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Messenger

THE
CANADIAN
CHRISTIAN
ADVENTIST

PLUS:

Education's Award of Excellence recipients (p.14); Barry Bussey's final *Worldview* column (p.10)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on thine own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5, 6

Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign

One of the first passages of Scripture I ever learned was Proverbs 3:5 and 6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on thine own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and *He shall direct your paths*” [emphasis mine]. Perhaps it was my stoic Adventist upbringing, but, in spite of the implication of direct divine intervention, I always interpreted these verses in a way that kept God at arms length. He would direct my paths in some general way, of course, but obvious signs and miracles were the stuff of *Uncle Arthur’s Bedtime Stories*, not real modern life. Right?

I recently bought a new car, and I can tell you that the experience would have been twice as exasperating and half as rewarding had I not allowed God to lead me through it. Occurrences that I was tempted to credit to coincidence took on great meaning as I listened for the voice of my Father speaking through them. The jalopy that squirted motor oil all over my feet sounded a lot like Him telling me I should look at new, not used, vehicles. A salesman who had the same name—first *and* last; how often does that happen??—as someone with whom I’d had terrible personal conflict in the past sounded a lot like Him suggesting I work with another dealership. Making this purchase was a scary thing for me, and the mere thought almost made me ill when I considered it. Yet, some of the means that my Father employed to guide me through the potentially frustrating process were downright hilarious. Listening for His voice, watching for His signs, gave me confidence as I moved forward and even helped me to have a little fun along the way.

Though we sometimes let the phrase

drop from our lips in jest—“It must be a sign!”—I’ve found that Christians who are more than about 12 years old tend to get antsy when talk turns to God influencing what we consider to be the mundane details of our lives. When we are in deep conflict, we might cry out, “Show me what to do, God.” But when things are moving along normally, are we as open to His leading? Of events that seem to be clear signs from God, do we prefer to reason, “It could just be coincidence.”

And maybe that reasoning is part of the problem. Too often we rationalize away the voice of God instead of simply accepting the message. Have you ever wondered why only a few kings from a distant country noticed a star with an unusual trajectory two thousand years ago? As far as signs go, a big, bright one hanging high in the sky should have been readily observable, but only the diligent truly saw. And what about the shepherds on that first Christmas? A gathering of angels bright enough to light up the sky and singing in exuberant voices from heaven should have attracted the attention of a wider audience, I think, but only a few paid attention.

I believe that God desperately wants to communicate all kinds of things to us, to help us make good decisions, to help us carry our burdens. Proverbs 3:5 and 6 says that He wants to direct us, yet so many spin their wheels as they try to navigate life. I’m convinced that it is not signs from God that we lack but rather eyes to see them. ■

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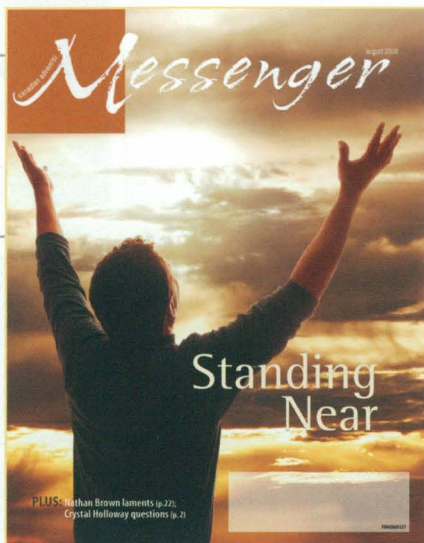
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**RE: "Open Letter to God,"
Editorial, August 2008**

About 3000 years ago, a man of God had the courage and honesty to record such words as "O Lord, why do you stand so far away? Why do you hide when I am in trouble?" (Psalm 10:1). A few short steps through the Psalms, and we cannot help but notice the sincerity and audacity of David and others in bringing both their praises and their pain, their worries and their questions to God, believing God was big enough to take it all. Perhaps David's honesty in approaching a life of worship was what really made David a "man after God's own heart." Perhaps it is this lack of guile—just open, unadulterated, this-is-who-I-am kind of prayer and worship—that made the entire book of Psalms the main book of worship for God's people for the last few thousand years. Perhaps it is this type of prayer that will finally put more of us in touch with our Saviour.

I would like to offer my extreme gratitude to you, Crystal, for your courage to boldly come before God with an open and honest heart. I would like to applaud you for truly praying and being willing to share that prayer with me and the rest of your brothers and sisters in Christ across Canada.

I hear from your words the same searching that is within my heart and the hearts of so many others I know. In a church that struggles with too many masks and that incessant need to be

Your Words

“...we need to be reminded by people like you and David to open our hearts and say what we're feeling.”

“fine” even if our world is falling apart, perhaps we need to be reminded by people like you and David to open our hearts and say what we're feeling: “You've ignored me long enough, God. I've looked at the back of your head long enough. Long enough I've carried this ton of trouble, lived with a stomach full of pain. Long enough my arrogant enemies have looked down their noses at me. Take a good look at me, my God; I want to look life in the eye, so no enemy can get the best of me or laugh when I fall on my face.” I believe when we can be this honest, leaving it all in God's hands, even with unanswered questions, then with David we will be able to finish our prayer, “I've thrown myself headlong into your arms—I'm celebrating your rescue. I'm singing at the top of my lungs, I'm so full of answered prayers” (Psalm 13, The Message).

Thank you for your honesty. I hope we learn from it.

—Cam Page, Courtice, Ont.

In case you have forgotten, I have given you a book with my inspired word which you call the Holy Bible. It tells you of my plan for you and the rest of mankind on planet Earth. To add to this book, I chose Ellen G. White to give more detailed accounts of my writings so that everything would be clearly understood.

Thus, I am the Lord of the universe which has many planets populated with my creations. For many years, all of my

creatures lived in perfect harmony until the day when Lucifer challenged me by believing he could run the universe more perfectly than I can. To give him an opportunity to prove himself, I isolated him, along with his fallen angels, to planet Earth. There each person would chose to live either under the influence of Lucifer or under my influence.

You are no doubt aware that the rest of the universe is very interested in your world, as Lucifer has put me on trial and this is the testing ground. Those who follow the devil are proving to the universe that there are many who prefer his way of life. While those who follow me are showing that they prefer to be a member of my kingdom.

The reason why innocent people have to suffer is to show the psychopathic mind of the devil. Those who love me understand the need to suffer to prove it. A perfect example is Paul who saw that every time he suffered he was proving his love for me and did so gladly. If I may offer an analogy, you choose to suffer a short time at the dentist for the long-term benefits you receive. Your short time of suffering on earth can result in an endless life of perfection in heaven. I have given you the gift of a marvelous brain to assist you into making wise decisions. With the right choices, I could soon be welcoming you into my kingdom.

—God (a.k.a.
David Gale, Burnaby, B.C.)

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.

Erasing Poverty in Canada's Cities

Ellena* is a 31 year-old immigrant woman who can barely speak English. Before moving to Canada last summer, she had a good job as an architect in her home country. Her husband works for the Canadian government, and she and her five year-old daughter, Anna, were able to come here only because of his sponsorship.

The adjustment to Canadian life is very difficult for the whole family. Ellena's husband takes his frustrations out on Ellena and Anna. Ellena knows that her situation is dangerous, but she doesn't know what to do. She feels hopeless and has no one to turn to—no family and no money. The thought of leaving her marriage is very frightening, and she believes that she will be deported if she leaves her husband.

One day in her English class, a volunteer tells Ellena about a shelter where she will be safe. With the encouragement of her new friend, Ellena makes the difficult decision to leave her husband and arrives at the shelter with only a small bag of clothing and personal items. Counselors there show Ellena how it's possible for her to have a safe, new life in Canada and detail the resources available to provide support.

After spending a month at the shelter, Ellena and Anna are ready to move out on their own. Just before they leave, a volunteer from the local church gives Ellena a start-up hamper. The hamper, partially funded by ADRA Canada, contains a wide assortment of useful items that will help her get settled in her new life.

With a university degree and a high-paying job, **Bill** had a good life until his bipolar disorder caused him to become erratic and unreliable. He took his prescribed medication for a while, but it made him feel slow and drowsy and not like himself, so he stopped. As Bill's condition worsened, his employer had no choice but to let him go.

Unable to keep another job, Bill had no money to pay his bills and was forced to give up his home. Friends took him in for a while, but his illness made things difficult for everyone and eventually he decided to leave.

Now, Bill calls the street his home, and he panhandles during the day. On good nights he sleeps in a shelter; other nights he makes his bed on a park bench or subway grate.

Caught in the cycle of poverty—with no welfare available because he has no address, no address because he has no job, no job because of his mental illness—Bill is very thankful for the ADRA-sponsored program that offers meals and personal care kits to the homeless.

Matt and Jillian were childhood sweethearts who always knew they would make a life together—they just didn't expect it to happen so soon!

Last year, Jillian got pregnant, and, although she was able to finish her grade 12 classes, she doesn't see any possibility

of continuing her education for a while. Matt has also put his college plans on hold and is concentrating on taking care of Jillian and the baby.

With no family to help and daycare costs almost equal to her wage, Jillian has decided to stay home to take care of her baby. Matt has a minimum wage job, and although he plans to take a management course next year, at the moment there is simply not enough money each month to pay for rent, diapers, and food.

Matt and Jillian are very grateful for the food bank supported by ADRA Canada where they can "shop" for necessities.

These stories are examples of just three of the many programs operating in Canadian cities with the assistance of ADRA Canada. ADRA Canada's Inner City Fund is used to address poverty in urban settings; creating opportunities to help Canadians in need to rise above the challenges they face every day. Please remember to participate in ADRA Canada's Inner City Offering on December 13 and help erase poverty in Canada's inner cities. ■

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



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- Although cities located in Canada's metropolitan areas are economic cores, tragically, they also have the highest rates of poverty.
- 720,000 Canadians, including almost 300,000 children, use food banks on a regular, ongoing basis.
- Homelessness and panhandling are now highly visible on the streets of major Canadian cities.
- Every day more than 200,000 people call our Canadian streets home.

Photo: Adam Bujak

Finding Christ at Christmas Time

by Gary Hodder

This past August, many people watched the Olympic games in Beijing. One of the lesser known athletes caught my attention, not so much for his athleticism but because of his story. Reese Hoffa was only four years old when he accidentally burned down his family's house. It was the last straw for his young mother, Diana Chism, an unmarried teenager. She took Reese and his brother, Lamont, to a large brick building with long corridors filled with children. She embraced them, got into her car and drove away.



The Washington Post reported in 2005 that Reese kept waiting for his mother to return to the orphanage, but it never happened. Eventually separated from his brother and adopted by another family, he was plunged—kicking and screaming—into a new life. At first he was reluctant and confused, but he grew into a successful, hardworking adult with a keen sense of humor. Six feet tall and 253 pounds, Reese Hoffa is one of the world's best and most entertaining shot putters today. In 2006, he won the World Indoor Championship, and in 2007, he won the World Outdoor Championship.

For nearly 20 years, Hoffa searched for the missing pieces of his life. Everywhere he went to compete, he searched the telephone directories for his brother and mother. He also searched websites that list parents searching for children. Finally one night, when he was a senior at the University of Georgia, as he was searching the internet for information about his brother, he encountered the following message: "I am a mother looking for a son given up for adoption at age 4 in 1981 in Louisville, Kentucky. The family owned a farm which burned down..." Reese read it in shock and with anxious anticipation. A few days later, his years of searching ended as he was reunited with his mother and brother.

Somehow, this brings to my mind another search, one that occurs in first century Jerusalem. Two sets of men were invited on a search to find the Messiah. The stories of the shepherds and the wise men are recorded in Luke 2 and Matthew 2 respectively. God's invitation was for them to witness Jesus' arrival to this world.

The magi's summons came in visual form: they saw an amazing bright light. While they did not know the nature of this light, whether a star or comet or planet or angels, they were wise enough to know they must follow it. Apparently, they were aware of the Hebrew prophecies that foretold a Messiah to come. With great interest and eager anticipation they set out on a journey to find this new Messiah.

The shepherd's invitation was even more spectacular: it was both visual and audible. These shepherds were living out in the fields at night. Suddenly, an angel appeared to them, and a bright light shone around them, such that they were afraid. A voice told them to go to Bethlehem and there they would find the newborn Saviour wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Both of these groups would accept the invitation. Both would travel to attend Jesus' birth. What an odd pairing of groups, however, to be called together to witness the birth of Jesus. They have virtually nothing in common:

They were from different social strata.

The shepherds were dirty and smelly most of the time and, of course, ceremonially unclean. Shepherds were

despised and often mistrusted even by their own people. They were looked down on as being the of the lowest class in their culture. The wise men were at the other end of the spectrum. They were men of influence and of the upper class of society. They had no trouble gaining admission to Herod's palace.

They were from different financial backgrounds.

Shepherds were among the poorest of the poor. They had no possessions to speak of, and, when they came to Jesus, they had no gifts to offer. The wise men were among the richest of the rich. They were obviously men of substance and had enough money and enough leisure time for a two-year journey. When they came before Jesus they brought very expensive gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

Their educational levels were vastly different.

Shepherds typically did not receive any formal education and were not even educated enough to read the Jewish scriptures. The magi, of course, were famed for their knowledge. They were the professors of the day and scholars of their time. They were learned men and well acquainted with the Hebrew scriptures.

Lastly, they differed in the distance they traveled to see the Messiah.

The shepherds were very close and got to Bethlehem quickly. Jesus was probably only an hour or two old when they arrived. The wise men took nearly two years and had to travel a vast amount of miles.

One wonders why God chose these to share the good news of the birth of the Saviour with. I think that the calling of these men teaches us something important for our appreciation of this holiday season and the Reason for it. Firstly, the choosing of these different groups tells us that Christ came for everyone—rich or poor, educated or illiterate, Jew or Gentile, near or far. There is no one in any segment of society that He did not come to earth for. Secondly, these men show us that the appropriate response to God is always worship. The magi bowed down before Him and the shepherds left His presence glorifying Him. The best way to celebrate Christmas is with worship. Finally, we see from these men that anyone who seeks Jesus can find him. Both groups responded to the invitation and both—after a journey of mere hours or of two years—were able to find Jesus.

As those men of long ago were called, we are being called as well. Jesus is inviting us to seek Him out. He is not hard to find. He is, in fact, within our reach. He is waiting for us. Open your heart to Him and find all that your soul longs for.

Merry Christmas! ■

Gary Hodder is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.





Inseparable

I'm so fed up with religion, church and all this stuff! It's kinda weird, though, because even if I don't want to have anything to do with God, at the same time, I kinda do want Him. Make any sense? If I ever wanna come back "full time" to Him, He ain't gonna accept me, right? And it may already be too late for me anyway. Arrggg... I'm so messed up!

LOL. Yes, you are really messed up! But hey, we all are messed up. Paul himself (from the Bible) also was confused, even though he had already decided to follow Jesus.

I have good news for you, though. Ready? OK, listen: GOD LOVES YOU EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO LOVE YOU. Yeah, that simple. There's nothing that can separate you from his love. Nothing. Rien. Nada.

How can I be so certain? Well, first, that's what the Bible says: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8.38,39).

Secondly, my own experience tells me: I've seen that neither failure or poor church attendance, nor inadequate Bible reading and prayer, nor betrayal, denial, doubt,

insecurity, guilt, weakness, bad theology, losing your temper can separate you from the love of God.

As Mike Yaconelli (a youth worker guru who died not too long ago) said: "His love is sticky, resistant to rejection, aggressive and persistent."

Don't let fear of rejection prevent you from making the right decision. Don't rationalize His grace, because it doesn't work that way. You see, His grace is completely unfair by all human standards. Not a single person in this world deserves His love and grace, because we all have fallen short. Still, He gives it to us for free (although it's not cheap at all; it cost Him His life!!).

So relax, take a big breath and take a step closer to Jesus. He is definitely waiting for you.

TEEN TALK





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

Creation Corner for Kids

“Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NAS)
(Read also 1 Thess. 5: 9, 10)

Northern Cardinal



The northern cardinal, a bird so familiar to anyone who lives in the southeastern parts of Canada, is moving west. The cardinal does not like the cold, harsh winters of western Canada, but bird feeders help. Each year, more cardinals are being seen as far west as Alberta, but none have been seen *nesting* that far west yet.

The cardinal is a bird that is easy to spot and hard to confuse with other birds. The male is bright red with a black mask over his eyes and a black bib over his throat. The female is much duller. Both have pointed crests on the tops of their heads. The cardinal feeds on the ground or on low bushes, eating insects, berries and seeds.

Male and female cardinals mate for life and spend almost all their time together all year long. They “talk” to each other all through the day in soft chirps and tweets, as if they are encouraging one another.

Think about it.

God has given us salvation through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Because of that, we have a lot to be thankful for and a lot of wonderful news to share. While some may find it easy to think of negative and critical words to say to those around them, the gospel is such good news that if we spend much time thinking about it (meditating), we really should never run out of positive, encouraging words to say to fellow believers and others. Think of how the unity of the Church would benefit from encouraging Christians.

Do it.

Listen for opportunities to encourage those around you. Share some of your favourite Bible promises with someone today!





Whoever said that the life of a Christian was boring?

The Writer's Reward

For Christmas 1992, I used the money given to me by my in-laws to purchase the book *The War Against The Family* by William D. Gairdner. It was such a controversial book that a number of bookstores refused to sell it. (Talk about free speech *v.* censorship!) In it, the author argued that there was a “civil war of values” weakening the soul of the family in Canada. Rereading the book in the modern context would awaken a sense of outrage, and its conclusions were nothing less than prophetic. My purpose here, however, is not to rehash that book; I use it only as an illustration.

The bravery of Gairdner to raise a banner of caution amidst rampant moral relativism impressed me so much that I wrote him a letter. He responded with these words: “Thank you for your kind letter. This is the writer’s reward.”

As I write my final instalment of *Worldview*, I look back over the past decade or so. Thanks to you, the reader, I have received more than my share of the writer’s reward.

Writing a column on current events from a religious perspective is not without its challenges. I have learned that I am not the only one with an opinion. I’ve also learned that mine is not necessarily the “right” or “correct” opinion. On the contrary, of the many responses I received, I found myself thinking, “That person has got a point there.” Worse, I have sometimes thought, “What have I said!?” when readers interpreted my message with great elasticity.

In November 2000, I was standing in front of Stockwell Day’s campaign bus when a Toronto reporter approached me holding a copy of an article I wrote for the *Messenger* about the church’s position on labour unions. He yelled, “What do you have against labour unions?” then stuck a microphone to my mouth. For the first time I realized that when I write *Worldview*, I write not only to an Adventist audience but to the world. His article printed as a result of the encounter was entitled “Oshawa Alliance Candidate Demonizes Unions.” It was part of what was, by far, the greatest response I ever received about any topic. I am particularly fond of the letter that said in part, “Hypocrisy is alive and well in the Adventist church as long as there are writers like Bussey.”

The word can be an instrument for good and bad. It truly is powerful. It motivates people to think or act. For that reason, an author has to be most careful about the words he or she chooses; not an easy task. Yet, I consider it a privilege to engage others on subjects that have profound import for our lives. All comments—the kind and even the not so kind—received over the years were most appreciated. They are indeed the “writer’s reward.” It showed that you read what I wrote.

As many know, I have answered the call of the General Conference to work as the church’s liaison to the U.S. government in Washington, D.C.. It is an opportunity to be involved in an arena of public policy unlike anything else—a new privilege. In accepting this call I was told to “remember Abraham!” who “went out, not knowing where he was going.” For me and my family, this move is a major step of faith. I have very much enjoyed my work at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada under the leadership of Elder Jackson. As legal counsel, I was given a window to see the stresses that our leaders face, the struggles they encounter. The problems today are as real as the men of old like Moses. These faithful stewards need our prayers and support.

A one-page article is, in my experience, the hardest to craft; there is always just so much more that could be said. I have concluded that perhaps the short length is one of the reasons misunderstandings may have come from time to time. Yet, by God’s grace, the articles nevertheless delivered a thought about the contentious issues of our day and put into context the reality of the modern events in light of the soon-coming Lord.

My writing will continue, of course, but in a different venue. The move to Washington certainly comes at an exciting time. It is with one step at a time that I go forward in the Lord’s leading. Whoever said that the life of a Christian was boring?

May God bless you all. *Maranatha!* ■

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





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Hope for São Tomé and Príncipe

The Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe is located in the Gulf of Guinea just west of the equatorial coast of Africa. It is made up of two separate islands—São Tomé and Príncipe—approximately 140 kilometers apart.

The second-smallest African country in terms of population, São Tomé and Príncipe is the smallest country in the world that was not formerly a British territory. It is also the smallest Portuguese-speaking country in the world.

Colonized by Portugal in the late 1400s, the Portuguese imported slave labor from other parts of Africa to assist in their agricultural activities. By the mid-1500s, the tiny country was Africa's leading exporter of sugar. In the 1800s, cacao and coffee replaced sugar as the main export. By 1908, São Tomé was the world's largest producer of cacao, and it is still the country's most important crop.

There are approximately 2300 Seventh-day Adventists in São Tomé and Príncipe, making the Seventh-day Adventist Church the second-largest Christian denomination in the country.

So, you may be asking, why the geography lesson on São Tomé and Príncipe? Well, a number of months ago *It Is Written Canada* was approached by the South African-Indian Ocean Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church about the possibility of airing our Portuguese language telecast in São Tomé and Príncipe. We were very excited about the opportunity and immediately began to evaluate what the logistical challenges might be with sending our program there. Turns out that it really was not too difficult a task. A few simple

format changes were all that were needed.

The next challenge seemed a little more complicated: how would we respond to viewers enquiries when we were situated clear across the Atlantic Ocean? It was decided that the most effective way of interacting with them and responding to their requests was to do it locally. A plan was made that would have a local Seventh-day Adventist pastor appear on each program to present the offer for free material pertaining to that broadcast, and then to have a local address and phone number appear on the screen for viewers to respond to.

Last month Pastor Eliseu Xavier arrived in Toronto from São Tomé and Príncipe and went into the studio at Crossroads Television Studios. He taped those offers for the São Tomé and Príncipe television program. Doug Bruce, our producer, has begun editing these new endings into our existing programs, and I am happy to announce that very soon *It Is Written* will be on the air in primetime on the São Tomé and Príncipe national television network.

This is a milestone moment for our ministry. As we near the end of our 35th year, God is writing a new chapter in the *It Is Written Canada* story, and I'm so glad that it includes bringing hope to the island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe. I look forward to sharing stories and results of this new adventure with you as they come in. ■

Bill Santos is the speaker/director of It Is Written Canada. He writes from Oshawa, Ontario.



"May God shower you with His richest blessings during the holidays and throughout the year. Merry Christmas from all of us at It Is Written Canada."

CUC Cares for



Above: DonnaLee Lehman, assistant professor, Outward Pursuits picking up garbage by Lake Barnett.

Right: Patricia Ng, associate professor of Business working at the Lacombe Hospital garden.



to help the community. Sometimes it's hard for students to know what to do around town, so it was good for the school to organize it." Heather and Jamie were part of a group that was stationed at a local nature preserve marking tree stumps and clearing brush to make way for a new hiking trail.

Service Day assignments ranged from personal home cleanup to hospital and school projects. The largest group, approximately 50 students, visited six local schools and got involved working one-on-one with students, doing office work, gardening, serving lunches and much more. The schools were excited to play host and were greatly

the Community

appreciative of the hard work. "We found CUC students to be positive, energetic and willing to jump in and help with a variety of activities . . . A huge thanks from Terrace Ridge!" wrote Terrace Ridge School's principal, Robin Irvine, in a thank-you email.

Those who volunteered at private homes were also greatly appreciated by those not able to do tasks themselves. "You can't believe for how long the shingles had been sitting while I wondered who to ask to help fix them this time. Thanks for being fingers for the Master's hands," wrote Tabitha, a Lacombe resident. Even those who just passed by were supportive and appreciative of the work being done. Lindsay Ferguson, a second-year Biology major, felt support from those driving by the road while she picked garbage: "The response has been good. We got a lot of people waving and honking as they drove by. We had a guy who worked for the town of Lacombe stop by and thank us for what we were doing and told us we were doing a great job."

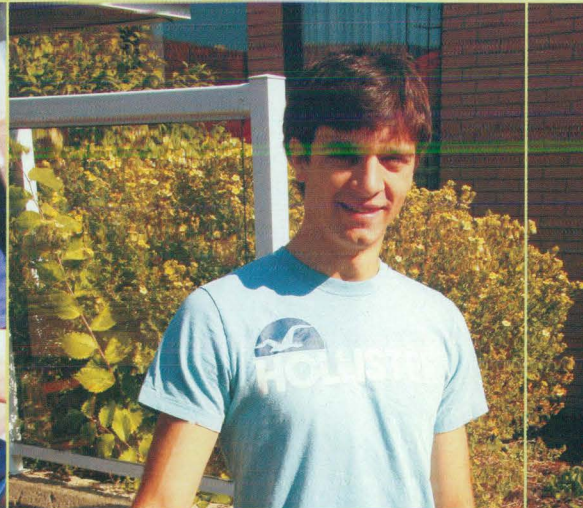
According to Antunes, Community Service Day 2008 was a success, and ideas are already being developed for next year. "[W]e are going to try and encourage the different departments to adopt certain project and encourage even more students to get involved." While to some students



Above: Becki Bigelow, a fourth-year Adventure-Based Counseling major, conducting free blood pressure tests at the Lacombe farmers market.

Lower left: Loren Agrey, vice president for Academics, working at the Lacombe Hospital garden.

Below: Alex Boscanin, a second-year Biology major, working at the Lacombe Hospital garden.



Service Day might seem like a break from the classroom, learning always continues and the lessons merely shift from Science and Business to service. According to Melody Ilacas, a fourth-year Business Administration major and Student Association president, "Service is a great way for our school to not only represent what we are about but what God is about." ■

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



2008 Awards of Excellence in

A HIGH AND NOBLE WORK

Teachers are engaged in a high and noble work. They are involved not only in the intellectual development of their students but also in their eternal destinies. The ultimate aim of the Adventist educator is to excite students about the love of God so that they can develop a life-long relationship with Jesus. It is therefore delightful to know that what excites outstanding educators is something that goes beyond the intellectual achievements of their students; it is the joy of knowing that their students are influenced by them to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. "True education," according to Ellen G. White, "does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements, but above information it values power; above power, goodness; above intellectual acquirements, character [my emphasis]. The world does not so much need men and women of great intellect as of noble character. It needs people in whom ability is controlled by steadfast principle." (True Education, 136.

—Dennis Marshall, Director of Education, SDACC

The SDACC Office of Education takes great pleasure in announcing the winners of this year's Excellence in Teaching and Administration awards. These are truly outstanding educators.

ADMINISTRATION:



Julie Bancarz

Julie graduated with a B.Ed. in 2000 and an M.A. in 2007. For five years, she has been principal of Mamawi Atosketan Native School. One experience stands out: a grade 4 student whose father had recently committed suicide came into her office to talk. "He said he was having a rough day and wanted to talk about it, but he just sat there. . . . We started talking about something else, and all of a sudden the tears started to fall, and he said, 'I miss my dad.' We talked and prayed about it. Then I shared a Jumbo Mr. Freezie with him. We both got brain freeze and started laughing. The next day his teacher gave his class Mr. Freezies, and this student came to share his Mr. Freezie with me. It really touched me that with everything going on, he would think to share with me."



Lee Richards

Lee graduated from Canadian University College with a B.A. in Theology and a B.Ed. with specializations in both elementary and secondary education. Over the past 23 years, Lee has served in schools across Canada as a classroom teacher, vice-principal, principal and superintendent. Lee is now in his fifth year as principal at Cariboo Adventist Academy. He is also the principal of West Coast Adventist School, the B.C. conference's online school. Two things that stand out in Lee's teaching and administrative career are when he is informed of the careers and accomplishments of his former students and when he sees innovation and change impacting his life and his field. The first reminds him of how important it is to develop a personal relationship with students, for that is what lasts the longest; the second helps keep him on the cutting edge of his profession and helps get students excited about learning.

Adventist Education

TEACHING:



Aurora Adap

Aurora holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from Adventist University of the Philippines and an M.A. in Education from LaSierra University.

Aurora worked as a teacher, school principal, and elementary school supervisor in the Philippines before accepting a teaching appointment at Crawford Adventist Academy where she is currently teaching grade 5. This year she celebrates 40 years as an Adventist teacher, and she says that the highlights of her career is seeing her students accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour and being successful in their chosen field.



Anita Angulo

Anita received her B.Ed. in 1998 from the University of Alberta. She has been working at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy for the past eight years and is grateful to those there who have inspired her over those years. Asked the highlight of her career thus far, Anita tells the story of

teaching her class about the unconditional love of God and having them decide to buy new shoes for a classmate who couldn't afford any. "When the day came to give him the shoes, it was amazing to see his surprised face, but it was even more amazing to see the rest of my students' faces full of love and compassion."



Alastair Atherton

Alastair graduated from Canadian University College in 1999 and taught at Parkview Adventist Academy for nine years before transferring to Peace Christian School. One of his most memorable experiences was when, while teaching a class, he happened to look out the window and saw students Saran Wrapping his car. Far from being upset, Alastair laughed at the harmless prank done for his birthday. Later, another student commented that Alastair's positive reaction to the joke showed him that Christianity can be fun and made him want to know more about God. "For me, the opportunity to share Jesus with students in or out of the classroom is why I teach in the Adventist system," Alastair said.



Teca Cousins

Teca, a graduate of Northern Caribbean University and Andrews University, leads the English Language Arts department at Greaves Adventist Academy. She previously served as high school vice-principal and registrar in Jamaica and as chair of the department of English, Modern

Languages, and Communication at Northern Caribbean University. One of her positive teaching moments happened when, after making a PowerPoint presentation to her class, one of her students said to her, "Miss, this is great! You have not only told us; you have shown us." Those simple words of appreciation and affirmation made her feel that she was making a difference in somebody's life.



Michelle Ferreira DeSilva

Michelle completed a B.Ed. from Canadian University College in 1996, after which she taught at Deer Lake School for three years. She has been teaching kindergarten at College Park Elementary School since September 2000. "I am called to introduce children to Jesus and encourage them to develop a relationship with Him as a Friend and Saviour," she said. Michelle recognizes the importance of

teaching students to count, read and write, but she feels it is more important to remind them that there is more to life than being successful on earth. "It always brings a smile to my face when a little one says, "Teacher, when will He come? He's taking so long!"



Audrey James

After receiving a teaching degree at the University of Toronto and an M.Ed. from York University, Audrey began her teaching career at Crawford Adventist Academy.

Twenty-four years later, she is still at CAA, working now as their Resource teacher. After two years in the Resource

Center seeing the accomplishments of students who "just need a little help," Audrey is convinced that God is using her as a catalyst to help students overcome the challenges they face in learning. "One of the most rewarding and fulfilling aspects of my job is knowing that students who come to the Resource Center like coming and feel secure in the fact that it's okay to learn differently and know that I am there to assist them," she said.



Lee Ann Leming

Lee-Ann graduated from Canadian University College with a B.Ed. in 1992. She went on to teach in the proverbial one-room school at Pine Valley SDA School and other Church schools in B.C. and Alberta

before coming to College Heights Christian School where she now teaches grades 5 and 6. She vigorously supports her fellow teachers and often functions as a sounding board for new and exciting ideas. Lee-Ann cares deeply for all of her students and always has a smile and hug for them. In fact, when asked the highlight of her career thus far, she says it is not awards and recognition from her peers but having former students come seeking a hug and warm smile from their "favourite" teacher.



Fran Wilson

Fran graduated from Oakwood College with a B.Sc. degree in Education. She began her teaching career in Nashville before coming to teach at Crawford Adventist Academy. After spending seven years at Crawford, Fran transferred to the Peel Adventist School

where she currently teaches kindergarten. One experience she appreciated this year was hearing her students sound out their first words and seeing them add two numbers together. "It was amazing to see the excitement on their faces when they were able to do it," she said. Fran is grateful that God is using her to establish a foundation for their success.



BY CRYSTAL HOLLOWAY

JOE
HAWKES,
CHRISTIAN
RAPPER

THIS BABYBOY REPS CHRIST,
AND HE DON'T NEED NO APPLAUSE

LET'S GO PEOPLE
LET'S GO PEOPLE

ALL OVER THE WORLD

and certainly all across this country, the Church is filled with unsung heroes who spread the news of God and His love as a part of their daily lives. They don't make a big deal about it; they simply use the talents that the Creator gave them to reach those around them in a positive way. I'm not just talking about pastors or Bible workers or anyone who gets paid to do the work. I'm talking about regular members who have jobs or who go to school each day. I'm talking about ordinary people who aren't trained in theology and all the doctrines but who know that living with Christ makes a positive and practical difference in life and who want to share that knowledge with the people around them. I'm talking about people like Joe Adante.

Joe is a rapper. As in hip-hop. As in music. The kind of music that is usually so disgusting in topic and language that most people—not just Christians, but even many people who would say they are not religious in any way—just cannot listen to it. It is a music style that one wouldn't typically hear in church. But Joe's songs are different.

Joe is a Christian rapper. More specifically, Joe is an Adventist Christian rapper. Now, the words 'Adventist' and 'rap' don't get used in the same sentence very often, so when I heard about Joe and his unique mission endeavour, I had to investigate. I knew that if I was surprised to find that the Church in Canada contained such a uniquely gifted individual, others would be surprised as well. So I set out to interview an Adventist Christian rapper. As I spent time with him, I discovered that Joe—known on-stage as babyBoy—is indeed a talented musician, but also so much more.

TAKE A STAND FOR GOD
TAKE A STAND FOR GOD

JOE THE CHRISTIAN

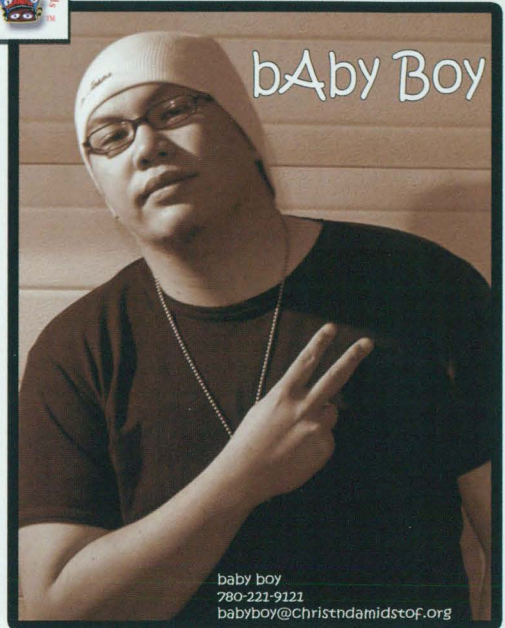
Joe gave his life to God in 2001 at the age of 17. Although he was not raised in the Church, he did have contact with Adventism through his grandmother. To keep her happy, and because it was located just two blocks away from his house, Joe began attending Coralwood Adventist Academy. "That planted the seed," he says. But it wasn't until his high school years, years he spent in the public school system, that he became a Christian.

His testimony is a story best told by him: "One day I was trying to figure out what the purpose was of life. I was at my grandma's house after going to church—I went to please her—and I saw a Bible there. In my head I was like, 'okay God, if you have a purpose for me show me,' and I opened up to Ecclesiastes, which is all about how everything on this world is meaningless. That really struck home with me to realize that everything on this world was meaningless, that the only place to store your treasures was in heaven 'cuz that's the only thing that will last." That God cared enough to lead him to the answer he needed was impressive to Joe. He decided then and there that he would live for Christ for the rest of his days.



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baby Boy

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Hey Joe, I know it's common for artists to use stage names, but why babyBoy?

It's a name I've had since I was young because all my friends that I used to hang out with were always older than me by, like, four or five years. So I was named that for long time.

I decided to use it as my music name because I wanted to reference Matthew 18, when the disciples were asking about who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and Jesus was just like, "None of you are going to get into heaven unless you yourself become like a little child."

JOE THE MUSICIAN

Shortly after Joe became a Christian, his pastor set him to work as a teacher in the earliten Sabbath School class at his church. ("I just always had pastors that thought the best way to get the youth active was to get them involved in leadership," Joe says.) One Sabbath after church, some of those earliteens were gathered at the back of the sanctuary and "they were singing some lyrics that I didn't necessarily agree with. Very foul. Very vulgar lyrics that were from mainstream hip-hop. So it kind of upset me. I started to take different beats and do rap music to different parts of the Bible."

It may have seemed quite natural for Joe to turn to rap. He points out that "hip-hop is something that is very evident in Canada in aboriginal or native culture. It is one of the forefront kinds of music for aboriginal youth." He was interested in hip-hop before he became a Christian but then basically stopped listening to it when he did. Prompted by those kids in church that day, he began to write songs himself, and he began to look around for other Christian rap artists. Initially he was disappointed with many he found. "Even in Christian rap music, I found a lot of music that was vanity-filled," he says. "Though they were Christian artists, they were always talking about themselves. Even though they were a positive alternative—because there was no swearing—I found I disagreed with some of the songs they put out there."

Eventually he did find a group, Cross Movement Records, whose artists seemed very Biblically sound. "I really found out that the Bible could be put into that form and done correctly," he said. Thus encouraged, Joe really began his holy hip-hop ministry in earnest. Finding a good fit working with Fredrick Whitlow (a.k.a. "Minister Fred") and Stric'ly Jesus ministries¹, Joe has already produced a CD sampler of his music called "Reality Check"² and is now working on a new project that will be a tribute to his grandfather who recently passed away. "He was a poet, an inspiration in my life and a big part of why I am a Christian today. The CD will be called 'Encomium,' which was the name of one of the poems that he wrote," Joe says.

In addition to recording, babyBoy can often be seen at conferences and youth events in the United States and Canada. You are also likely to see him at the summer camp, a lot of youth rallies and many cultural events around Edmonton and Central Alberta. Many times he is called upon to perform at these venues, but even if he isn't performing, he is always available to help—"speaking, moving boxes, setting up chairs, whatever needs to be done, really." Most recently, the Church in Canada made use of his musical talent at the Canadian Adventist Youth Summit held in Nova Scotia this September.

PEOPLE TAKE A STAND FOR GOD

Let's
Go Let's
Go



Joe "babyBoy" Adante (left) at work in the recording studio in New Orleans.

¹ see www.christndamidstof.org

² hear some at www.myspace.com/babyboyjma

Let's Go, People Take a Stand for God
Let's Go, People Take a Stand for God
Let's Go, People Take a Stand for God
Let's Go, People Take a Stand for God
Let's Go, People Take a Stand for God
Let's Go, People Take a Stand for God
Let's Go, People Take a Stand for God

JOE THE DRAMATIST

Not surprisingly, Joe, who is so creative with his music, has other creative pursuits as well. He was active in a local group called Holy Hands who minister through various drama forms. "I like drama," he says, "and I like music. I enjoy doing sign language—we do drama to music sometimes. All those are really interesting to me. I like the expression that the different arts have, and I think they have a chance to be really powerful. The devil uses media and the arts in a lot of negative forms, and I don't see why we're not allowed to flip the switch on him and use it for positive."

Of course, as a denomination, we've tended to be reluctant to embrace the arts for ministry, and Joe is well aware of that tendency. I was curious to know if he had a theory to account for our reluctance. He did, and it was a good one: "They're just wanting to please everybody, and they don't want to take a risk on things that are new 'cuz they don't know how it will be received."

I wondered if he'd ever faced anger or criticism from those conservative Church members who would question the validity and appropriateness of his style. "Not really, simply because I've chosen to pick my battles. To me, there is a place for everything. I'm not the type of person to force my way into a conservative church, because I didn't write my music for them. Those aren't the people I'm trying to reach."

"Honestly, everybody who I've talked to about it...they may have some concerns and talk to me about it—I guess from the other youth work I've been doing for the Church, they're not afraid to come talk to me about it—I've never gone away with someone being negative towards me after talking it through."

JOE THE WORKER

What keeps Joe busy when he is not being babyBoy? "Right now, I'm trying to get into school to become an air traffic controller with Nav Canada. But while that is happening, I do construction, and I was working at a Christian bookstore as well." Sounds straight forward, but Joe is much busier than that modest answer would indicate; he has also spent his last seven or so summers working at the Alberta conference's Foothills Camp. Everyone's got to pay the bills, of course, but interestingly Joe doesn't envision his music as ever being a money making endeavour. He has chosen air traffic control as a career "because it uses a part of my brain that I'm good with. A lot of what I do as far as the artistry of the music is something that I never want to compromise because of having to use it to make money... It is purely a ministry. I've always had a desire, ever since I became a Christian, to show people Jesus Christ. I was just looking for different tools to reach kids but also to reach the native population around where I live. And hip-hop was one of the ways I found that got good responses."

Did you catch that?

"A desire ... to show people Jesus Christ." That's what he said. And that is what he lives. In his music and in everything he does, it seems that Joe is just eager to show people Jesus Christ. And to do it, he'll use whatever tool God puts in his hands. That's what I call a hero.

Please note: Items in the "News" section may originate from various sources. The Canadian Adventist Messenger will give credit, via a byline, to authors of material submitted directly to us for first printing. Stories without a byline may have been written by Messenger staff, reprinted from other publications or supplied to us by a general press release.

Maritimes

Camp Pugwash Lifeguard and Volunteer Rescue Three Boaters

Camp Pugwash was established in the late 1940's by the Maritime Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The camp is located on the beautiful Northumberland Strait near Pugwash, Nova Scotia. Camp Pugwash facilities and programs have grown to now offer camps for the blind, children, teens, spiritual retreats and a campmeeting for all members of the family. Camp activities include horsemanship, various crafts, archery, outdoor survival and an extensive water activity program all in a Christian atmosphere.

On Sunday, August 17, 2008 at 6:00 pm lifeguard Jason Smith and camp volunteer Ray Loxdale pulled three boaters from the Northumberland Strait near Pugwash Point after their 14 foot boat capsized in strong wind and high seas. Loxdale was piloting pleasure boat back to Pugwash Harbour from Camp Pugwash after treating the staff to some fun in the surf. They stopped and somehow heard calls for help. Loxdale says "It sounded like kids playing on the beach, yelling, screaming and whistling, but we really shouldn't have heard anything but the roar of the wind as we were one mile [1.6 kilometers] from shore." After checking the marine VHF radio as the source of the sound, they quickly surveyed the surrounding water; Smith was the first to see two people disappearing behind the 2-meter high waves approximately 100 meters away.

Once on board, the couple, Darren Robinson, 22, and Lacey Angevine, 20, of Pugwash, N.S. said they had been



Ray Loxdale (left), 49, is a businessman living in St. Catherines, P.E.I. He is a Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada board member, an Adventist Development and Relief Agency Canada board member, and is a volunteer district manager (Central Kenya) for Lacombe, Alberta based humanitarian agency, A Better World Canada.

Jason Smith (right), 20, lives in Shag Harbour, N.S. and is a student at Nova Scotia Community College. He is a NLS certified lifeguard and a volunteer firefighter with First Responder training. He spent his summer working at Camp Pugwash.

drifting with the wind and seas for almost four hours and that their cousin, Darrin Robinson, 24, was still out there somewhere. Darrin had left the couple an hour previous in an attempt to swim to the distant shore. Loxdale and Smith located Darrin Robinson 400 meters [a quarter mile] away clutching pieces of foam from his deteriorating lifejacket.

Loxdale used the marine VHF

radio to arrange for an ambulance to meet them at the dock. Smith says "They needed a lot of assistance; the three were in shock, all shivering, and one had started to turn a little gray." Angevine and the two Robinsons were showing signs of hypothermia. Paramedics greeted the three with warmed blankets and transported them to a local hospital.

Angevine and the Robinsons credit Loxdale and Smith with saving their lives. Angevine says, "We were swallowing a lot of water and I couldn't have lasted much longer. I would have died if those men hadn't have shown up. We all would have, all three of us, for sure." Loxdale stated, "God gave these people a second chance at life. The reality is, our boat was the only one in their proximity, the strong wind and tides were taking them away from shore, they were one mile offshore, darkness was just two and a half hours away. Their chances weren't good. I'm humbled to think that God used us to answer their prayers". ■

Ontario

Mount Olive Feeding Program

On Sunday, June 8, 2008 the members of the community service department of the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with other dedicated church members, launched its first monthly feeding program in the Greater Toronto Area.

Pastor Godfrey Beresford, coordinator of Touch of Love ministries, was there to join in this auspicious occasion. Beresford, along with one of his assistants and 15 church members, helped with the lunch preparation. He further offered word of encouragement and commendation to the group for their hard work and dedication.

The group arrived at their destination approximately 6:30 p.m. Despite the day's drizzle, 161 snack lunches were handed out to the homeless, and yet they were many who did not receive lunch. One of the recipients was a former Seventh-day Adventist with whom we were happy to reconnect and encourage him to come back to church.

Let us pray that God will continue to bless our church as we focus on making an impact in the community, and ultimately prepare souls for the kingdom. ■



The hard working group of Mount Olive church members who distributed food to those in need in their area.

—Veronica Lyttle, member

Alberta

2008 Filipino-Canadian Campmeeting



The sixth annual Filipino-Canadian Campmeeting was held on August 21-24 at Foothills Camp. The campmeeting speakers were Wilfredo Sumagaysay, associate director of the Trust Services department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Gregg Aguirre, pastor of the Orlando Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church in Florida, who both gave inspiring messages on the campmeeting's theme of "Accountability."

A vesper service was held on Thursday night. Each day's activities started with morning devotions at 7:00 a.m. A musical concert on Sabbath afternoon featured performances from each of the churches represented at the camp. Saturday night

activities started with several group games and competitions in basketball. Competitions in baseball, volleyball, and badminton were held on Sunday, and the winners and runners-up in the sports competitions were awarded medals.

The closing program on Sunday included a message of commitment from Pastor Sumagaysay, the announcement of the date for next year's camp meeting and the welcoming of new officers. The program closed with the traditional Circle of Love—everybody joining hands and singing "Side by Side." By God's blessings and the tireless efforts of the officers and committee leaders, this year's campmeeting inspired and blessed those who attended.

The next Filipino-Canadian camp meeting will be on August 21-23, 2009. ■

—Jocelyn Adante, member

Alberta Conference Quadrennial Report

On a warm Fall day in Central Alberta, delegates came together to do the business of our conference, hear reports of the past quadrennial period and make plans for the next four-year period. However, the members of the Organizing Committee had begun their work much earlier that day.

Elder Dan Jackson, assisted by Corrine Vanderwerff (secretary of the Nominating Committee), presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee with respect to the administrative leadership of the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the quadrennial period 2008-2012. Delegates and delegates-at-large voted unanimously to elect Mark Johnson as conference president. Johnson put on his presidential hat on October 1, 2008. They also voted to re-elect incumbent officers Romulo Daquila as vice-president for administration and Robert Holdal as vice-president for finance.

Just prior to the lunch break, a surprise farewell/retirement cake was



Alberta conference administrators with their wives (l-r: Becky Johnson, Mark Johnson, Robert Holdal, Romulo Daquila, Marlene Holdal, Lilia Daquila)

presented to Elder and Mrs. Olson in acknowledgement of their retirement. The cake was shared with the delegates at the CUC cafeteria as dessert with the meal.

A very significant item on the agenda of the quadrennial session was the office location proposal. In a multimedia presentation, the treasurer showed the recent water problems encountered in the conference office building and explained some of the challenges faced

to repair a seemingly impossible situation. A parcel of land near Lacombe was presented as a possible location for a new building. Estimated costs were given on the two options, and, the delegates voted to approve the relocation of the Alberta conference office from Red Deer to Lacombe, subject to the presentation of realistic costs to the Executive Committee.

As the day wore on, it was then time for Ora-Lee Phillips, representing the Act and Bylaws Committee, to present the recommended changes to the delegates. After some deliberation on the technicalities of

“the law,” the recommended changes were finally brought to a vote. And all was well!

The last item on the agenda was the acceptance of the newly organized churches in the Alberta Conference since the last session in 2004: Calgary Maranatha Spanish, Calgary Metro Filipino, Edmonton Filipino, Edmonton Mill Woods, Edmonton North and Parkland (Spruce Grove). ■

Local Dentist Honoured for Service

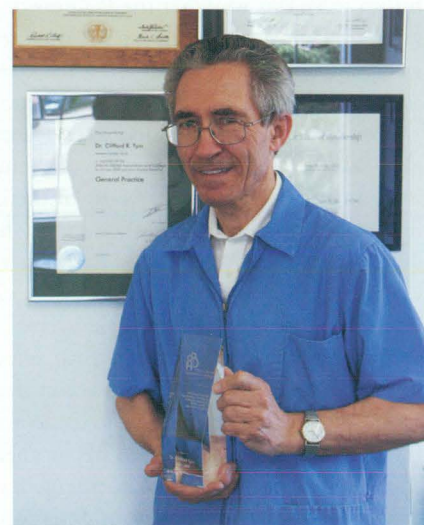
Dr. Clifford Tym, who owns a dental practice in the town of Innisfail, was recently recognized by the Alberta Dental Association and College for being a registered dentist in Alberta for 40 years.

Clifford graduated from the School of Dentistry at Loma Linda University in 1968, and in 1987, he received his Masters of Public Health, also from Loma Linda University.

Along with his dental practice, he has served on several dental association

boards throughout the years here in Alberta as well as being a life member of the National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentists; silver member of the LLU School of Dentistry Century Club; and a member of the Dean's Circle at the university. He spent a year practicing his work in Africa in the early 1980s.

Clifford and his wife, Anne, continue to be actively involved in the Red Deer Seventh-day Adventist Church. They have four children and four grandchildren. ■



British Columbia

Decisions: A Group of Serbian Refugees and Their Volunteers Both Changed

Have you ever known hunger? Have you ever seen war ruin your country and wanted something better for your family? Have you ever gambled everything for your future, taken a step out in faith, yet lost? It is this kind of decision that can change your life forever.

Recently a group of 80 Serbian men came to Canada from their war-ravaged country, hoping to make a better life for their families with brand new jobs. In September, their employer did not remit the worker's income tax to the government even though it had been taken off their cheques. The men lost their jobs, and Revenue Canada froze the company's accounts. Administrators fled the country, not even paying the men for their last month of work. Government red tape, our slower economy, and suspected deception has meant that they still remain unemployed.

Of these 80 men, one happened to be a Seventh-day Adventist. He attended our Yugoslavian church in Vancouver, and our pastor, Sima Sremac, heard his story. He began meeting these men and heard more stories of their lives in Serbia and now Canada. He could have just invited them all to church and kept on preaching, but instead he helped them find an immigration lawyer and began teaching them to speak English. He helped them obtain drivers licenses and faithfully visits them. They know he will help them no matter how difficult their case.

One Thursday morning, Sima called Teresa Penner and asked if she would come and help teach English classes. Teresa and Jonathan home-school their four children and are very active in their church, Creekside, in Langley. It was so much fun to serve this way that the Penners decided to do it as a family and have been helping the men several times each week. Not happy with only that, they went on to spearhead a BC-wide campaign to help these men.

On November 4, the men were dealt another blow after jobs that were promised to some of them fell through. They were greatly disappointed. Many of them had already been here for a year and had sent their money home to their families. Teresa and Sima decided food hampers would help. Teresa called both the Langley and Northside campuses of the Creekside church, the Deer Lake school, Aldergrove church, and the BC SDA conference Office. Messages were circulated on Facebook, and others heard about the need for food and money by word of mouth. One student in Russia saw the message online and contacted his mother in Mission to help. The Mission church called an emergency board meeting and decided to give a very generous donation. The Open Door

church and the ABC Book Store staff got involved. Calls came in from the Chetwynd Adventist church and the Williams Lake church offering assistance in whatever way they possibly could.

Deer Lake SDA School was called on Wednesday and told that the men needed potatoes by the weekend. They quickly decided that all the money from the Friday jeans day (typically \$1 each from 220 students) would go to help. When teachers explained the great need of these men to the students, the students decided that they could bring more. They raised nearly \$1000.

Some businesses decided to help: Costco donated copious amounts of bread and bakery items for the hampers, as well as recyclable shopping totes to hold the food; Little Green Apple in Abbotsford gave Teresa an amazing price on potatoes, carrots, onions, and garlic.

Teresa has brought the situation to the attention of the local Langley MP, Mark Warawa. His office is currently seeking to do all they can to investigate the men's current situation. The government has promised to change their visas if they can find new employers.

The food hamper drive was a huge success. On November 11, approximately 25 volunteers, aged 3-80, packed 71 hampers in 3 hours, and Pastor Sima and a crew of men from Creekside church delivered them the same day. The recipients were deeply moved, and so were the volunteers. Teresa says that for the first time since becoming a member of the SDA church 20 years ago, she "realizes the power of the network of our sisterhood of churches and schools. I am deeply humbled to be a part of this church family."

A series of decisions. Yes, the decision these men made to come to Canada has greatly impacted their lives. What happens when you step out in faith, not knowing the outcome? As Teresa states, "We are stronger when we stand together as one; we can do great and marvelous things and show God's love to the world." We always have a choice—whether it be moving to another country or helping those in need. Whose life is changed forever? You decide. ■

—Loretta Knopp,
member

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Dear Friends of Canadian University College

Thanksgiving break is just about to start and here at Canadian University College we do have much for which to be thankful!

This morning I wandered around campus and was given some apple pie by our Chaplain, who was helping serve free pie as students went to and from classes. I stood for a moment and talked to a student who was talking about what a wonderful experience it is to be at CUC. His experience is mirrored by so many of our students.

This last weekend was the first time our choir sang this academic year. What a great sound! It is no wonder they were invited to sing in the pre-Olympic celebrations in Beijing. Whether it is music, academics, spiritual leadership or sports—we have the privilege of working at CUC for students with many talents and potential. Yes, I am very thankful.

And I am thankful for you too. If it wasn't for you, some of the students I see succeeding academically and growing spiritually would not even be on our campus. The "new" look the campus is getting also would not have happened without the support you have given, most recently to the outside of the Administration building.



Dr. Andrea Luxton
CUC President



With that almost finished, the Board of Trustees has now voted a 10-year concept plan for the physical campus. We are excited! The first phase will focus on continued renewal of the older campus buildings and some space expansion. It will also be the time to build up a strong donor base for our second phase: the building of a new learning centre. During the first phase, we will want you to know that we are committed to a campus that is dynamic, managed well and looks to future needs. The second phase will be to build a state-of-the-art new facility to serve as the central focus of the teaching and learning process at CUC. Our present facility is not up to meeting all the needs of a present-day campus. Our third phase will go one stage further and complete the professional look and feel of the campus by reallocation of space to further give identity to campus programs. Over the next few months and years you will be hearing more about our plans and our progress. We believe the plan is doable and you will see progress very soon. The Board has unanimously supported this move forward—now we have to make it happen!

What's the main focus of this year? First, we want to work on the inside foyer of the Administration building, which also serves as the entry/lobby for our chapel. We want to make this as representative as possible of our desire to do both education and worship right! We already have about 50% of the money for this project set aside. During 2009, we will also focus on the gymnasium. To that end, we have launched an expansion project that > continued on next page



CANADIAN
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will be self-financed but will give us increased space for the gym and weight-room, as well as giving us some new academic space. This space will in itself help us to explore the introduction of some exciting new degrees (more on that another time).

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be well in the past. Instead Christmas will be just around the corner—another opportunity for thanksgiving, and for giving. We have great plans for CUC, but we do need you to help us make it happen. We would invite you to help us this year by financially supporting the first phase of our new campus development project. Picture one of our students returning after the break next summer to see a vastly improved entry to our signature building. See another student run to the gymnasium and discover that it is growing as he watches! Both will smile and join me in saying “thank-you.” Remember that your donations will be used as you specify. Remember too that we really are very, very, thankful.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Luxton, Ph.D.
President



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*In the event that this project is fully funded or changes, donations will be re-directed to other priorities.

■ **Announcements**

A memorial for Leslie C. Neal (1936-2008) will be held at the Vernon Adventist church on Nov. 29, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. All those touched by his 40 years of ministry for the Church are invited to come and celebrate his life at this special service.

■ **New Members**

ALBERTA

Violet Delzer was baptized in Camrose, Alta. on May 10, 2008 by Bob Burke. She is now a member of the Camrose Adventist church.

ONTARIO

Betty Franceschetti, Melanie Lampshire and **Bill Prouty** were baptized in Thunder Bay, Ont. on July 12, 2008 by James Rieder. They are now members of the Thunder Bay Adventist church.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Antonia Malonzo was rebaptized in a private pool in Victoria, B.C. on June 26, 2008 by Jeff Kapiniak. She is now a member of the Victoria Fil-Can Adventist church.

Jonathan Tschritter was baptized in a fireman's drop tank at his home in Chemainus, B.C. on July 12, 2008 by Jeff Kapiniak. He is now a member of the Duncan Adventist church.

■ **Births**

Oliver Karl William Gelb was born Oct. 8, 2008 to Shannon (Lund) and Sancho Gelb of Langley, B.C.

Janaye Lilly Joy Haines was born July 31, 2008 to Ingrid (Dilling) and Rob Haines of Abbotsford, B.C.

Antonin David Jan Hamstra was born Aug. 15, 2008 to Heidi (Kartik) and David Hamstra of Berrien Springs, Mich.

Elijah James Turner was born Mar. 14, 2007 to Janette (Kartik) and Jim Turner of Collegedale, Tenn.

■ **Weddings**

Brooke Adams and **Justin Holland** were married July 22, 2007 in Apison, Tenn. and are making their home in Ooltewah, Tenn. Brooke is the daughter of Neil and Barbie Adams of Courtrice, Ont. and Justin is the son of Carl and Marcella Holland of Dillsboro, Ind.

Michele Aplin and **Michael Majocha** were married July 12, 2008 in Parkville, B.C. by David Baker.

■ **Anniversaries**

Anny and **Ernst Geissler** of Hamilton, Ont. celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July



31, 2008. The Geisslers have two children: Annemarie Johnson of Lapeer, Mich. and Gisela Hoelzel of Caledonia, Ont. They have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. [picture to be scanned]

Ann (Chernipeski) and **Henry G. "Harry" Knight** of Bangor, Sask. celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary



on Oct. 12, 2008 at a come and go tea attended by family, friends and neighbours. The Knights have three children: Elizabeth (Jerry) Chamberlain of Green Lake, B.C., Chris (Lynda) Knight of Williams Lake, B.C. and Patricia (George) Ohnander of Stockholm, Sask. They have 9 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lena and **Norman Grange** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Aug. 10, 2008 surrounded by family



with a dinner and program at Lacombe Community Adventist church. They were married in Readlyn, Sask. on Nov. 3, 1938. The Granges have three children: Darlene (Gunter) Metzker,

Dorothy (Ian) Cheeseman and Gordon (Dani) Grange. They have eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

■ **Obituaries**

Irvine Anderst was born Dec. 11, 1921 in Hilda, Alta. and died Sept. 4, 2008 in Medicine Hat, Alta. Surviving: wife Marion; son Dale (Judy) of Lacombe, Alta.; daughters Cheryl (Allen) Truitt of Chattanooga, Tenn. and Lynn Anderst of Fort Collins, Col.; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Robert Connell was born Jan. 19, 1933 in Halifax, N.S. and died Sept. 21, 2008 in Toronto, Ont. Robert served his church in Willowdale, Ont. as head deacon, deacon and social committee leader. Surviving: wife Dorothy (McCreery) and daughter Shelly-Ann Connell of Toronto.

Siegried Hack was born Nov. 27, 1914 near Qu'Appelle, Sask. and died July 21, 2008 in Kentville, N.S. He is predeceased by his first wife Margaretha and son Daniel. Surviving: wife Rita (Lowe), daughter Dorothy (Robert) Scheidt of Sask.; stepsons Richard (Edith) Gay of Stewiacke, N.S., Ronald (Jeanie) Gay of Virginia and William (Donna) Gay of Bedford, N.S.; stepdaughter Marilyn Gay of Dartmouth, N.S.; seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Ralph Haynes was born Apr. 21, 1915 in Dominica and died Mar. 24, 2008 in Lacombe, Alta. In Canada, Dr. Haynes worked as a literature evangelist in southern Alberta. Later, he served as president of the CUC's Committee of 100, and he was a charter member of the Red Deer church. He is predeceased by his wife Winifred. Surviving: son Roland of Vancouver, B.C.; daughters Miriam of Lacombe, Joy (Gilmore) Hurst of Edmonton, Alta., and Jessie of Saskatoon, Sask.; brothers Alfred of Calif. and Aaron of England; sister Ruby of Barbados; and three grandchildren.

Joyce (Robinson) Huether was born Mar. 26, 1919 in Fillmore, Sask. and died June 8, 2008 in Hamilton, Ont. Joyce served her local church by working with the Dorcas society. She is predeceased by her husband Delbert and sons Warren, James and Douglas. Surviving: sons Wayne (Marilyn) of Sarnia, Ont. and Ray of Oshawa, Ont.; daughters Beverly (Charles) Ellis of Caister Centre, Ont. and Ellen of Pickering, Ont.; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Dolores (Bacchus) Klatt was born July 5, 1929 in Kansas City, Kan. and died Nov. 11, 2007 in Oliver, B.C. Dolly shared her musical talents as church pianist and organist for many years. Surviving: husband William Klatt; sons Bernard (Bev) of Oliver, Harvey of White Rock, B.C., Russ of Oliver, and David (Laurie) of Spokane, Wash.; daughter Beverly Church of Hawi, Hawaii; sisters Nancy Colvin and Myra Hoffman; and one grandchild.

Leonard Karl Lehmann was born July 13, 1925 in Rosthern, Sask. and died Sept. 11, 2008 in Rosthern. Surviving: wife Anita; sons Lonny (Rebecca) of Rosthern and Roger of Rosthern; daughter Brenda (Tim) Grovet of Lacombe, Alta.; brother Victor (Irma) of Rosthern; sister Evelyn Knippel of Rosthern; and six grandchildren.

Ronald Myers was born Mar. 2, 1918 in Vernon, B.C. and died Sept. 17, 2008 in Winnipeg, Man. Ron served as a teacher, principal and pastor in various locations in Manitoba and across Canada. He is predeceased by his sisters Eva and Dorothy. Surviving: wife Isabelle; son Alvin (Pat) of Winnipeg; brother-in-law George; sisters-in-law Audrey, Fergie and Ella; four granddaughters and four great-granddaughters.

Leslie Neal was born Sept. 15, 1936 in Onaway, Mich. and died Sept. 29, 2008 in Akron, Mich. Leslie served the Church in many capacities: youth director for the Alberta conference; pastor of the Willowdale and the Edmonton Central churches; vice-president for Children's Ministries at the North American Division; and finally director of Children's Ministries, Sabbath School and Stewardship for the B.C. conference. He is predeceased by his father, Leslie Neal sr. Surviving: wife Juanita (Walston); sons Leslie III (Heidi) of Indianapolis, Ind. and Rodney (Kandi) of Beaumont, Calif.; daughters Lenita (Randall) Skoretz and Charla (Mark) Willis both of Colton, Calif.; mother Anna Neal; sister Patricia (Bill) Edsell of Akron; and nine grandchildren.

Mary (Attwood) Pitcher was born Nov. 3, 1917 in Safe Harbour, Bonavista Bay, N.L. and died Sept. 21, 2008 in Mashpee, Mass. She is predeceased by her husband Ralph. Surviving: sons Donald (Nancy) of Cummaquid, Mass., Edmund (Sue) of Lexington, Mass., and David (Paula) of Beverly, Mass.; daughter Barbara Patt of Calgary, Alta.; brother Steven Attwood of Thornhill, Ont.; sister Emma Barker

of Oshawa, Ont.; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Emma (Bechtold) Reimche was born Sept. 12, 1912 in Irvine, Alta. and died Aug. 20, 2008 in Lacombe, Alta. Emma served her church by helping in the children's Sabbath school departments. She is predeceased by her husband Albert and daughters Zella and Edna. Surviving: sons Edward (Marion) of Lacombe, Alta. and Leo (Cheryl) of Portland, Ore.; daughters Sue (Raleigh) Flint of Savannah, Ind., Rose (Herb) Stickle of Arrington, B.C., Alberta (John) Blake of Clive, Alta., and Darlene Reimche of Abbotsford, B.C.; brothers Irvine (Elaine) Bechtold and Roy (Rose Marie) Bechtold; sisters Sylvia Peacock, Elly (James) Mackenzie and Ethel (Bob) Turner; 25 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

Elsie (Guderyan) Smith was born Nov. 28, 1918 in Ebenezer, Sask. and died Sept. 8, 2008 in Kelowna, B.C. She is predeceased by her husband Edward and infant daughter Agnes Weber. Surviving: son Earl (Joyce) Webber of Langley, B.C., daughter Dolores (Robert) Coupland of Westbank, B.C., one grandchild, and three great-grandchildren.

■ Tributes



Leanna Ali and Temesgen Amanuel were married Aug. 17, 2008 in Surrey, B.C. where they will also be making their home. Leanna is the daughter of Pastor George and Pamela Ali from Surrey, and Temesgen is the son Amanuel Kelatie and Tseganish Guyaye also of Surrey. Congratulations and best wishes from the Surrey Adventist church.

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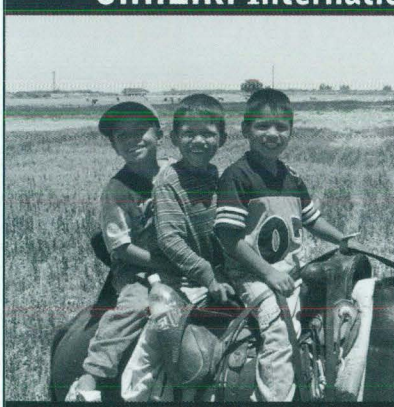



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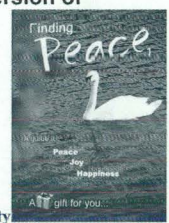
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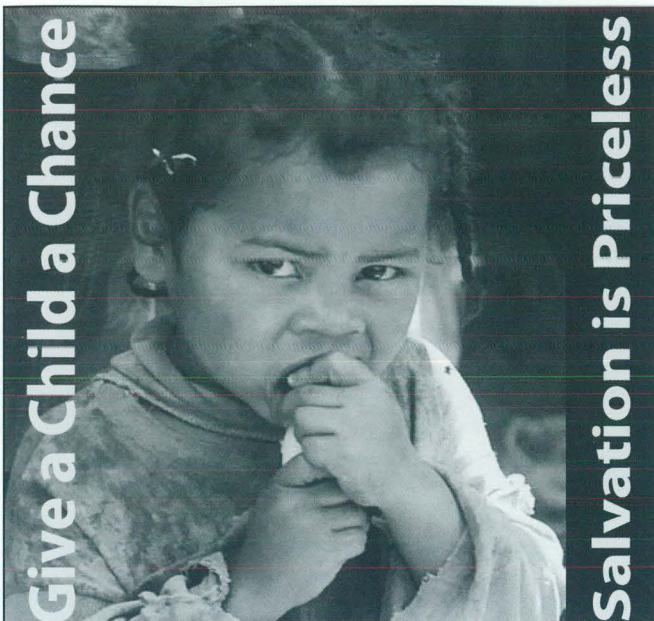
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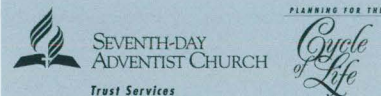
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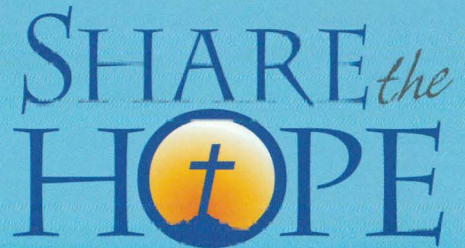
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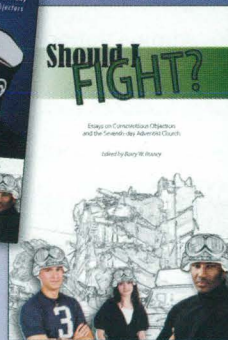
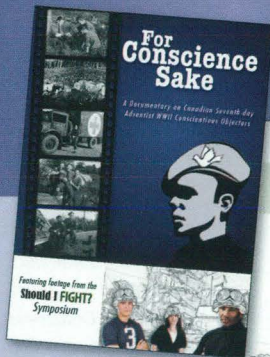
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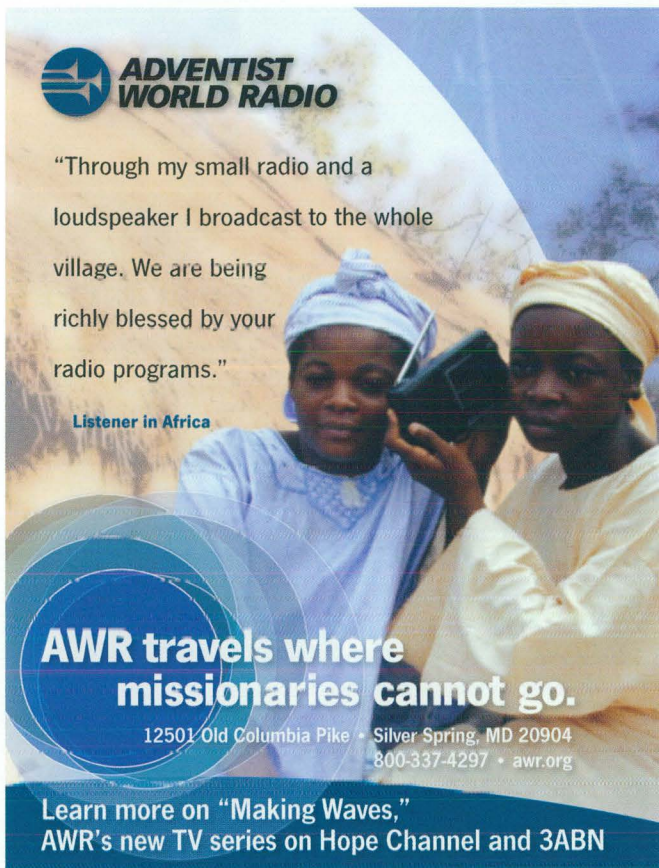
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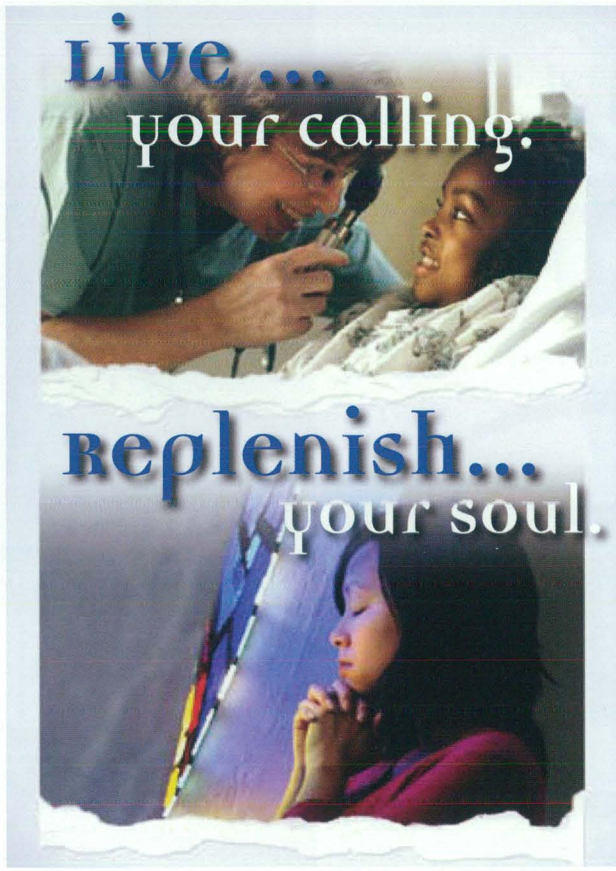
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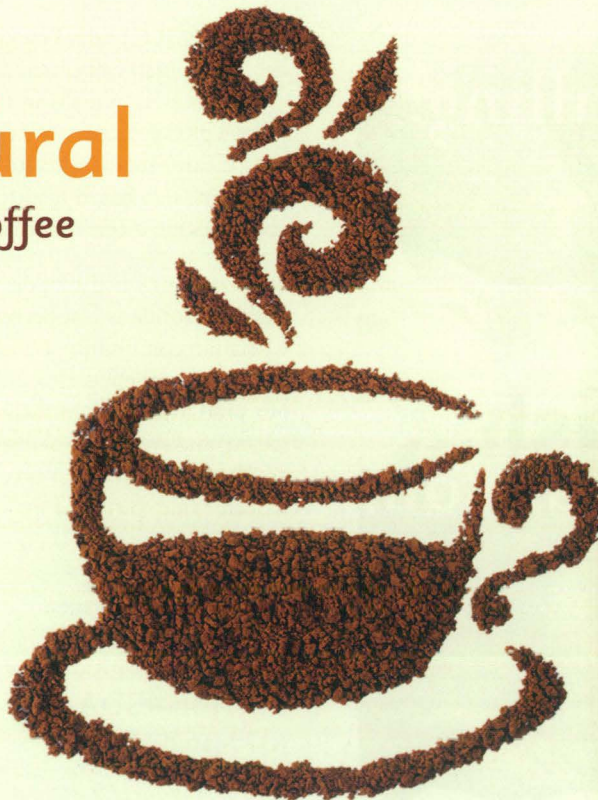


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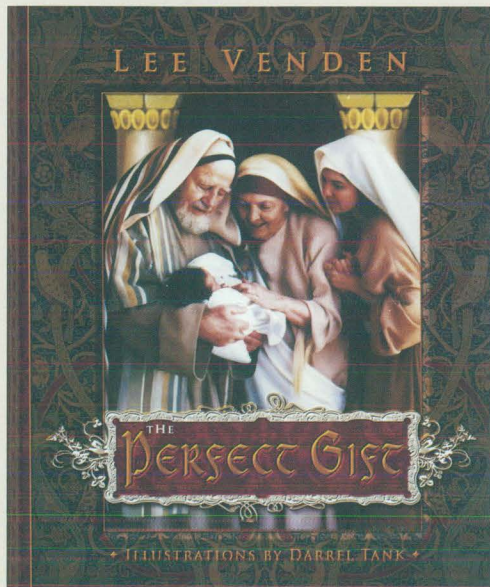


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The Perfect Gift



IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, A CHRISTMAS LONG AGO.

A young boy eagerly dreams over the Sears catalogue, so aptly named the Wishbook. He anticipates the wondrous things that might be under the Christmas tree that year. Visions of toys and other plastic goods flood his mind; the possibilities seem endless. Imagine his chagrin as, weeks later, he opens up pair after pair after pair of socks. Socks! It seems that a list had gone out to his various relatives, but the size-free ease of purchasing a pair or two of socks was an appealing option to many that year. Their choice made it an unforgettable Christmas, one in which that youthful lad learned the importance of thoughtful gift-giving. He realized for the first time the necessity of giving gifts reflective of the receiver and has remembered that lesson from that day onward.

So, with the approach of the gift-giving season, the age-old question comes to mind:

what does one buy for the person who has everything? *The Perfect Gift* comes to mind. Written by Lee Venden and only recently published, this book is an ideal gift for the person on the go.

It is true that buying books for busy people is risky at best. Finding time to read books is a modern day dilemma. Choosing the right style and genre is also time consuming for gift givers but crucial to the pleasure of the recipient. Yet, with *The Perfect Gift* one cannot go wrong. This little book is not intimidating in page count, and it is topically significant for all.

The Perfect Gift is an attractive book. Its cover projects a rich appearance with ornate borders and an intricately woven background pattern reminiscent of Celtic illumination. The inner cover page is a resplendent and textured burgundy, foreshadowing a book equally delightful in content and verbal imagery. Although the textual pages are typical stock for a book of this price point, they give the illusion of parchment with watermarked floral patterns. The suitably complementary illustrations appear to have been drawn right into each edition with the precision pencils of Darrel Tank. It is truly a spectacle to behold, which is only fitting for the book's subject matter.

However physically attractive this book is, its content shines even brighter. It takes the reader on a journey of Christ's life with spectacular attention to detail that reinforces Christ's humanity. The first person point of view allows the reader to experience Christ's life as a close bystander. It is the detail and descriptive writing that makes this book something beyond the "typical" fare. Creative and believable details are meticulously interwoven, such as a preteen Jesus defending a poor Roman girl from persecution only to be reunited with her when he wrote the sins of her accusers in the sand. Although the chapters are short, they are loaded with moral lessons and reflections about the greatest Gift of all. If one truly wishes to inject Christ back into Christmas, this would be a fantastic starting point. It connects with all ages. I highly recommend this book for personal purchase or as a present for someone who might be seeking meaning in this age of commercial materialism.

The Perfect Gift would have been gratefully welcomed many Christmases ago in lieu of my 3 pairs of dress socks. ■

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

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