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Messenger

A photograph of three children standing on a boat deck, viewed from behind. They are wrapped in towels: a red towel on the left, a white towel in the middle, and a green towel on the right. The background is a body of blue water under a clear sky.

what your kids
could have done on
their summer vacation

Getting Answers About the Church's Summer Camp Programs

“...most of us have had to deal with being talked about...
It’s gossip, and it hurts.”

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

While I am conscious of the danger of attempting to recreate God in my image, I do gain a lot of strength from the knowledge that the Son of God was a lot like me. I think that we sometimes envision Jesus as a social pariah, unintentionally subscribing to the notion that because He was not of our time and our culture He can not relate to us. That notion is decidedly wrong. The Jesus I read about in Scripture went to parties and hung out at His friends’ house and went fishing and had a thing for picnics. In all these ways and so many more, He seems very like me. And, since He did a lot of the same things I do, it makes it easier to imagine that He felt a lot of the same things I feel and was faced with the same questions I am faced with.

My point is made by one of the most interesting conversations recorded in the Bible—the one in which Jesus calls His friends together and asks them, “Who do people say that I am?” (Mark 8:27; Luke 9:18). I love the vulnerability implied in that question. Jesus knew that people were talking about Him. He was not impervious to the whispers, gossip and misinformation going around. He had a natural curiosity about what was being said. And, of course, the things that were being said were just plain wrong: the disciples reported that the word on the street was that Jesus was a prophet of some kind—maybe John the Baptist or Elijah or someone like that.

Before we grow to adulthood, most of us have had to deal with being talked about behind our backs. It’s gossip, and it hurts. It especially hurts when it is just plain wrong. And as humans we tend to have one of two reactions to it. We tend to either withdraw from society as if we in fact have something to hide, or we defend ourselves by shouting loudly to whoever will listen, “It is not true!”

Just as He always does, however,

Jesus shows us a better way. Picture the scene how you like, but in my mind’s eye, He sits by the road staring into the dust as He digests the information. Eventually, He comes to Himself and realizes that He is surrounded by people who care about Him, who stand around Him in awkward silence, not knowing what to say but wanting to comfort Him. I see a weak smile break through His sad expression as He lifts His face and looks each of His friends in the eye. “These are the people I’m closest to,” I imagine Him thinking. If anyone truly knows Him, these friends will. And once more He allows Himself to be vulnerable as He asks, “Who do *you* say that I am?” Do they get it right? “You are the Christ,” they answer, and I can almost sense the relief that washes over Jesus as He finds comfort and a little validation in their understanding. So relieved is He that He even tells his friends, in essence, “As long as you know who I am, it’s all good. You don’t have to defend me to others or even try to change their minds.” Confident that those who care to know Him do, He again takes to the road and walks on.

Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Christ was “tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin.” I, a sinner, can never make that claim. But I take comfort in the knowledge that there is a way through this maze called life and that Someone has already navigated it, learned the way and is now accompanying me as I go. May each of us have the confidence that He who cares to know us does, the courage to stick to the road and the commitment to walk on. ■

Crystal

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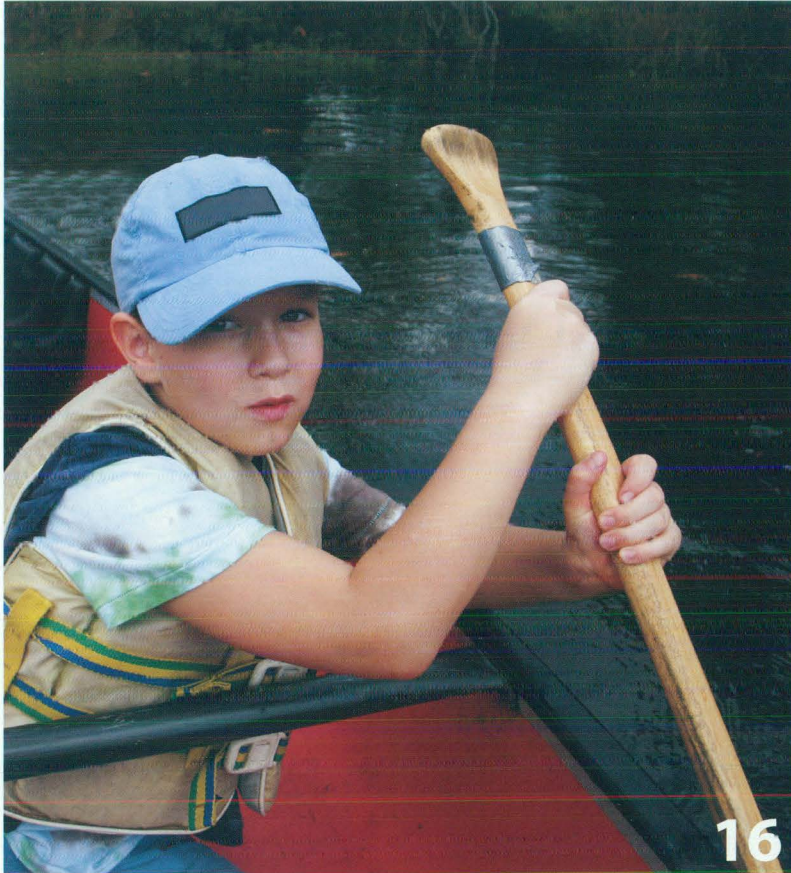
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FEATURES

- 13 **ENVIRONMENT**
Earth Talk—Plastic food storage containers.
- 16 **COVER STORY**
What Your Kids *Could Have Done* on Their Summer Vacation.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2 **EDITORIAL** Who Do You Say I am?
Before we grow to adulthood, most of us have had to deal with being talked about behind our backs.
- 4 **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**
- 5 **PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE** Back to School
The value of our schools is inestimable.
- 6 **TEENTALK** Am I Normal?
We live in a society where "anything goes as long as you don't hurt anybody."
- 7 **CREATION CORNER** Canada Lynx
God's word is our spiritual food. What happens when we don't feed upon it daily?
- 8 **WORLDVIEW** Crying Wolf: The End-Time Fantasy
"Yes, we must remain vigilant, but we should not become obsessed with the machinations of the evil one."
- 9 **IT IS WRITTEN** The Life He Never Knew
He Always Wanted.
- 10 **CUC** The Life You Change May be Your Own.
- 12 **EDUCATION** How Important is Adventist Education?
- 14 **ADRA CANADA** An Open Door for Zolzaya.
- 20 **NEWS** Reports from the Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia conferences, and the North American Division.
- 24 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 31 **BOOKENDS** Screen Deep.



Your Words

“May God be merciful to narrow-minded people who have never experienced God’s grace and acceptance.”

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

We received our *Messenger* this morning, and, as usual, it is outstanding. Your editorials are always to the point and meaningful—in fact, I think they say something that needs to be said to our people!

I am amazed that there are still SDAs living in 2008 who think that anything that is not printed in our presses is not fit to be read. These dear folk must have never gone to school because everything (almost) was printed in the “worldly” presses! One can only imagine what one’s mind must be like who have never read good books by other Church writers—especially books by Philip Yancey like *What’s So Amazing About God’s Grace?* May God be merciful to narrow-minded people who have never experienced God’s grace and acceptance.

—L. & E. Lowe,
British Columbia

Re: letter in response to “You May Be Right” (printed May 2008), July 2008

I truly appreciate your insightful and well-worded editorials, Crystal, so hang in there, girl! You’re doing a great job and are very fair in using the letters that come in. I noted that your July issue carried a quite critical (long) letter from Ken which I reread to be sure I was hearing him accurately. He’s apparently just a surface reader or maybe just a “nit-picker.”

While reading the lengthy letter that referred to your May ‘08 editorial, “You May Be Right,” I immediately went back to reread the original item. I found it very well-worded and not the least bit controversial theologically if one reads it in context, noting the opening words, “*To His contemporaries* Christ must have

seemed crazy.” It follows that “*to them*” he would always be nothing but the child of an unwed mother! So please, reader, step back and see the full picture rather than taking the editor’s comments out of context, as seemed evident throughout this whole long letter.

—D. Rick, via email

Re: kudos

I read in the May 15 edition of the *Adventist Review* that the *Messenger* received three honours at the [Associated Church Press] ACP convention, among them the Acorn Award of Excellence.

Congratulations. (It was “official recognitions” like these that kept me going forward during some stressful days in my teaching career.)

—C. Nawalkowski, via email

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.



Keep ‘em Comin’!!

At the *Messenger*, we feel like it is our job to get Canadian Adventists talking about topics that are important to all of us. Judging by the recent lack of letters, we haven’t been doing our jobs!

Please let us hear from you about what you like and what you don’t like. Don’t let the “letters” page fade away! Send comments to *Messenger*, 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8 or cholloway@sdacc.org.

We **KNOW** you’ve got opinions. It’s time to share them.

Back to School



BY
DAN
JACKSON

ON A BRIGHT SUMMER MORNING IN 1963, my mother woke me from my sleep with these words: “Get out of bed, and pack your things. We are leaving.” It was then, 45 years ago, that I was enrolled in a Christian school for the first time in my life; I was all of 14 years of age. An earlteen. Leaving home that day was leaving without a return. My mother went to Vancouver Island, and I went to CUC. When she dropped me off, she promised the school’s business manager, Malcolm Fisher, that she would pay \$50 per month to keep me at CUC, and he accepted those terms.

For the next eight years, CUC was my home. It was there that I found my Lord, my lovely wife Donna and my calling to ministry. It was there that our first child was born. When I left CUC, I left it a blessed young man, thankful to God for His grace and grateful to the school for patience. CUC for me was and still is a community of grace.

The experts tell us that, in our world today, the greatest single component of effective leadership is influence. Position is not synonymous with authority! Significant technical skills and natural talent are good, but talent does not guarantee esteem. Keeping current on technology and methods is impressive, but it will not accrue to us the level of respect necessary to give us a hearing.

For Christians, true influence only comes as a result of building quality relationships with God and men and then demonstrating the things we talk about in real time. Our world is impacted positively by those whose lives are marked by Christlikeness! Individuals who form the nucleus of communities of grace leave huge holes in our world when they pass off the scene.

There is tremendous significance to this, especially when we consider the influence of faithful Christians and the passing of values from one generation to the next that happens through our educational institutions. When we consider the fundamental goals and aspirations of our Church schools, we come to understand that it is not merely the intellectual embracing of a body of cutting edge information which holds primary significance. It is not the erection of bigger and better places of worship and study. Furthermore, it is not even the formal education of our children which must hold our primary focus. If our legacy to our children is that we have provided them with the best education yet failed to bring them into friendship with Jesus, then we have failed utterly. If we leave behind highly organized church programs, educational programs and institutions that are devoid of genuine Christian vibrancy and enthusiasm, we have failed those who will come after us, as well as those who are anxiously observing us today!

As I write this column, a whole new generation of young people is beginning their first few days of a new school year in Seventh-day Adventist Christian institutions. Today as I walked from my car to my office, I stopped a van full of young students on their way to school. I looked into their beautiful young faces as I teased and queried them about their readiness for the new school year. In my heart I whispered a prayer of thanks to God for our schools.

The value of our schools is inestimable and will only be truly revealed in Heaven. Let us never forget that the primary purpose of our schools is to bring our youth into an eternally vibrant connection with God—making them truly influential—so that they might serve effectively in this world and in the world to come. ■

Dan Jackson is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada



GREENWICH VILLAGE

GAY ST

Am I normal?

I'm a girl. I'm in college now, and I meet very openly gay people, and some are even my friends. I can watch romantic gay stories on TV and I like them because the characters are passing through harder ordeals than straight couples and are still keeping their love. I mean, I can watch it strictly if it's about a real love story and real feelings (I'm a very romantic person, and I love love stories). If it's anything more than that (sexual stuff), I don't watch it. Am I normal for being able to see two men kissing or romantic gay stories? Am I normal for hanging out with gay people?

Yes, you are normal. There's nothing abnormal about caring for people's happiness and befriending other college students who think and act differently from what you are used to. Jesus was able to reach all kinds of people because he didn't see them as different. No matter what their social or economical status was, he always was interested in their well being.

There is a line, though, between respecting the person and approving of what they do. For instance, you may hang out with a lifelong friend who smokes, but that doesn't mean you agree with her choice. Your friendship with her doesn't mean that you approve of smoking, even if, with time, you've become used to seeing her smoking.

Well, the same goes with your gay friends. You care for them as friends, and that's the right thing to do. However, you need to make sure that your beliefs are biblically sound. We live in a society where "anything goes as long as you don't hurt anybody,"

and "everything is relative." That's not the biblical approach, though; Christians believe there's an absolute Truth. The Bible is very clear about same gender sexual relationships. It disapproves of any sexual relations outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

If you are OK with (and like) watching two guys kissing (and BTW, kissing is part of a sexual relationship), you need to ask yourself two important questions: "Have I seen this so many times that I've become accustomed to it?" and "Do I really approve of same gender sexual relationships?"

My advice to you is to control what you watch on TV and, most importantly, dedicate some time to doing an in-depth study of what the Bible says about homosexuality.

**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

“Give us today our daily bread.”
Matthew 6:11 NIV

Canada Lynx

One evening, while our family sat on the deck enjoying the lovely sunset, a lynx come out of the forest to drink from our pond. They are normally very elusive.

One of the most remarkable things about the lynx is that its population cycles closely match the cycles of the snowshoe hare, with its regular increases and decreases. This is due to the fact that the lynx relies on the snowshoe hare as its primary food source. So when the hares are plentiful, so are the lynx. When there are few hares, there are few lynx.



Think about it.

The lynx must eat daily to keep strong and healthy. If it doesn't eat enough, it becomes weak and has fewer young. The babies are less likely to live to reproduce, and the number of lynx starts to diminish. God's word is our spiritual food. What happens to us when we don't feed upon it daily?

Do it.

Start a daily prayer journal. Start with prayer. Read a portion of scripture, and then write in your journal. You could write your impression of the verses you read, how they apply to you or even a prayer of thanksgiving to God. Do this everyday for two weeks and you will be well on your way to creating a habit of daily feeding your soul.



"...seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." (Matthew 6:33)

CRYING WOLF

The end-time fantasy

Aesop is credited with the story of the shepherd boy who cried "wolf" one too many times. The village had been terrorized by the creature for some time, and a plan was devised whereby anyone seeing it would yell "wolf," and immediately everyone would drop what they were doing and run to the rescue. It was hoped that eventually the wolf would be caught and destroyed.

The shepherd boy had been told about this plan. Day after day, he watched over his sheep and found it increasingly tedious. He was bored. He cooked up a plan to generate a little excitement: he would cry "wolf!" and see if the village elders had properly organized the citizens.

"Wolf! Wolf!" he bellowed from the lonely hill just outside the village. Upon hearing the young boy, people came from every corner to his aid. They carried whatever instruments were handiest to battle with the feared canine. His parents and family were anxious of the boy's safety as they ran; neighbours rose in defence.

Upon their arrival on the scene, they found a hysterical young man laughing with delight at his coup. He had managed to frighten the townsfolk. However, he was to suffer a much deserved "jawing down" by the mob that realized that they had each been hoodwinked. They warned him against doing such foolery ever again. He obliged in agreeing to not do so again.

Of course, you know the story; he did it again, and again he was warned. The third time, his cries were for real. A wolf had violently attacked his herd. But the boys' emphatic cries of "wolf! wolf!" fell on deaf ears. No one bothered to show, and as a result he lost his sheep.

Old story, but a timeless message.

Recently, I have been inundated with requests to look into stories being circulated that the U.S. is going to implement Sunday closing laws or that the economy is going to crash in the next couple of weeks or that there have been secret meetings by various leaders that are going to take away human rights. Each time the story is getting more embellished with increasing

intensity of the warnings.

There can be no doubt we are living in "testing times" as a recent issue of *Liberty* proclaimed. We have anxiety about what is going on in the world—economic troubles, escalation of tensions between the U.S. and Russia, increasing crime rates and so forth. Unfortunately, many have become hypervigilant—obsessed, really—about the end of the world, and these people fall victim to every suggestion that the end will be just as the sensational emails suggest. When the end does not arrive as these messages warn, these people find a good reason to explain it. But soon a new email arrives with even better information, and the process starts all over again. Each time, credibility to predict the end has been totally shattered.

The troubling aspect of this is that when things do begin to happen for real, people will simply tune out the warning, assuming that any warnings are just another instance of our crying, "wolf!" That is why it is essential that we, as a Church and as individuals, avoid the sensational. The script of the world's warning has been given us: Revelation 14:6-13. We do not know when the image of the beast will be set up; all we know is we are to warn the world of the importance of remaining faithful to Christ and keeping His Sabbath holy. We proclaim the message of the gospel with urgency but also in love.

Christ warned us to be mindful of the signs of His return—and that we must do—but to make specific predictions of what will or will not happen and when it will happen is not our place. Attempting it makes us look like we are crying "wolf" and like we are out of step with reality. Yes, we must remain vigilant, but we should not become obsessed with the machinations of the evil one. Instead, let us "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). ■

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



The life he never knew

BY REBECA PEREIRA

Al Crema knew that the life he was living in the city of Sault Saint Marie was not the life he wanted to live. He was not meeting his family's needs because he was absent—spending all of his time either at the steel mill where he worked or travelling to the games that he dearly loved: baseball and bowling. His usual schedule had him away for at least half of the week, and even when he was in town, he was out most of the day.

That was his life until the day that something happened that would change him forever. His neighbour and good friend, John Vanschoonveld, invited Al to join him and his wife, Georgette, as they attended Bible meetings at a local church. The subject under discussion captivated his attention. In fact, Al's says, "The meetings blew my mind. They were just what I was looking for, but I did not know it at the time." Al, John and Georgette attended regularly going together each night.

At each meeting, Al was inspired to study more and more. He began to delve into the scriptures, thirsty for the truth that only the Bible can reveal. The pastors visited him and helped him come to an even deeper understanding of what he was reading. On one of the last nights, It Is Written Canada's speaker-director, Bill Santos, who was leading the series of meetings, spoke to the audience about baptism. As Bill asked the question: "Who would like to accept Jesus through baptism?" the Holy Spirit moved Al to do something that he would not normally do: he stood in response to the appeal.

On November 9, 2007, Al was baptized as a sign of his sins being "washed away" (Acts 22:16). Al exclaimed, "My life has changed so much! I was looking for something and I found it."

Indeed, Al does have a different lifestyle now. "I read the Bible. I go to Bible studies every Tuesday

night and Saturday morning, and I have found a new family in the church." He is much more involved with his own family now, too, and spends a lot of time enjoying the company of his four grandchildren. Al is a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Cornerstone Church in Sault Saint Marie.

Meetings like the one that helped change Al's life are happening all over the country. Since 2004, It Is Written Canada has conducted ten series of meetings in areas like Sault Saint Marie, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Brandon. Douglas Pereira, evangelism coordinator, says:

"The purpose of It Is Written Canada is to evangelize. The TV program opens the doors and plants the seed into the hearts of the viewers. After this first step, it is vital to go to the field to water and harvest the fruits, and at this time, public evangelism is indispensable. The It Is Written Canada team believes in public evangelism, and that is the reason why we have nine series scheduled for the next couple of years. We are preparing and making available material to equip churches and members for evangelism. Our dream is that through these materials and the evangelistic system we have adopted we will be able to involve the churches more in the process of evangelism so we can focus on the reaping. In this way, instead of spending the usual five weeks on a series, we would have only two weeks focused on the appeal for a decision. Such a change of strategy would make it possible to develop at least eight series in a year, instead of three or four. As a result, It Is Written could reach places that could not be normally reached due to lack of resources."

We invite you to help us evangelize Canada. ■

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



he always wanted

The Life You Change



Steve Garrloch, a second-year Psychology major, with his new friends.

Maybe Your Own

Shortly after 8 p.m. on May 1, the doors slid open at the Managua International Airport, and a wall of heat hit me. It was then that I realized that I had finally arrived in Nicaragua.

This year, 10 students and two sponsors from Canadian University College headed to Managua, Nicaragua on a six-week mission trip sponsored by CUC and ADRA Canada. This mission trip is, without doubt, one of the most interesting and inspiring experiences of which I've ever been a part.

Initially, our project was to put the finishing touches on the Motastepe school located just outside the capital city of Managua, but after a brief meeting with Lydia, the Youth Initiatives coordinator at ADRA Canada and the ADRA Nicaragua staff, we learned that our project had changed slightly. Instead of finishing the school itself, our new focus was to build a two-storey teacher's residence and office building. Though we were all somewhat surprised by this change, when we arrived the following Monday, our surprise gave way to excitement about the school, the kids and all the experiences we would have in the next five weeks.

After we arrived, a lot happened: we had to wait for materials to arrive, spent countless hours digging holes and twisting wires, taught English to the students and teachers at Motastepe school, learned more about each other within the group, toured some of the amazing sights in Nicaragua on Sabbaths, and spent time with believers at churches around the country. We had our ups and our downs while we were there, but we learned a lot about God.

So many times, we want things to happen right away. I know I sometimes run short on patience. I'm always in a hurry to do something, but then I am reminded that patience comes as a result of love (see 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 to understand what I mean). If we try to love those around us the same way God loves us, then how can we not be patient? How many times has God patiently waited for us to come to Him? My Nicaraguan experience was the reality check that I'd needed for some time.

Through the frustrations that we experienced during our stay in Nicaragua and the frustrations that I was dealing with personally, I've come to know that I can find peace and calm in the One who grants me the patience necessary for the struggles of this life.

As I think about our group's time in Nicaragua, I can't help but thank God for how amazing He is and for what He's teaching me everyday. Even though I went to Nicaragua intending to help change others' lives, I found that my life was changed substantially, and I know the learning will continue. ■

Steve Garrioch is a second-year Psychology major and incoming CUC Student Association Communications VP.



CUC students and their sponsors who participated in the Managua, Nicaragua mission trip.



Maria Mihok, a third-year International Health and Wilderness Studies major plays with local children.



Remi Desjardins, a first-year Religious Studies major digging holes for the building foundation.

HOW IMPORTANT IS ADVENTIST EDUCATION?



A recent CBC article asserts that “a report by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health found ample evidence that violence, sexual harassment and bullying are a fact of life for a significant number of students both in small towns and big cities.”¹ A *Vancouver Sun* reporter states that “almost half of Canadian boys in Grades 6 through 8 report being bullied over the past previous months.”² Though such statistics are certainly not true for all public schools, as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we anticipate that our world in general will deteriorate as we approach Jesus’ soon return. Despite these disturbing statistics about public school education, and in view of the fact that Adventist church membership in Canada is increasing annually by 2%, why is enrollment in Adventist schools declining?

In November 2007, the Office of Education of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) launched a national study to determine the main drivers of declining enrollment in Adventist schools in Canada. By undertaking this study, we hoped to discover significant insights that will help us develop some effective strategies to reverse the declining enrollment trend and make Adventist schools in Canada the schools of first choice for Adventists and other parents who desire a quality, faith-based education for their children.

We undertook our investigation by conducting a survey among four groups of stakeholders: school administrators, teachers, support staff, and school board members. To provide us with the pertinent information on the critical drivers of declining enrollment, we asked our target groups such questions as: Why are Adventist parents choosing to educate their children in the public schools instead of Adventist schools? How do program quality, school facilities, school resources and school location impact Adventist school enrollment? To what extent

are teachers, school administrators, pastors and other stakeholders involved in promoting their local Adventist school? What marketing strategies are being used to attract students to Adventist schools?

Our investigation led us to conclude that although Adventist schools in Canada are delivering a high quality educational program, several areas are contributing to declining enrollment: tuition costs, program and personnel issues, school plant and facilities, competition, and poor marketing. Of these drivers, high tuition cost is the most common reason given for why parents are not enrolling their children in Adventist schools. But stakeholders believed that the key to arresting and reversing the declining enrollment trend lies in having an aggressive marketing strategy involving key stakeholders, especially pastors.

In succeeding issues of the *Messenger*, we will take a closer look at the results of the survey to get a more in-depth understanding of the nature of the issues we face in our school system, and the recommended course of action to be undertaken to make Adventist education the primary choice for Adventist parents. Talking about the importance of Christian education, Ellen G. White gave us the following counsel: “The subject of education is one that should interest every Seventh-day Adventist. The Lord says to us, Seventh-day Adventists are not to place themselves under the counsel and instruction of teachers who know not the truth for this time. The moulding and fashioning of minds should not be left to men who have not comprehended the importance of a preparation for that life which measures with the life of God.”³ ■

Dennis Marshall is the director of Education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

1 The Canadian Press, February 7, 2008. Accessed August 5 from <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/toronto/story/2008/02/07/schools-report.html>.

2 Randy Shore, “Bullies Thrive on Violence to Satisfy a Craving,” *Vancouver Sun* (February 24, 2008). Accessed August 5 from <http://www.canada.com/vancouvernews/story.html?id=4a79ace4-7ac1-4ac9-bd26-06795f6e03c1&k=73004>.

3 Ellen G. White. “Words to teachers and students,” *The Review and Herald*, March 12, 1908.

EarthTalk

▶▶ Dear EarthTalk: I've read that plastic bottles are not always safe to reuse over and over as harmful chemicals can leach out into the contents. I'm wondering if the same issues plague Tupperware and other similar plastic food storage containers.

The recent hubbub over plastic containers leaching chemicals into food and drinks has cast a pall over all kinds of plastics that come into contact with what we ingest, whether deserved or not. Some conscientious consumers are forsaking all plastics entirely out of health concerns. But while it is true that exposure to certain chemicals found in some plastics has been linked to various human health problems (especially certain types of cancer and reproductive disorders), only a small percentage of plastics contain them.

According to *The Green Guide*, a website and magazine devoted to greener living and owned by the National Geographic Society, the safest plastics for repeated use in storing food are made from high-density polyethylene (HDPE, or plastic #2), low-density polyethylene (LDPE, or plastic #4) and polypropylene (PP, or plastic #5). Most Tupperware products are made of LDPE or PP, and as such are considered safe for repeated use storing food items and cycling through the dishwasher. Most food storage products from Glad, Hefty, Ziploc and Saran also pass The Green Guide's muster for health safety.

But consumers should be aware of more than just a few "safe" brands, as most companies make several product lines featuring different types of plastics. While the vast majority of Tupperware products are considered safe, for example, some of its food storage containers use polycarbonate (plastic #7), which has been shown to leach the harmful hormone-disrupting chemical Bisphenol A (BPA) into food items after repeated uses.

Consumers concerned about such risks might want to avoid the following polycarbonate-based Tupperware products: the Rock 'N Serve microwave line, the Meals-in-Minutes Microsteamer, the "Elegant" Serving Line, the TupperCare baby bottle, the Pizza Keep' N Heat container, and the Table Collection (the last three are no longer made but might still be kicking around your kitchen).

Beyond BPA, other chemicals can be found in various food storage containers. Containers made out of polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE, or plastic #1)—such as most soda bottles—are okay to use once, but can leach carcinogenic, hormone-disrupting phthalates when used over and over again. Also, many deli items come wrapped in plastic made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC, or plastic #3), which can leach cancer-causing dioxins. Swapping foods out of such wraps once the groceries are at home is advisable.

Containers made of polystyrene (PS, or plastic #6, also known as Styrofoam) can also be dangerous, as its base component, styrene, has been associated with skin, eye and respiratory irritation, depression, fatigue, compromised kidney function, and central nervous system damage. Take-out restaurant orders often come in polystyrene containers, which also should be emptied into safer

containers once you get them home.

If your head is spinning and you can't bear to examine the bottom of yet another plastic food storage container for its recycling number, go with glass. Pyrex, for instance, does not contain chemicals that can leach into food. Of course, such items can break into glass shards if dropped. But most consumers would gladly trade the risk of chemical contamination for the risk of breakage any day. ■



Got an environmental question?

Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk.html; or email: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." —Anne Frank

AN OPEN DOOR for Zolzaya



If you were to travel approximately 11,000 km around the world, you would find the most sparsely populated independent country in the world. Mongolia is landlocked between Russia on the north and China on the south, and its population of approximately 2.6 million is spread over 1,564,116 square kilometres. Most of the country is hot during the short summers and extremely cold during the long, windy winters. Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, has the lowest average temperature of any national capital in the world.

In this harsh but beautiful country many young people* live in poverty because they lack vocational skills.

Zolzaya is a 23 year-old married Mongolian woman with one child. She and her husband are unemployed with no income and must rely on the charity of relatives for basic essentials. Until recently, her days were spent doing endless housework and tending to the needs of her large extended family. She understood that there were no other options for her, and although she loved her family, she had difficulty accepting her role.

When ADRA Mongolia offered vocational training to unemployed youth in her town, Zolzaya signed up and began attending classes.

Although her ger (tent/home) was located 4 km from the vocational centre and she had to walk every day to the training, Zolzaya never missed a class! Some days she had to walk, with no warm boots, through snowstorms in extremely cold temperatures of -30° and -40° C. One day her feet almost froze, but in spite of the discomfort, Zolzaya never complained or gave up.

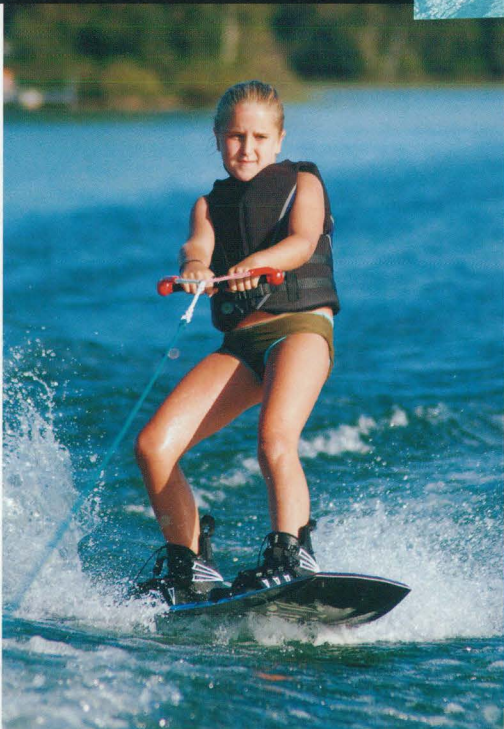
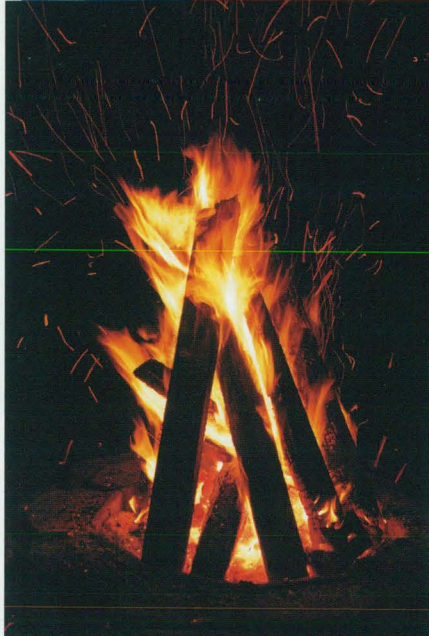
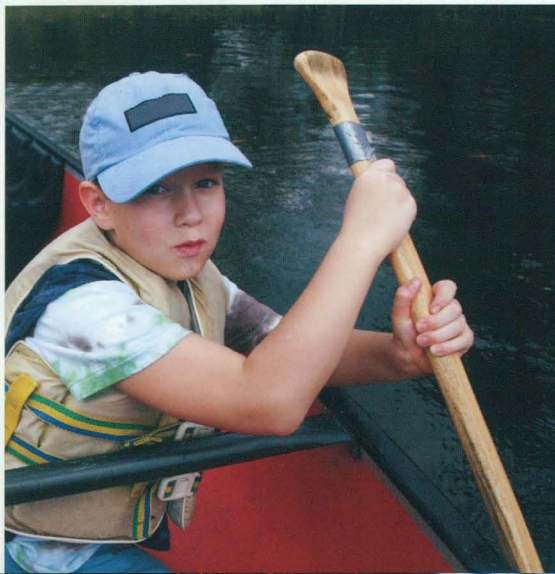
Because of the training provided by ADRA, Zolzaya not only learned very important skills, but also learned that she can improve her life and do many things she had previously thought impossible. The skills she learned in the sewing/tailoring course mean she will be able to save money by making the clothing required for her family.

During the graduation ceremony, many of Zolzaya's friends and acquaintances praised her work and said they wanted to order clothing from her. She has already started sewing deel (national costume) and coats and is proud of her work and hopeful about her future. Zolzaya is very grateful that she now has much to do every day and says, "Thanks for giving me an opportunity to open a new door in my life."

If you would like to help ADRA Canada create opportunities in Mongolia and other countries, visit www.adra.ca for more information on current projects. ■

Elizabeth Horniachek works for ADRA Canada's donor relations department.





What Your Kids *Could Have Done* on Their Summer Vacation

How is the summer camp program faring across this country? Is camp still relevant?

The Church's summer camp programs across Canada have played a pivotal role in the development of our youth for generations. Most of us who've been raised around the Church hold dear the childhood memories made at summer camps. Whether we claim Woody Acres in Newfoundland, Camp Chawuthen (Mountainview) in British Columbia or some place in between, many of us would argue without end that "our" camp is the best place on the planet. And why wouldn't we? Of course we would hold an affinity for these places that were so important to our development. We've grown up in these places: made, lost and then renewed friendships that, in many instances, still stand today; been thrilled when that special someone we had a crush on noticed us or been dejected when they didn't; and tried our hands at skills, sports and challenges that were outside the realm of our usual experience. Most importantly, we became friends of God—for some of us for the first time—at these special places where He seemed so real and so near.

But what about now, the summer of 2008? Surely children of the digital age will not have their interests piqued by the same things that piqued mine 20+ years ago? I travelled to Foothills Camp near Olds, Alberta to find answers. Were our camps transforming to incorporate society's obsession with modern technologies into their programs? Or, unchanging, were they suffering from reduced registration and declining budgets? How is the summer camp program faring across this country? Is camp still relevant?

BY CRYSTAL HOLLOWAY



I chose a location with which I had very little history with so that my assessment would not be biased by a comparison. But, though the road I drove to this camp was a straight dirt road in central Alberta and not a winding road along the seaside, the moment I entered the campgrounds, I was overwhelmed with a sense of familiarity, for as I arrived early that first morning, I saw campers and

their counselors congregating around the flagpole for flag raising. The landscape was different—an ocean of canola crops rather than the Northumberland Strait—but these children bore a striking resemblance to me and the friends of my youth, to the children I'd seen at our various camps across the country in the years since then.

I followed the crowd into the cafeteria for breakfast where the joyful chaos that preceded announcements and food service nurtured my nostalgia further. Now close enough to see faces, I saw smiles and laughter everywhere. And, quite literally, everyone was talking at once. These were children having a very good time, I thought, and every conversation I had with them through the week confirmed that initial assessment.

"Waterskiing!" Nine-year-old Andrew had been quiet up to now, but when asked what his favourite part of camp was he had no trouble speaking up. His face almost glowed as he began to describe to me the new skills he'd gained in waterskiing class the day before and then exclaimed about how he couldn't wait for this class to be over so it would be time to hit the skis again; Andrew and a few of his fellow campers were chatting with me during ceramics class which, he told me quietly, was "okay, but not my favourite."

Kaison and Jackson, both 6 years-old, were both first time camp attenders. Though they did not know each other at all before coming to camp, they already seemed like fast friends when I talked with them in the craft building; they decided they didn't care if one was a Calgary Flames fan and the other was an Edmonton Oilers fan, they said. They both told me they were missing their families, but the homesickness

was mitigated, it seemed, by the freedom they had with paints and paper. They were exuberantly and enthusiastically painting pictures as they talked with me. As the week wore on, I saw that pretty much everything these boys did was done with exuberance and enthusiasm!

Beyond the Fun and Games

So the kids were having fun. Good. Is that all that a parent should consider when thinking about summer entertainment options? I know that, as a parent, I had many other concerns I'd need addressed before I made the decision to send my kids to camp. Richard Williams, Alberta conference youth director and Foothills Camp director, had advice to offer. He talked of a parent's need to get educated about the operations of the camp they are considering.

Safety is the first priority, and Williams says that camps are required to manage

certain aspects of that. Camper to staff ratio is important. "The standards here in Alberta are 8:1 for this age group," he says, "and 10:1 for kids of Teen Camp age. We do better than the standard, though. We try not to go over a 6:1 ratio for Adventure Camp . . . and for Teen Camp we go with 8:1." The standards vary from province to province, but it is information that should be accessible from camp directors. Aside from these numbers, safety should be maintained in a variety of other ways. A camp nurse should be present and on duty at all times, and every member of the staff should have first aid training. If there are any kinds of water activities planned, fully certified lifeguards must be directly supervising them. Additionally, every staff member and volunteer should be required to have a criminal record check completed and filed with their office. If this information isn't relayed by the camp, parents are within their rights to ask.

Getting the right fit is important for ensuring a good camp experience. On this point Williams has a helpful theory: "I think every camp probably has a different purpose. Our purpose here has a couple of levels—one, that we want to show campers Jesus Christ and lead them closer to Him, and two, that we help them grow personally while they are here. So we help them overcome their fear of things like heights by doing the high ropes course or of things like horses by taking horseback riding. So we help them overcome fears or just grow in their skill level so that their self-esteem and their belief in themselves can grow as well. Those are important things." Parents would do well to ask what the core purpose of the camp is that they are considering and also to observe as carefully as possible if the materials and the programming offered there match with that stated purpose.

Camp as Evangelistic Tool

But deciding to go and finding the right camp is only half the job. The other half is paying for it. Everyone knows that camp can be expensive. No matter how fun it may be and no matter how great a facility may be found, some families

simply cannot afford to send a child to camp, and many families have more than one child who would like to go. Is it fair to say that summer camp is a great thing your child could have done this summer if they really could not have done it?

“We do two things here,” says Williams. “Number one, we have the option for people to donate money to our worthy camper fund, and we do get a significant amount on that. And number two, anytime a parent asks for help to send their kids to camp, we contact the local church and see if they can help sponsor. We hope that camp is not financially out of the reach of any child.”

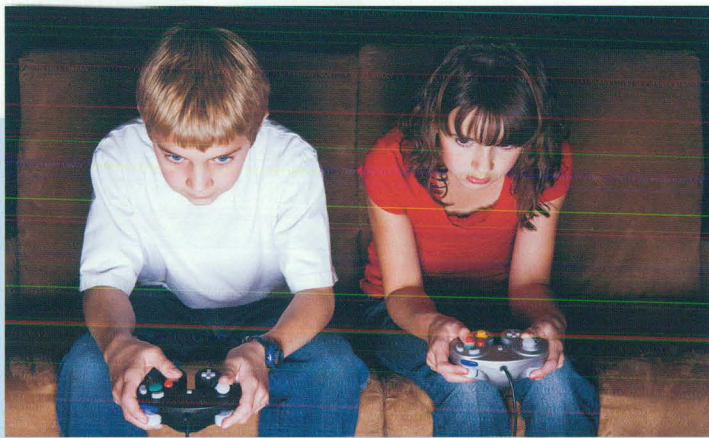
“Here in Alberta we’ve had a lot of success with churches being willing to sponsor. We have some churches like the Mirror church who, for years now—as long as I’ve been here and many years before

that—they sponsor any kid from their community who wants to come. And they’ve had kids get baptized and join the church because of their willingness to send the kids to camp. The interesting thing there is that a lady named Louise Buelow who was the church treasurer there for years had a belief that kids needed to go to camp. She started, in the beginning, by sending the kids herself and then convinced the church board that it was a good thing. Well, she actually just passed away here just before campmeeting, and her legacy is tied to this camp. It’s something she believed in and got her church to believe in. This year there are three or four kids here funded by that church. Some years there have been eight or 10. And this is just a very small church.”

“We encourage pastors in our pastors meetings to look at camp as an evangelistic

tool. A lot of the kids who come here are not going to be from our church and many of them have never heard the Bible stories. They’ve never heard anything about God at home. So this is a real great opportunity to share Jesus with them. And the message is coming from staff who they come to look up to and who they want to emulate.”

Spiritual growth is something that is taken seriously at our camps across Canada. Nathan James, youth director for the Newfoundland conference, remarks that “as long as our summer camp programs are overtly spiritual, as long as we capitalize on the unique, enjoyable activities as a vehicle to share the gospel with special emphasis on the distinctive beliefs and hope of the Seventh-day Adventist faith, then I think that they are a valuable and necessary ministry. So valuable, in fact, that their importance cannot be calculated.”



Consider the Alternative

An active, social, fun, safe place for kids to grow their relationship with Christ and learn some new skills . . . I have to admit that our summer camp program was beginning to impress me in ways that had never occurred to me all those years ago when I was merely a camper out for

a good time. And leave it to the kids themselves to point out one of the best things of all. During my chats with them, I often asked what they thought they’d be doing right now if they weren’t at camp. Their responses centered around one particular theme:

“I’d be sitting around in the house playing computer games,” said a precocious 8-year-old named Marius. “I really spend too much time doing that. I’m not very active when I’m not at camp.”

Robin, 7, says she would be visiting her cousin. “Because she’s nice, but more because she has a Wii, and I like to play Wii games all the time.”

Hailey, also 7, figures she’d be playing games on the Xbox if she were at home this summer. Andrew, the waterskiing aficionado, chimes in to say that “if it was raining, [he’d] be playing com-

puter games, and 9 year-old Paige tells me that she plays on a PS3 every chance she gets. “Do you guys all spend a lot of time playing video games?” I ask. “Yes,” they all agree. “It’s my favourite thing to do at home.”

And, of course, anticipating high entertainment value, I had to ask Kaison and Jackson. “I’d be playing computer games!” bubbled Kaison. Jackson nods (exuberantly and enthusiastically). “I usually go to YouTube to watch Pokemon video,” he says, “but I also play games on websites. Like batman.com and spiderman.com. They have free games. Those are awesome!”

Yes, these are very much children of the digital age. As I listened to them talk about the coolest new games and the best websites, I knew for sure that any one of these children could easily navigate the internet better than I could, but I also knew for sure that they were much better off being exactly where they were—at a Christ-centered camp filled with activities and challenge that were making them better people now and preparing them for a happy eternity. ■

Ontario

Giants in the Land

At the turn of the century, with fears of Y2K fuelling new millennium angst, one of Toronto's most vibrant and dynamic churches took a bold new step in urban ministry.

Toronto West, better known as 'Harvie' or the 'Mother Church of Caribbean Adventists in Canada,' left its comfortable home of 30 years in downtown Toronto for the poor and challenging suburban neighbourhood of Rexdale.

"They have drugs and gunmen up there, y'know," some people warned. "How can your poor church members afford a million-dollar church?" others asked. All that was missing was, "But there are giants in the land!" Nine years later, the church at 1621 Albion Rd. is paid for and Toronto West celebrated its mortgage burning on August 9, 2008.

It seemed like only yesterday that the majority of the members from the Harvie Ave. location stepped out in faith to a new part of the city, leaving behind a thousand memories still fresh in the minds of Toronto West members scattered around the globe.

"We have come to our Jordan," wrote Pastor Maitland, on the eve of the move. "On the other side is the 'Promised Land.' Like our spiritual ancestors, it will take much effort to clean up and prepare for our final possession. Let us work now in solidarity, for the night is coming when we will work no more."

Work they did, with a frenzied sense of purpose and mission that inspired artisans and tradespeople to lend tools and talents in a massive renovation effort. In two weeks, members completed a transformation so encompassing Pastor



Maitland called it "the most daunting physical challenges this congregation had to face in recent times."

The same Spirit that moved Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, seized our members to, in two weeks: Expand and re-carpet sanctuary; install stained-glass windows; rebuild rostrum; re-paint and carpet meeting rooms; re-tile foyer and gymnasium; erect parent's room; and have it ready for Sabbath services.

When members walked into the sanctuary that morning of May 15, 1999 they had confirmation that under the banner of Prince Immanuel, they could accomplish anything.

The same Spirit hovers over Toronto West. At Harvie Ave., members started the feed the homeless program. Now, at Albion, they've established the annual Easter Pageant, a Community Summer Camp, and Vacation Bible School for 200 children.

Not even the trauma of a tragic shooting on the front steps of the church has stifled the members' enthusiasm to embrace the community. The Adventist world heard the fearful news of how on November 18, 2005, while hosting a funeral for a community youth, another youth was shot to death at the church's doorsteps. The church's reaction? Go door-to-door, recruit young people and start a community choir for 24 non-Adventist youth. The Rexdale Outreach Choir completed its first year with a successful concert last June.

From its inception in 1963, Toronto West has benefited from the prayers of the saints at home and abroad. Keep on praying and the church will keep on fulfilling its mission to a world that can't resist the love of Jesus. ■

— Sherene Cole-Watson,
communications

Couples Renew Marriage Commitment

The combined efforts of Fairhavens' Family ministries and Youth ministries made the afternoon of May 31, 2008 resound with happy memories when 15



couples at Fairhavens Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church renewed their commitment and vows of fidelity to each other. In times like these when the sacredness of marriage is staggeringly under the attack of secularism, the recommitment to the marriage vow done by the participating couples has been a resounding vote in acknowledgment of the sanctity and the lasting principles of the marriage union.

The event was historic as it was memorable for all the couples who were just so glad they participated. There were tears in every eye—not only to each couple as they said their vows, but even among the witnessing congregation. Present were several non-Adventist friends who were impressed by the Church's high regard for marriage. Many visitors testified, "We were blessed as well, having been reminded of the sacredness of our matrimonial vows and of its life-long intentions." The order and composition of the program, aided by the participation of accomplished musicians, made the rented sanctuary reverberate with joyful sounds in the praise to the Author of marriage, Jesus Christ.

The colorful reception that followed at the fellowship hall of Valleyview Residence was sprayed with wild round of applause as love stories representing each couple were read. The highlight of the reception banquet singled out Norel and Violeta Cavin, who were married the longest (43 years), and they were given the honor to cut the three-layered cake to the cheers of the gathering celebrators. ■

—Ben-Ezra Adap, pastor

The Way to Life Evangelistic Series

One of the most memorable events in the recent history of Apple Creek Seventh-day Adventist church was the Way to Life evangelistic series conducted by Pastor Omar Palmer. The series was launched with 30 days of fasting and praying. Members joined in praying for the evangelist, visitors, the leading of God's Spirit and the rich harvesting of souls.

The meeting officially started on April 11, 2008 by which time the series had been completely immersed in prayer. From the first night of the crusade we were blessed with a steady stream of visitors. Palmer started the series with a message entitled "The Foolishness of God." It highlighted the power and magnificence of God and also His relevance to modern societal concoctions. It was informative and captivating. The sermon really set the tone for the rest of the series.

One of the highlights of the series were the Friday night services called "Lovers Night," where members and visitors alike were encouraged to come wearing red, a sign of love. Every aspect of the service was focused on love and we were reminded that the greatest lover of all is Jesus who gave His life to redeem us.

As the pastors, members and Bible workers worked the field, people were eagerly expressing their desire to be baptized, and so, in the end, we had added 45 new members to our church through baptism. ■

—Eric Morris

Alberta

A Different Mission to Afghanistan

It was April 2004 when Eric Rajah, director of the College Heights Church's mission organization known as A Better World, first stepped into the school for the blind in Kabul, Afghanistan. Within moments, he determined that he would return to that location and bring with him people and resources necessary to

providing the help that was desperately needed there. Three years later, Rajah did return with reinforcements who worked hard for the good of the students and staff at Kabul Blind School.

Now, as A Better World prepares for a third trip to Afghanistan, the search is on to find people experienced in working

with the blind who are available and willing to serve. Eye care specialists, nurses and other trained personnel are critical to the work at the Kabul Blind School as most of the children who attend have never had proper vision screening or assessment, reports Rajah. It is possible, even likely, that some of

the cases of blindness and low vision could be corrected, he says, but there is no way to determine that without the services of specialists.

There are other challenges, of course, and A Better World is working to fill those needs as well. Currently, there are no Braille books at the school and their lack greatly impedes the students education. Also the school has no money with which to purchase gasoline for the school buses; there are times when children are ready for school but simply cannot get there because the bus has no fuel.

In spite of the difficulties, Rajah is passionate about A Better World's involvement with the school. Why? "It's the children," he says. "They are the reason we need to have a real mission in Afghanistan." ■



For more information visit www.a-better-world.ca

British Columbia

Kootenay Camp Meeting 2008



The annual Kootenay campmeeting was held in the Canyon Hall on May 30 and 31 with the theme "Never Alone." The camp meeting speaker was Pastor Gordon Pifher, president of the British Columbia conference. His messages on the love of God inspired all who attended. There were visitors from Fernie, Wardner, Trail, Cranbrook and Creston, as well as Montana, Idaho, Vancouver Island, Washington, California, Manitoba and Michigan.

Pifher spoke of the gift of the Holy Spirit in his opening meeting. On the Sabbath, he brought a message of hope

as he spoke of human beings in heaven. He presented a short seminar on human relationships, called the love graph, in the afternoon.

During campmeeting, those attending were thrilled with the music. It included an orchestra of 10 playing flutes, saxophones, violins, clarinet, cello and piano. A choir of 24 voices, conducted by Anita Stushnoff, blessed us with a couple of stirring presentations. In addition, there were vocal trios and a presentation by recording artists, the Sawyer family, from Bonners Ferry.

Among the highlights was a piano

quartet featuring two violins, a cello and piano and several piano duets. Violinist Christina Kettenberg, from Bonners Ferry, accompanied by Anita Stushnoff on the piano, inspired us with a delightful concert in the afternoon.

Thanks also go to visiting pastors Mel and Douglas Pond, who presented God's Word in study to us on Sabbath morning.

Many of those attending consider this to have been one of the most inspiring camp meetings in recent years. ■

— Marjorie Comm, communications

Reprinted from Creston Valley Advance newspaper

Quit 4 Good!

Smoking cessation seminars don't garner as much interest as they used to, yet after several phone calls from people asking for help this Spring, I decided to conduct a program I call Quit for Good . . . for all the right reasons . . . for the rest of your life! After working the phone and following up with some interests, it appeared as if a dozen people were committed to coming.

Disappointment set us back when only four showed on opening night. The second night, two allowed family obligations to keep them away, so only two followed through. The entire program consisted of two participants: one a special needs person whose mother wanted him to quit and a 70-year-old veteran smoker who had gone through

two packs a day since the age of twelve. This man, Jerry, was faithfully accompanied by his wife, Doreen, who was amazingly supportive. He was so determined this time. Other attempts failed. His decrepit health mandated he nip the habit—doctor's orders. While it was not easy, Jerry succeeded.

But tragic news came his way on the last night of the program, news from his physician that galvanized his decision. His doctor was reporting on tests done, confirming he had contracted lung cancer from smoking all those years. He could have concluded . . . "I'm going to die anyway. I might as well enjoy what little life I have left." No! He decided, "Tobacco will not rule my life to my dying breath." We turned the

stop smoking seminar into a prayer meeting. While Jerry is not religious or very interested in spiritual things at present, he is nonetheless thanking God for help. The medical team operated recently. It seems the prognosis looks good for a complete eradication of the cancer. What is amazing is the joy in his wife's heart for the efforts made to help her Jerry. She is in church almost every week now and studying the Discover Bible Lessons. You just never know the miracles God can work when we step into the water of service and let him demonstrate his power to heal and save. ■

—Frank McMiller,
conference health director

Good Grief! Good Grievers!

Plans are being considered to make "Good Grief" a part of every BC campmeeting experience. Approximately 50 people on the BC campground this year attended a seminar . . . "Good Grief—To Heal Some Hurts that Hinder" . . . learning from the presenters, the principles of how to grieve well. Those attending the seminar represent a much larger group who are suffering losses of one kind or another. Several on campus experienced multiple losses this past year. Most people need guidance on

how to deal with the resulting pain of major loss. And how much happier a place our churches can become . . . more inviting to newcomers . . . when members learn to resolve woundedness in their lives. Unresolved pain leads people to take out their negative bearing on others. Numerous participants noted that so much tension often exists in some of our congregations from unresolved grief that people hold inside, which prevents the church from being the refuge that God designs it to be for

all who can find their way to our doors. As conditions worsen in our world and the enemy intensifies his efforts to wreak havoc in our lives, learning how to face tragedy and turn it into blessing seems an essential service that must be provided. Thank you Alvin and Elizabeth Kurtz for pouring out your hearts in love and effort to those who really needed you Camp meeting week. ■

—Frank McMiller,
conference health director

North American Division

Dr. Neil Nedley to Lead Weimar

Neil Nedley, M.D., author of *Proof Positive and Depression—A Way Out*, has accepted the call to become president of the new Weimar Center of Health and Education (formerly called Weimar Institute). Dr. Nedley is a graduate of Loma Linda University Medical School and is a full-time practicing physician in internal medicine with an emphasis in cardiology, gastroenterology,

preventive medicine, mental health, and difficult-to-diagnose patients.

A respected author and chair member of numerous national and local medical boards, Dr. Nedley has lectured extensively around the world on nutrition, lifestyle, depression, stress, and physical and mental health. He has also been a featured guest on numerous national television programs and radio stations.

Nedley explains, "I am very excited to work with Amazing Facts' strong media and evangelistic ministry. This partnership with the new Weimar will not only help disseminate vital information concerning physical and mental health to the world — it will help thousands apply life-changing physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual truths to bring about dramatic, positive change." ■

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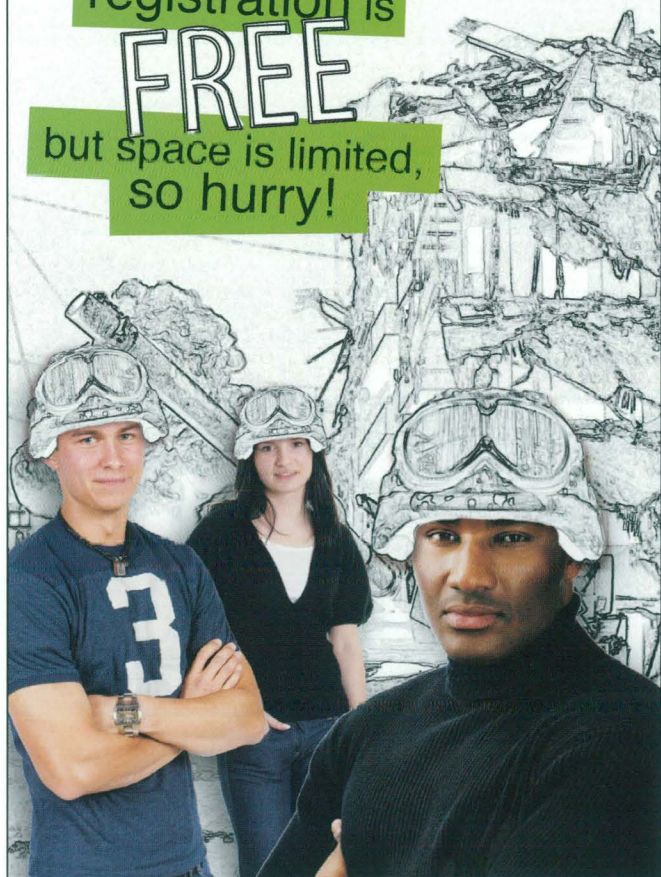
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■ **Announcements**

Open your hearts to the children of the Kabul Blind School. College Heights Adventist Church and A Better World are organizing a third trip to the Kabul Blind School in Afghanistan and are in need of eye care professionals, nurses and anyone else who has experience working with the blind. If this is you, and if you can spend 10 days in Afghanistan, please contact Eric Rajah at 800/465-0534 or erajah@rttinc.com for more information.

Missing Members—The Timmins church is looking for the following members: Marc Baribeau, Gilles Bond, Eve-Lynn Boudreau, Renee Marshall, Chuck Mills, Brian R. Nakogee and Gladys Rochon. If you have any information about the members, please contact Pastor Didier Fourny at dfourny@adventistontario.org, 613/937-3124 or Will Marcoux at timminselder@adventistontario.org, 705/272-2116.

Attention all youth leaders! *Insight* magazine is asking our youth and youth groups to submit videos to our "G5 (Galatians 5:22): The Fruits of the Spirit" video contest. Prizes range from an iPod Touch to cash money. For rules and more information, please visit us online at www.insightmagazine.org/videos/g5.asp.

■ **New Members**

ALBERTA

Jen Turner and **Chris Dahr** were baptized at Foothills campmeeting on July 12, 2008 by Brad Dahr. They are now members of the Beiseler Seventh day Adventist Church.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ken and **Kelly Fisher** were baptized on July 19, 2008 in Aldergrove, B.C. by Francis Douville. They are now members of the Aldergrove Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Talitha Mercado was baptized on Aug. 2, 2008 in Lake of the Woods, Hope, B.C. by Massiel Davila. Talitha is now a member of the Aldergrove Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ONTARIO

Betty Franchetta, **Bill Prouty** and **Melanie Lampshire** were baptized on July 12, 2008 in Thunder Bay, Ont. by James Rieder. They are now members of Thunder Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church.

■ **Births**

Richmond Joseph Rooney Berard was born Jan. 12, 2006 to Aaron and Julie (Rooney) Berard of Vegreville, Alta.

Alexander Couto was born July 4, 2008 to Steven and Julie (Perk) Couto of Woodbridge, Ont.

Darya Vladimirovna Ispolatova was born July 14, 2008 to Vladimir and Julie (Kneller) Ispolatov of Vancouver, B.C.

Chase William Franklin Knutson was born Feb. 20, 2008 to Warren and Stephanie (Ewanko) Knutson of Niagara Falls, Ont.

■ **Weddings**

Karen Maree Dubyna and **Thomas James Little** were married May 18, 2008 in Kelowna, B.C. and are making their home in Red Deer, Alta. Karen is the daughter of Roy and June Dubyna of Vernon, B.C. and Thomas is the son of Helen Little of Calgary, Alta.

■ **Anniversaries**

Norman and **Mary (Grosso) Gascoyne** of Edmonton, Alta. celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 1,



2008. The original bridal party was in attendance and more than 100 friends and family enjoyed the open house commemoration. The Gascoynes have six children: Jim (Bev) of Hamilton, Ont.; Larry (Elvira) of Lacombe, Alta.; Phyllis (Randy) Paddington of Edmonton; Don (Georgette) of Stony Plain, Alta.; Joan Hager of Edmonton; and Bonnie Gascoyne of Edmonton. They have 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Herbert and **Elfriede Koehn** of Grande Prairie, Alta. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 27, 2008. A celebration took place in the Grande Prairie church fellowship hall where they had exchanged their vows 50 years earlier. The Koehns have four children:



Lorie (Larry) Ramey of Portland, Ore.; Dorothy (Dan) Merklin of Grande Prairie; Irma (Dale) Gordey of Lacombe, Alta.; and Charles (Kathy) of Hardisty, Alta. They also have seven grandchildren.

Victor and **Patricia (Sims) Latoski** of Edmonton, Alta. were married on April 6, 1958 in Winnipeg, Man.



and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 20, 2008 in St. Albert, Alta. with a banquet and reception with family and friends. The Latoskis have three daughters: Arloene (Larry) Johnson of Vernon, B.C.; Brenda (Pratap) Chokka of Edmonton, Alta.; and Karen (Alan) Birney of Pasco, Wash. They have 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

■ **Obituaries**

Louise (Reid) Buelow was born Mar. 18, 1954 in Calgary, Alta. and died June 30, 2008 in Edmonton, Alta. Louise was a founding member of the Mirror Adventist church, and she also served many years with the Stettler church. She is predeceased by her father Ken Reid. Surviving: husband Clifford, sons Kelly (Christie) and Phillip (Laurie) both of Bashaw, daughter Leanne (Troy) Erickson of Grand Forks, N.D., mother Thora (David) Van Damme, and six grandchildren.

Lawrence Victor Dollansky was born June 19, 1926 in Biggar, Sask. and died June 16, 2008 in North Battleford, Sask. He is predeceased by his brother Alexander and sister Mary Mallas. Surviving: wife Sharon, stepsons Robert Jukes and Kevin Jukes both of Chilliwack, B.C., stepdaughters Deb (Mike) Delfrari of Kindersley, Sask. and Judy (Stephan) Hydukewich of North Battleford, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Marie Yvonne (Fisher) Lehman was born Oct. 3, 1919 in Duck Lake, Sask. and died July 5, 2008 in Canwood, Sask. Marie served her church as deaconess, Sabbath school superintendent and teacher in the children's divisions. She is predeceased by her husband Herbert. Surviving: sons Earl (Esther) of Debden, Sask., Grant (Gail) of Shell Lake, Sask., and Ron (Marie) of St. Albert, Alta.; daughters Carol (Dennis) Foulston of Tugaskie, Sask. and Judith (Abe) Unrau of Parkside, Sask.; 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Wilfred Walter McMullen was born on Sept. 24, 1909 in Magnetawan, Ont. and died June 20, 2008 in Edmonton, Alta. Surviving: wife Darlene (Reeves); children Margaret McMullen, Perry (Donald), Robert (Arlin), Albert (Fran), Colleen McMullen Davyduke, daughter-in-law Eva McMullen and son-in-law John Davyduke; step-children David, Terisa and Michael, numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Betty (Grummett) Polishak was born June 3, 1930 in Galt, Ont. and died April 3, 2008 in Brantford, Ont. A lifetime member of the Brantford church, Betty served in numerous positions including Sabbath school teacher, M.V. leader, pianist, social committee leader and Pathfinder counsellor. Betty is predeceased by her father Sam, mother Violet, brothers Gordon, Marvin and Donald, and sisters Jean Pilipow and Lona Willard. Surviving: husband James; son Russell (Pat) of Brantford; daughters Lynn Polishak of Brantford, Denise (Mark) Wray of Owen Sound, Ont. and Cheryl (Mark) Dubecki of Brantford; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Lillian Pauline (Ebiner) Stephens was born May 28, 1909 in Carterville, Ill. and died July 21, 2008 in Athabasca, Alta. She is predeceased by her first husband Theam "Ted" Taylor, her second husband Frederick Stephens, her daughter Beatrice Marilyn Taylor, brother Frederick Ebiner, half-brother George Holt, sister Evangeline (Ebiner) Lockeridge and half-sister

Ethel (Holt) Berg. Surviving: sons Texas Taylor of Grande Prairie, Alta., Denn (Vicky) Taylor of Prince George, B.C., Ross (Jean) Taylor of Hamilton, Ont., Keith (Mary) Taylor of Prince George, Dwayne Taylor of Grande Prairie and Dudley Taylor of USA; daughters Joy (Paul Hitchcock) Terry of Bracebridge, Ont. and Arvilla Shiel of Athabasca; stepdaughter Barbara (Stephens) Clarke of Toronto, Ont.; sister-in-law Morene Holt of Texas; 53 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

Rex Shoop was born June 15, 1926 in Kinuso, Alta. and died March 7, 2008 in Ponoka, Alta. Surviving: wife Phyllis; sons Randall of Hazelton, B.C. and Derek (Lisa) Shoop of Skidegate, B.C.; daughters Valerie (Ike) Shoop-McCreery of Hazelton, Wendy (Dean) Oliphant of Ponoka and Lisa (Bob) Palinka of St. Paul, Alta.; sister Elsie Ouellette of Dawson Creek, B.C.; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Gordon Smedley was born July 22, 1934 in New Westminster, B.C. and died July 6, 2008 in Campbell River, B.C. He served the church for more than 42 years in Canada, the U.S. and the foreign mission fields. He was a dedicated supporter of Marantha, 3ABN and It Is Written. Surviving: wife Lydia Smedley, two sons, two daughters, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Delphi (Versteegh) Steinke was born on July 11, 1919 in Beiseker, Alta. and died June 22, 2008 in Kelowna, B.C. Delphi was the faithful janitor for the "old" Kelowna church, and she joined many church activities such as quilting and knitting toques for church community service projects. She is predeceased by her husband Henry and her son Ronald. Surviving: daughter Elizabeth (Hector) Odiyar of Kelowna; brothers August (Lily) Steinke of Millet, Alta., Sam Steinke of Millet, Melvin (Eileen) Steinke of Rock Creek, B.C.; sisters Leatha Ritchey of Kelowna and Violet (Ben) Schafer of Wetaskiwin, Alta.; and three grandchildren.

Mary (Hellam) Walton was born Feb. 16, 1937 in Toronto, Ont. and died Nov. 13, 2007 in Windsor, Ont. Surviving: daughters Phyllis (Mark) Beedle, Geraldine (James) Sarant, Laura (Timothy) Wendover and Danielle (Kenny); brothers Alfred, Harold (Mona), Stanley, Arthur (Renate), David (Kathy) and Fred (Raji); sisters Hazel Bregan and Laura (Doug) Murray; and eight grandchildren.

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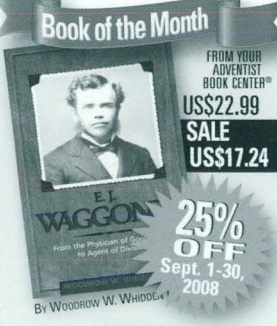
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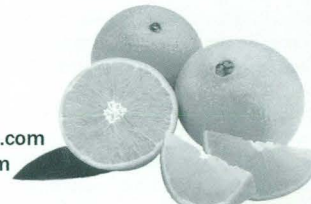


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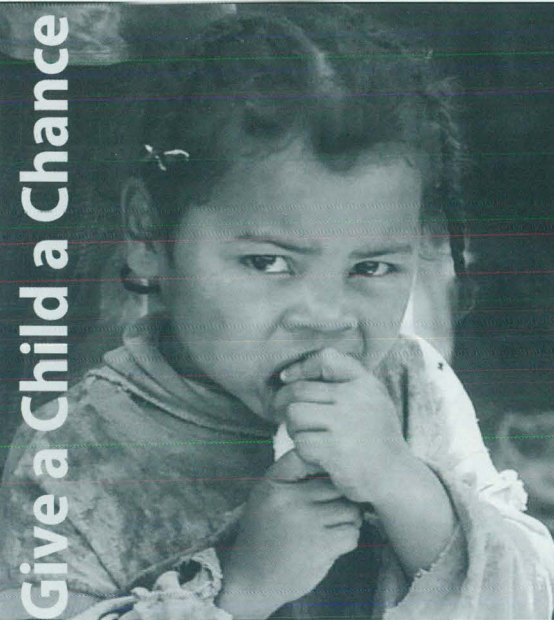
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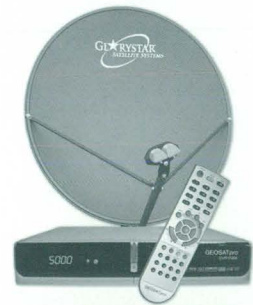
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SEPTEMBER 18-20 2008




Who should come:
 - Youth ages 15 - 29
 - College aged young adults
 - Sponsors from across Canada and beyond

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

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



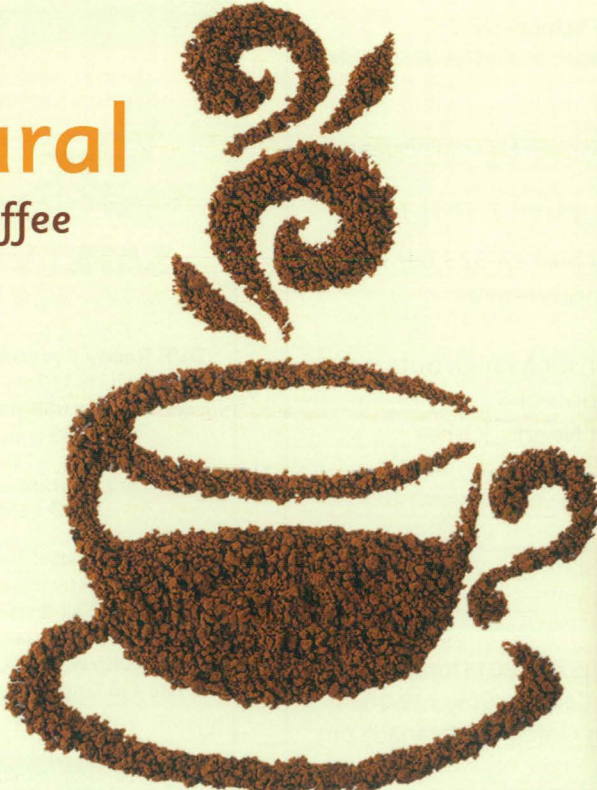

Registration: Visit www.AdventistYouth.ca before August 15, 2008.

CAMP PUGWASH, NOVA SCOTIA
 For more information: youthmin@adventistontario.org



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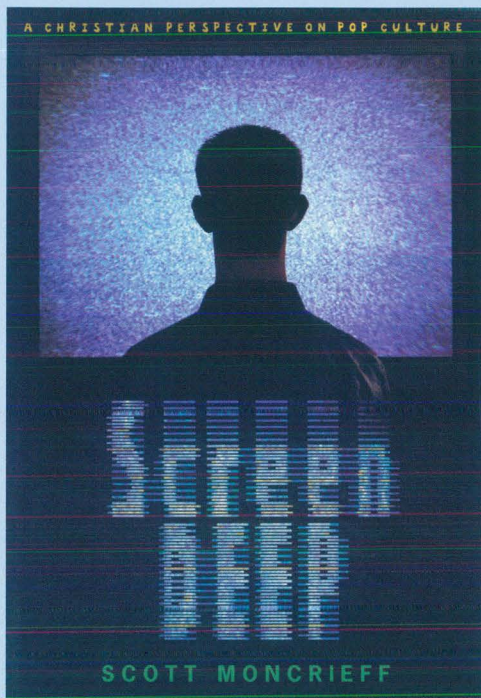
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SCREEN DEEP



"It is fascinating to see the spiritual lessons he draws from cultural icons..."

I HAVE LIVED IN INTERESTING TIMES.

Growing up in the 70s I was thrilled with what I perceived to be a plethora of media: black-and-white TV with three fuzzy channels, blocky Atari video games like PONG, a comic book escape once and a while, and the vinyl LP stereo complete with 8-track player. When the age of walkmans was introduced, I was in 7th heaven. The CD and DVD took it a notch above, as they were media of instant selection and playability. Currently, high definition and digital television have broadened our inundation to media all the more. Just when I think they've reached the pinnacle of media presentation, a new format is introduced. This is the modern

world in which we all live and is the subject matter of *Screen Deep*.

This book hooked me quite quickly. The author, Scott Moncreiff, is a professor of English at Andrews University. He is doubly qualified to write a book for young people, being both a father and educator of young people; loosely translated, he is continually bombarded with current trends and media fashions. His writing style is a first-person perspective which continually reminds the reader of his connection with his subject matter. He's quite knowledgeable on trends, even in areas that don't necessarily appeal to him (refer to the selections on *American Idol*). It is fascinating to see the spiritual lessons he draws from cultural icons like movies, television, technology and the internet.

This book is divided into sixty sections (including introduction), each one being two to three pages in length. It is designed for teens and his commentary is more of a questioning hypothetical look at rather than a judgmental denouncement of pop culture and references. Moncreiff draws lessons from such TV phenomena as *Lost*, *American Idol*, and *Survivor*, as well as from films like *Shrek*, *Titanic*, *The Godfather*, and even *The Sound of Music*. He correlates Christian object lessons with these contemporary cultural landmarks. For example, Moncreiff discusses the concepts of self-worth and identity as well as Christian compassion with the judgmental show *American Idol*. I especially enjoyed his critique of *Titanic* in which he examines the concepts of relationships and salvation. The fact that he found 25 unbelievable coincidences in the plot of *Titanic* is amusing to say the least.

The latter half of the book deals with "More Culture" which includes a section on iPods and awareness which I found appropriate as both a music aficionado and as an educator who reminds his students to put them away. There is a section on bodybuilding connecting to identity and time management, as well as a section about *People* magazine and social inclusion. I did notice an absence of material pertaining to video gaming, but perhaps Moncreiff is saving this for a sequel.

His correlations are unique and insightful to say the least. I find this book to be engaging, enlightening and a modern version of Christ's parables where He took common items and events of His day and drew lessons from them. ■

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

Books
Reviews

