute with a bright new future for these important centers of education.

Says Pastor Doug Batchelor, president of Amazing Facts, "Both Weimar Academy and College are incredible centers of learning. Nestled in one of the most beautiful North American locations, we want to give these vital institutions the capacity to grow and be at their best, so more students can experience the superior practical,

spiritual, and health education that flows from these halls. Adventists must do all we can to keep life-defining education centers strong."

Currently, initial renovations of buildings and the final hiring of new staff are under way for both the college and academy.

In addition, during the first semester of 2008, the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism (AFCOE) will offer its four-month training course and a general studies program. Weimar College, in step with a growing number of Adventist higher-learning institutions, is now accepting AFCOE hours as course credit.

In another exciting development, one-year certificate programs in pastoral ministry and health evangelism, including massage and hydrotherapy, will be offered beginning in January of 2009. Those completing these programs will have the option of continuing on with degrees that will further prepare them to be effective in service to God and man.

Plus, missionary preparedness training and Christian media ministry will be offered as concentrated areas of study.

According to Don Mackintosh, Weimar's interim academic director, "Great excitement and anticipation is in the air! If current requests for applications at AFCOE-to-Go [a short-term evangelism training course to] are any indication, we are very encouraged about future growth! We had to move the previous class from the planned location in the college building to the newly renovated chapel to make sure we had enough space!"

Finally, Pastor Batchelor adds, "The future of Weimar is one full of unlimited possibilities. With the partnership of the academy and college, along with the world-famous NEWSTART, which is growing and going strong, it can become a powerful force in reaching people, body and soul, for the kingdom of God and training an army of ministry-minded workers." ■

Re-View KidsView



KidsView, *Adventist Review's* magazine for children, seeks young readers who enjoy stories, games, puzzles, and crafts. Ideal for children ages 8-12, or those in elementary school grades 3-6, *KidsView* provides aspects of Christian living for kids and by kids around the United States.

By the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, *KidsView* will expand from 4 to 8 pages, doubling in size. The Ellen G. White Estate, Adventist Mission, and the North American Division's Department of Education (NAD) will provide content for kids, with the latter organization submitting student writing samples from around the Division. Additionally, the NAD will furnish school-age children attending conference-sponsored Seventh-day Adventist schools with individual copies of *KidsView*.

Since there won't be enough space to feature all contributions, *KidsView* will feature some of the writing on a companion website, which will showcase some of the same material as the print magazine. Kids can also print off games or coloring pages by checking out kidsviewmagazine.org when the site launches in the fall.

Already a component of the *Adventist Review*, *KidsView* is also an excellent resource for Adventist children whose parents do not subscribe to the *Review*, or who do not go to church schools. Managing editor Wilona Karimabadi noted, "We're very aware that many Adventist kids are not in Adventist schools," so she aims to bring *KidsView* to children in various venues, such as in churches or homeschooling markets.

KidsView took root when a mother approached former *Review* editor Bill Johnsson, urging the *Review* to develop a periodical specifically for children. Current *Review* staff members Kimberly Luste Maran and Merle Poirer, along

with former assistant editor Bonita Joyner Shields, developed a magazine for children that began publication in 2002. Since then, one issue appears monthly in the *Adventist Review*.

Each issue varies in content but contains stories, activities, and devotionals that appeal to kids. Sometimes, content editor Kimberly Luste Maran adapts a story from the parent magazine, thus making it more readable for younger audiences, while pointing them to the *Review*. The idea is to help kids "grow up" with *Adventist Review*, a goal *KidsView* editors want to achieve.

A colorful calendar, designed by Merle Poirer, features the upcoming month, with historical bits, national holidays, or even funny suggestions, like "Waffle Wednesday," to engage children in day-to-day happenings. Crafts, games, or puzzles are interspersed throughout various issues, providing color and variety.

Though kids read and enjoy *KidsView*, they also take an active role in developing material. Editors regularly poll children to find out what content they would like featured. Furthermore, children reporters produce material on interesting events at church, in school, or in their communities. Sometimes kids have created profiles on adults, developing interview questions and sharing their findings. Karimabadi declared, "We find kids wherever we can and put them to work." This enables kids to help produce content for *KidsView*.

Subscribers to *Adventist Review* automatically receive *KidsView* free. For people interested solely in *KidsView*, however, the *Adventist Review* website (adventistreview.org) provides a simple means of subscription, with an option specifically for *KidsView*. Twelve issues cost \$10.95, and subscribers to the print version automatically receive access to the online PDF version. The *KidsView* staff wishes "to make it accessible in as many ways as we can."

Karimabadi expressed interest in conveying *KidsView* to a wide number of venues, because she wants children to enjoy the magazine in as many ways as possible. She stated, "Our goal with *KidsView* is to be a quality Christian publication for children." By reading this, kids can grow up with the *Review* and recognize that they belong to a world church. As they grow older, they can ultimately "understand the body of faith that they belong to."

For more information on *KidsView*, please contact Wilona Karimabadi at (301) 680-6633 or email kidsview@adventistreview.org. ■



Looking for news from your conference? SO ARE WE!

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: YOU are our best writer (and we're not just saying that because you are our only writer)! We need you to send in the stories that are happening all around you. It's really quite easy: have a look at our writer's guidelines at www.sdacc.org/messenger, and get writing! When you're ready, email it to cholloway@sdacc.org or upload it to our upload center.

BY
NATHAN
BROWN

Lament

We need to practice sadness.

It need not be grand or eloquent, poetic or dramatic; just simple sadness.

Try it sometime. Watch or listen to a news broadcast or flick through a newspaper, and allow yourself to feel the real people suffering in each headline. Look across the city lights and reflect on how each light represents a different story, each unique and with its own joys but also each scarred by pain and tragedy. Listen to the people with whom you come into contact and hear the frustrations, disappointments and sorrow, often not far below the surface of their lives. Be sad.

It seems it should be an easy thing to do, but I don't think many of us do it well. We're too quick to rush into explanations, justifications and rationalizations; too ready to get mad, get even, become sentimental or indulge in a few moments of contrived outrage that is talkback radio's stock-in-trade; and in our church setting, we're too easily tempted to see each new tragedy, tremor, turmoil or terror as yet another evidence that we are right—morally, prophetically, theologically or culturally.

And we miss the profound human and spiritual experience of being just plain sad.

Or we work hard to convince ourselves we need to smile because "God loves you," that somehow allowing ourselves to be sad would deny our faith. But even the preacher of Ecclesiastes points out that there is "a time to cry" and "a time to grieve" (Ecclesiastes 3:4). In the world in which we live, grief is a vital part of an authentic life of faith. Indeed, our faith should soften our hearts in a world that tends to harden them against repeated sorrow.

One of the aspects in which so much of our worship and worship music is lacking—and perhaps more so in contemporary worship—is the act of lament. It seems we have not learned how to share our sorrows and fears in the communal setting of our worship services. Yet, Christian musician Michael Card has suggested that of the 150 psalms—the hymnbook of the Old Testament—80 express lament, frustration and uncertainty to God.

And so many people of faith throughout the Bible had their dark hours and cried out to God, often with great vehemence, as part of their experience of faith. Jesus Himself—in His heartbroken, Good Friday cry of "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)—demonstrated that such bitter expression is not wrong and may even be an act of faith, dark though it may be amid an even bleaker darkness.

Faithful lament "is the voice of those who know God's goodness but find the troubles of the present moment near overwhelming. Such a lament, sung in our midst, does not solve anything really. But so much of life's trouble has no easy solution. So learning to sing songs of faithful lament helps us give voice to our experience together, before God" (Christian Scharen, *One Step Closer*).

Rather than being a denial of faith, the experience and expression of authentic grief is an affirmation of the God we are questioning. It is a path "well worn by the footsteps of these ancestors in the faith who brought their doubts, suffering and even outright anger before the God whom they knew to be faithful regardless of how things looked at the moment" (Scharen).

The reality is that we mourn what we care about, or as one poet puts it, "Every lament is a love song" (Jon Foreman). And as God's people, we are called to care for it all, to feel the pain of the brokenness of our world. We are called to care about everyone and everything. Every person, with their unique hurts, fears and sorrow, matters. And the big stories of our world are important to us primarily because so often real people are being crushed, oppressed and excluded. The grief we feel is an initial recognition that this is not how it should be.

Two of the most profound moments in the ministry of Jesus are when He paused to grieve openly for the people, the city, the nation He cared about (see John 11:35 and Matthew 23:37).

Jesus wept—and at times, in a world of such sadness, so should we. ■

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

■ New Members

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Venasa Simpson, Lina Johnne Zeya and **Sixmon Johnne Zeya** were baptized in Surrey, B.C. on Jan. 26, 2008 by George Ali. They are now members of the Surrey church.

■ Legal Notice

The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Notice is hereby given that the 49th 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

Zayin Kai Alexander Lloyd was born June 19, 2008 to Donald Jr. and Gracelyn (Ban) Lloyd of Berrien Springs, Mich.

■ Weddings

Erin Buchanan and **Christopher Will** were married June 29, 2008 in Bellingham, Wash. and are living in Walla Walla, Wash. Erin is the daughter of Sonja and Barry Buchanan of Langley, B.C. and Christopher is the son of Brian and Carlene Will of Battleground, Wash.

■ Anniversaries

Harold and **Mary (Penner) Reimche** were married on Sept. 28, 1947 and



celebrated their 60th anniversary with a reception on Aug. 6, 2007 at the Rutland Church fellowship hall in Rutland, B.C. surrounded by family and friends. Harold and Mary have served as a pastoral couple in 11 districts in five conferences throughout North America. They have four children: Al (Beth) of Portland, Ore.; Don (Carol), of Augusta, Ga.; Jackie Moon of Rutland, B.C.; and Della Rose (John Pijl) of Chilliwack, B.C. They have 10 grandchildren.

John and **Lara (Dyke) Smith** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 18, 2008 in Armstrong, B.C.



with a gathering of family and friends. They still serve as deacon-deaconess and as greeters, and have been recognized by Canadian University College for their ongoing support of christian education. John and Laura devotedly raised their three daughters—Myrtle, Adella and Diane—then with energy to spare, raised a second family—Geraldine, Sandra, Jim, Richard and Lynn. They also now enjoy numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Lena (Borris) Fraser was Sept. 26, 1923 in Leduc, Alta. and died Apr. 21, 2008 in Kelowna, B.C. Lena used her musical skills playing piano and organ for the various churches she attended. She is predeceased by her son Robert. Surviving: husband Don, son Arthur of Portland, Ore., daughter Gloria (Kevin) Sargeant of Kennewick, Wash., brother Alex Borris of Redding, Calif., and two grandchildren.

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We are privileged to print the obituaries of your loved ones, and to this end we want to ensure that we print the most accurate information possible. Therefore, we will no longer accept obituaries in any format other than on the 2008 Messenger Obituary form or from the online submission form. Please also note that all obituaries *must* be reviewed and approved by a family member and contact information for that family member must be provided with the submitted obituary.

We thank you for your help in this matter. We want to do our best for you.

Nina (Richards) Myers was born Nov. 29, 1913 in North Sydney, N.S. and died June 16, 2008 in Ajax, Ont. Nina was a charter member of the Albert Street church in Oshawa, Ont., and she and her husband Monte were the first couple married there. She is predeceased by her sister Bea Story. Surviving: husband Monte, son Monte "Sonny" Jr. (Colleen) of Oshawa, daughter Carolyn (Ken) MacLean of Courtrice, Ont, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Maria (Boes) Quiring was born July 4, 1917 in Poland and died May 13, 2008 in Kelowna, B.C. She is predeceased by her first husband Erich Tchierschwitz, her second husband David Quiring and her stepson Wilf Quering. Surviving: stepsons Sepp (Karen) Tchierschwitz of Williams Lake, B.C., Ed (Myrna) Quiring of Caldwell, Idaho, Harvey (Hazel) Quering of Williams Lake, and Don (Glenda) Quiring of Kelowna; stepdaughter Pearl (Henry) Herzog of Berrien Springs, Mich.; and sisters Olga Matijew of Kelowna, Adina (Edmond) Weidner of Kitchner, Ont. and Lydia (Gottfried) Dost of Kelowna.

Delores (Johniser) Smith was born Aug. 18, 1914 in Port Moody, B.C. and died June 18, 2008 in Salmon Arm, B.C. She is predeceased by her husband Eric and son John Charles. Surviving: sons Eric (Darlene) of Silver Creek, B.C and Frank (Mary) of Wawota, Sask.; daughter Heather (Ray) Albers of Pine Lake, Alta.; nine grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

George Smith was born June 18, 1918 in Stayner, Ont. and died June 7, 2008 in Orillia, Ont. George was a charter member of the Orillia church. He is predeceased by his first wife Hazel, brothers Wes, Roy, Clarence and Cecil, and sister Vivian McKay. Surviving: wife Erma; sons Daniel (Elaine) and Stanley; brothers Bob and Allan; sister Martha Simcoe; one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

Eldena (Leiske) Wentz was born Aug. 26, 1916 in Beiseker, Alta. and died Mar. 13, 2008 in Mesa, Ariz. Eldena worked for the Portland Adventist Hospital for many years. She is predeceased by her husband John, granddaughter Kathy Anderson and her brother Kenneth. Surviving: daughters Shirley (Dick) Davis, Bonnie (Jim) Anderson and Sharon (Ron) Wentz-Huisman; brother Elsworth; sisters Delores (Ken) Proud and Lorraine Truton; and two grandchildren.

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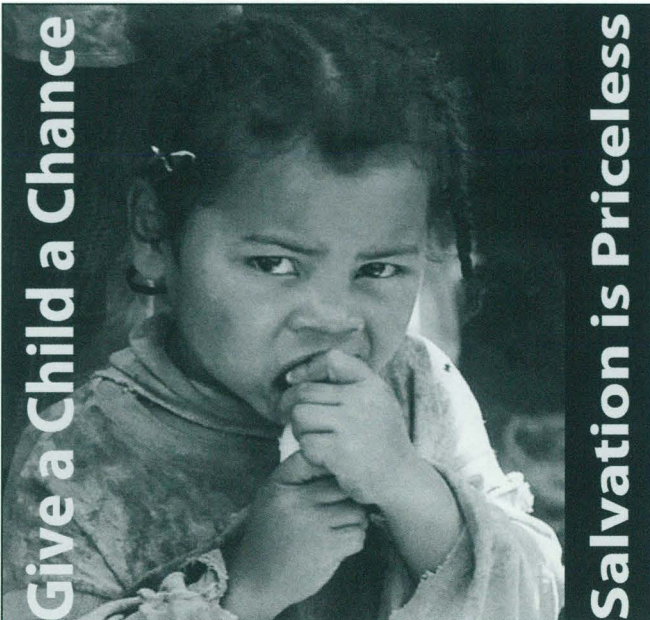
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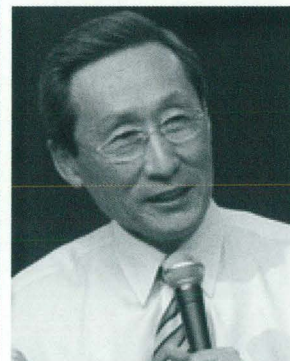
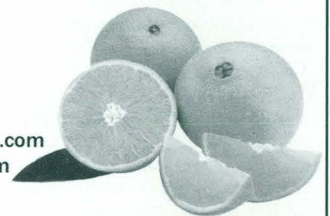
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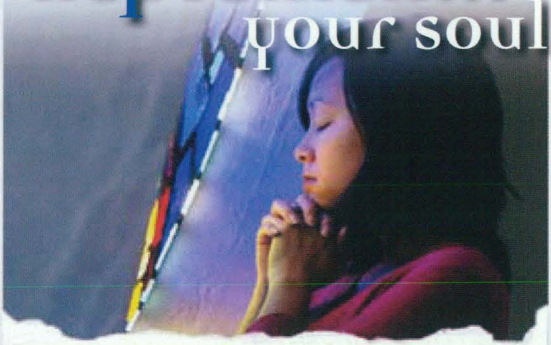
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Man-Sask Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Quebec Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Paul Musafili, Treasurer & Director of Estate Planning & Trust Services
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Maritimes Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland & Labrador

Gary Hodder, President & Director of Estate Planning & Trust Services
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ph: 709-745-4051 e: ghodder@sdanf.org

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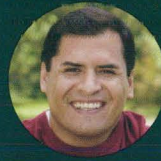
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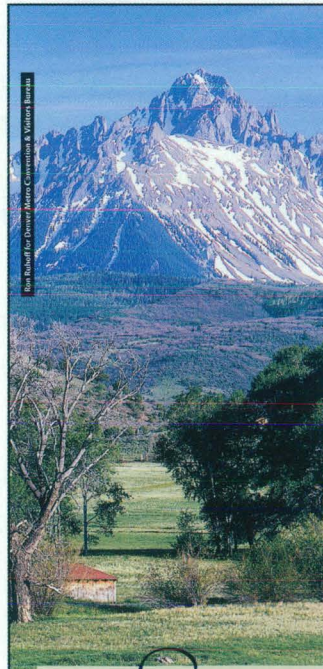
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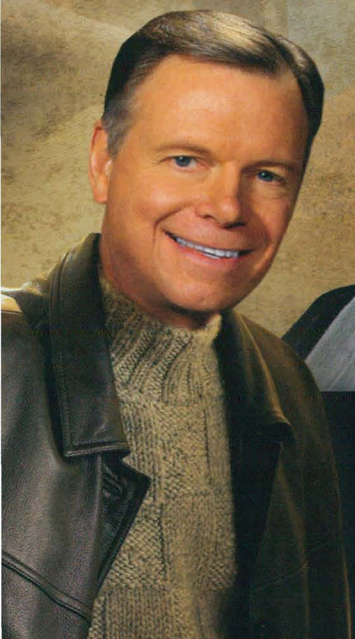
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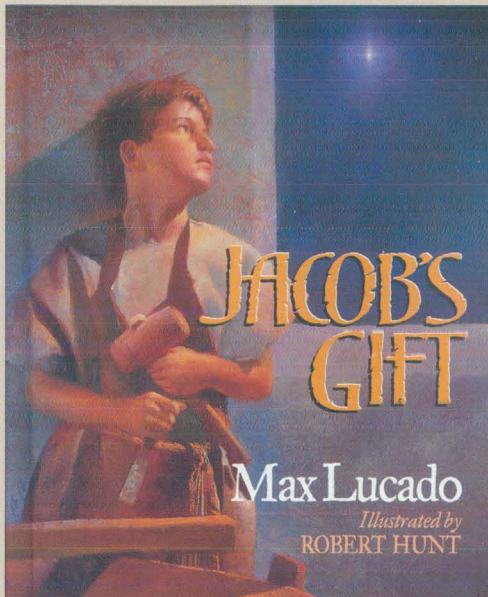
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JACOB'S GIFT



“When you give a gift to one of God’s children, you give a gift to God.”

BEING A PARENT and living close to the ABC is fortuitous indeed. Many times after work I slip over and look through their stock of books and music, always looking for the story that will captivate my children’s attention repeatedly, making the purchase price all the easier to handle. It was during one of these jaunts that I discovered *Jacob’s Gift*. As those who know me will attest, I do judge books by their covers and this one did not disappoint when I opened it for the deeper look. Here’s the breakdown.

It’s written by Max Lucado. Although he has written many books for adults, those who have children know the many contributions

he’s made to children’s literature and animation—most notably the *Hermie the Caterpillar* series and the *Wemmicks* series, favorites of both my three and five year old. His stories are generally simplistic in nature, taking a concept from the Bible and setting it either with a new backdrop or creating a different perspective on an age-old tale. It is into the latter category which *Jacob’s Gift* falls. Briefly summarized, it is a tale about a Jewish boy apprenticing to be a carpenter while living in biblical Berhlehem. He enjoys and wishes for recognition of his carpentry, talent and ingenuity, but he sacrifices it all for a baby without a bed. The plot isn’t deep, but it captivates. The dual message about sacrifice and using one’s talents are showcased well. The message is clear without being too “preachy.” And while children will certainly appreciate it, it is also interesting for the adult reader as well.

The artwork, done by award winning illustrator Robert Hunt, is captivating to say the least. The illustrations fill the double-page spreads wonderfully and look almost photographic. The primary use of golds, browns, tans, and blues in each illustration give the book a thematic earthy tone, doubly linking the images with the down-to-earth protagonist, Jacob. The artwork is indeed a highlight of this book.

Depending on which version you purchase, there may or may not be a bonus DVD of *Jacob’s Gift* from Tommy Nelson Inc. attached on the inside cover. This 28 minute feature showcases the story in yet another medium—live action drama. The DVD is designed for younger viewers; the screenplay is aimed for 4–12 year olds. Yet, when viewing it with my children, I couldn’t help but appreciate the clean, wholesome Christian messages being imparted through the various deeds enacted by young actors. It was definitely a bonus to share with my kids after reading the story to them for worship the night before.

This book has been in publication for ten years now, but hardcover versions are still available at Adventist Book Centers, Amazon, and most likely other large bookstores. Buying this book was a spontaneous action, yet I continue to be thrilled every time one of my children brings it to worship for us to read together. ■

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



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