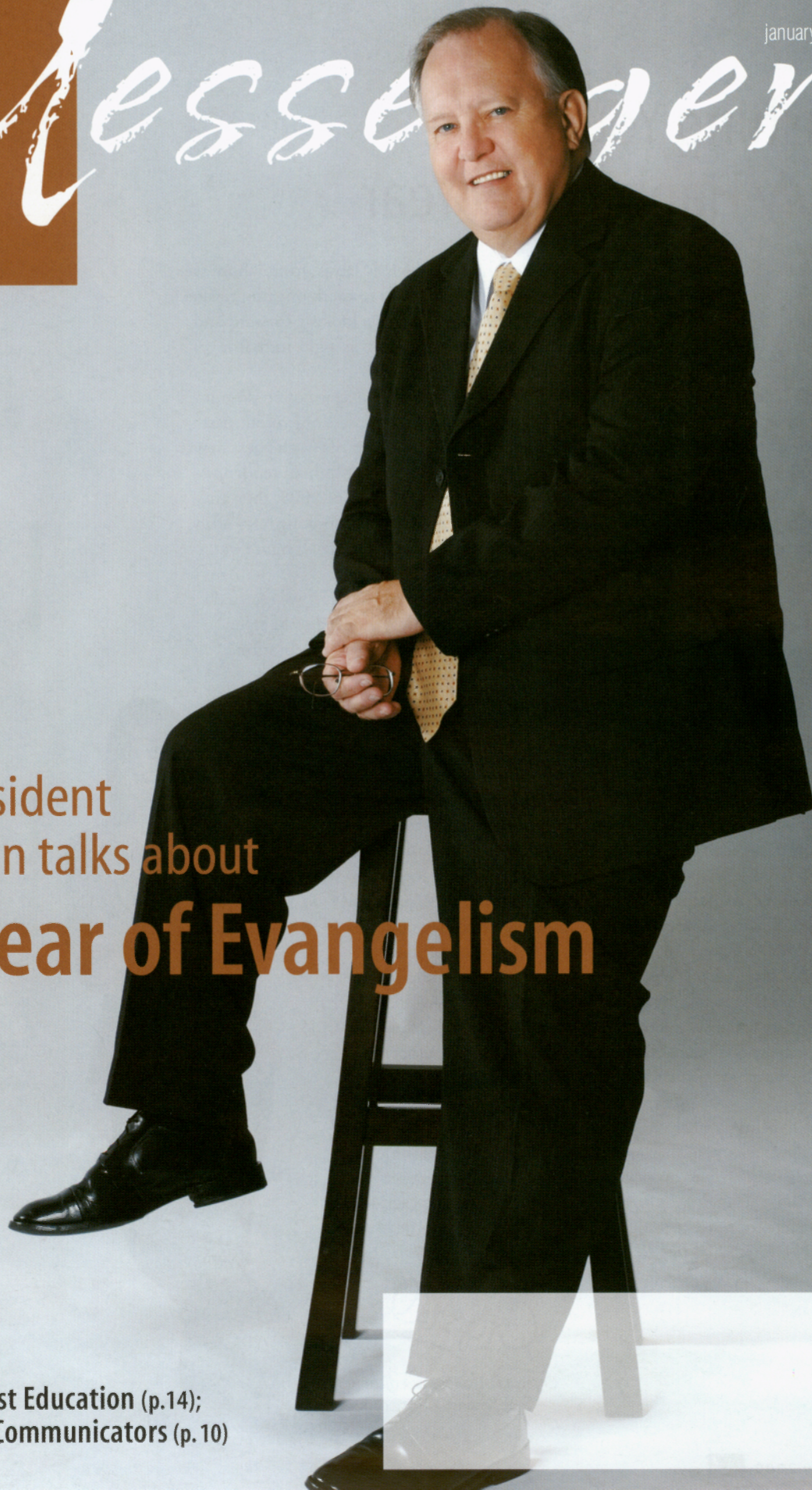


Canadian Adventist

Messenger

January 2009



SDACC President
Dan Jackson talks about
2009 The Year of Evangelism

PLUS:
Examining Adventist Education (p.14);
Helping Adventist Communicators (p. 10)

Wishing You a Truly Happy New Year

Ancient Roman mythology includes a character known as Janus, from whom we get the name of our first month, whose purview it was to mark our progression through time. The Romans depicted Janus with one face looking forward and one looking backward, and this strange physiognomy was seen as a gift in that it allowed for a view of both the future and the past.

As the calendar marks our passage from one year into the next, we often do our best Janus imitation, using the new year as an opportunity to assess our recent past and forecast our future. Right now, the media is full of the “best ofs”—the best news stories of 2008, the best songs of 2008, etc.—capitalizing on our human tendency to reminisce. And when the airwaves aren’t broadcasting the best of 2008, they are pumping out advice for 2009—how to lose weight, how to stop smoking, etc. Truly, the beginning of January can be a time for mental calisthenics as we all figure out how to make 2009 a “Happy New Year.”

But what if we stopped trying to have a Happy New Year? What if we rejected happiness as our ultimate goal for 2009? What if instead we resolved to be open to the Lord’s leading whatever it may bring—happiness or sadness; celebration or struggle? What would happen if, instead of resolving to do all those good things that we typically resolve to do, we just resolved to take what comes with strength from on high and let those experiences mould us into better people? What if we resolved to change ourselves, not our circumstances, in the pursuit of happiness?

One of my favourite songs has a line that says, “I’m growing, and I don’t like it. I’m growing, and it hurts.” When a friend wishes me a “Happy New Year,” I know that they are wishing me all the best in 2009. No one wants to see their loved one involved in a struggle, and so we naturally wish each other peace and prosperity and all the good things of life. But in wishing you all those good things, do I wish away an opportunity for you to grow? It is a pithy little cliché that life is 1% what happens to you and 99% how you react to it, but how profoundly true! And how difficult to remember when we are in the midst of a struggle! But I think that we all, especially at this time of year, need to learn that happiness does not come from a lack of trouble but from our attitude.

If 2009 brings you trouble, I’m sorry. If the coming year is a difficult one for you, that makes me sad. But if that trouble ultimately helps you to grow, if you learn how to be at peace in spite of those struggles, I’m happy for you. My wish for each reader is not merely for peace, prosperity, health, wealth and all the bounty of life. No, instead I’d like to boldly wish you all an (un)Happy New Year as we grow together in 2009.

Crystal D. Holloway, editor
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2009 THE YEAR OF EVANGELISM

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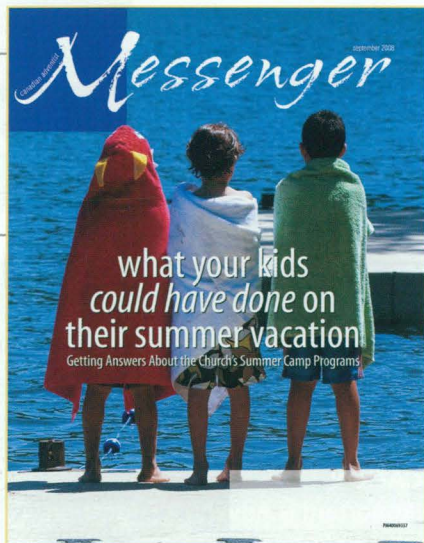
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**RE: "An Open Letter to God,"
Editorial, August 2008**

Thank you, Crystal, for "An Open letter to God" in the August issue of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. You made yourself very vulnerable, and I thank you for that because, if you had not shared with us your true feelings, many of us would not have admitted that at times we feel exactly the same way. I, too, have wondered about what happened in Rwanda and how the rest of the world just ignored the plight of these people. When we see what is happening in our own towns, cities and our very families, it is often so discouraging that it leads us to think God is far away. Yes, there are many things we do not really understand, and sometimes we just want to give up. Thankfully, even faith itself is a gift from God because left up to us there would be none left! Let us accept God's gift of faith as he has asked us to, pray and leave things up to him.

Keep up the good work. You're making an important difference in many lives.

— *Sonia C., via email*

RE: cover text, September 2008

I received a copy of the September 2008 *Messenger* and left it unread on my coffee table. A friend came over, picked it up and said, "See, you're no different than the secular world; you use the same language we do." I asked them what they

Your Words

“Thankfully, even faith itself is a gift from God because left up to us there would be none left!”

meant, and they pointed to the word 'kids' on the cover. I was surprised to see the word 'kids' used not only on the cover but throughout the magazine. This may seem like a trivial matter, but it can, I believe, also denote some of the problems we have with today's youth.

My question is: why do we have to use these words to describe our children? For one, it does not differentiate between boys and girls and is, more or less, putting everyone into the same category. As a result, gay and lesbian lifestyle is unfortunately being presented as a normal way of life, and, if we are not careful, our words will subtly portray us as condoning this lifestyle. I believe children are becoming more and more confused regarding their sexuality, and can understand why. What is so wrong with calling them 'children'? It is used extensively throughout the Bible, and, to me, denotes the sanctity and respect we should be giving to both genders.

I believe the Bible always should be our guide in expressing our thoughts or ideas.

As you know, throughout the book of Genesis, God called us 'man' and 'woman,' 'son' and 'daughter,' 'child,' 'children,' etc. If God used these words to describe His creation, why would we find it necessary to do otherwise?

I would think that the Adventist Church would be in the forefront in

making doubly sure we avoid using wordly or popular words or phrases and, in so doing, uphold the sanctity and respect God gave to each of His creations.

— *Audrey H., via email*

**RE: letter in response to "Science Gone Wild" (printed August 2008),
October 2008**

Seldom do I write a letter to the editor, but I just received the October issue of the *Messenger* and I feel I should respond to a letter chastising Mr. Bussey's article "Science Gone Wild." In my ministry, I had the opportunity to talk to students who attended public universities and were taught by professors that Mr. Bussey is talking about. These professors were so anxious to promote the theory of evolution that they even ridiculed those who believed in God and creation. Many of these students become the teachers of the public school system and you can well imagine what they do—the same as their professors did.

I attended school under the communist system and heard these ideas, and that is where one would expect it. But to have the same communistic ideas taught in a Western country really surprised me. Satan does not always work in such an open way as pictured in Mr. Bussey's article. He also works in ways that Marlon Mitchell describes—with kindness.

— *Arthur Z., Vernon, 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.

Tear Down that Wall, Mr. and Mrs. Churchmember

On June 12, 1987, American President Ronald Reagan addressed the people of West Berlin at the base of the Brandenburg Gate near the Berlin wall. His speech that day was loudly amplified and carried over to the Eastern, communist-controlled side of the wall. In words that echo throughout history, Reagan uttered a challenge to Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev: “Tear down this wall, Mr. Gorbachev!”

The address Reagan delivered that day is considered by many to have marked the beginning of the end of the Cold War and the fall of communism. On November 9-11, 1989, the people of a free Berlin tore down that wall, and, as they say, the rest is history. The boundaries between east and west were being broken down, and the global community moved a step closer to reality.

In late October 2008, while flying back to Canada from the General Conference Annual Council meetings in Manila, Philippines, my thoughts revisited a powerful, yet strangely obvious, truth: God does not view humanity from within the boundaries that we have superficially imposed.

All people are, in fact, children of God. From our limited viewpoint, we may see them as estranged from the Father's face, but they are not estranged from His heart. The entire world and all of humanity belongs to God, and Jesus' magnificent statement in John 3:16 lets us know that He has passed and will pass through all boundaries of time, space, spiritual conditions and resources to regain His prized possession—the human family.

It is amazing to contemplate the fact that God is all-inclusive in the way He thinks and acts. He has an immense breadth of thinking and compassion in what He does and in how He relates to human beings. No wonder theologians

and scholars describe Him as Omnipresent and Omniscient. He knows everything, and He is everywhere—all at the same time. Think of it: there is no place where He will not go (even into your life and mine at its' worst possible moment) and no problem (regardless of its' complexity and gravity) so big that He will ignore it. His thoughts are beyond our thoughts, and His ways are beyond our comprehension and experience. Added to all of this is the truth that we have been gifted with the Holy Spirit who daily reminds us that our Father in Heaven is engaged in the human dilemma and that He is responsive to human need.

As we begin a new year, I wonder if it is possible for us to open our minds to the world of God's thinking. A world where there are no boundaries and territories. A world where we sense need and then pursue the needy regardless of who they are or where they have been. Ultimately, that is what God is like and that is how He thinks. He has not been, is not and never will be a stay-at-home God.

While it is true that we have organized the church into conferences and unions and such based on physical parameters, I wonder if God cannot use us wherever we feel the call. Is it possible that God may be able to use you and me on the South side of the city instead of just on the North side? Is it only possible for me to be used in Ontario and not in Newfoundland?

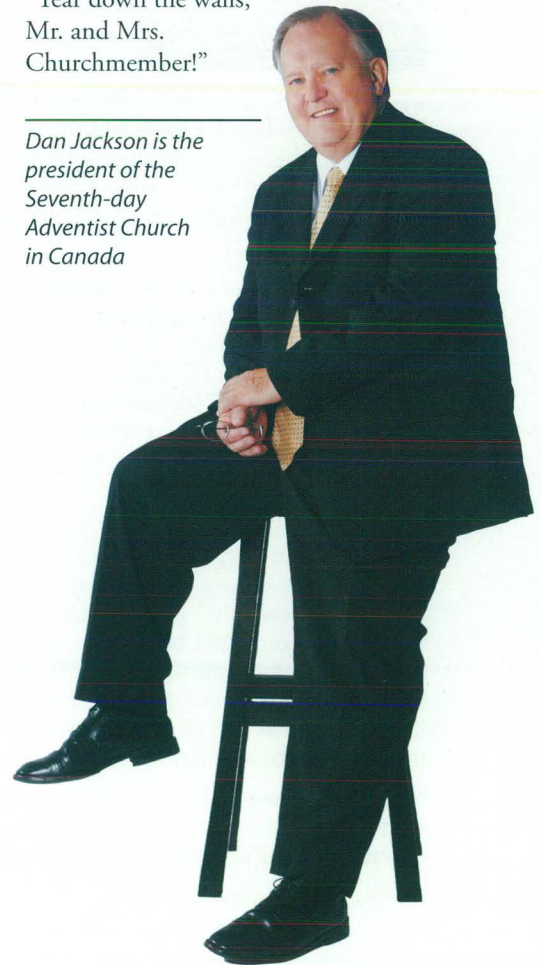
The teaching of the Bible is that all of us have been called to ministry. In fact, the Bible does not make a distinction between clergy and laity. It is humans who have drawn the lines, marked the territory and then built walls between the two. We have all been called! Of course, by virtue of the directions of God and the brethren, we have been invited to do different things. However,

that does not mean that we can only do the specific thing to which we were initially called, nor does it mean that the Spirit of God can only use us in one particular spot. God can use us in a variety of ways and in a variety of places.

Perhaps the commencement of a new year is a good time for us to rid ourselves of territorialism and superficial boundaries. As we sense the imminence of Jesus' return, will we accept the challenge of the Holy Spirit to serve at any time and anywhere in order to participate in God's great final thrust on this planet? May His Spirit guide each of us as we listen to His voice:

“Tear down the walls,
Mr. and Mrs.
Churchmember!”

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





Josue is excited about a new year full of opportunities and encourages you to visit TeenTalk's Facebook page at www.TeenTalkPage.com

Social Networks for Adventist Youth

January, 2009

Is there any social network out there for Adventist youth? But not one of those dating singles sites, ya know. I mean something like Facebook or MySpace, so Adventists can go on Sabbath?

Josué Sánchez

Answer



The people at the Church's world headquarters have been planning the creation of a global SN for a while. So has the North American Division, but neither of them have launched yet.

I am personally involved with a SN that *Insight Magazine* created a few months ago, and highly recommend it to you. It is called theFlow (www.FlowWith.me) and it's got a Facebook/MySpace style, but it's made for Adventist youth. (Everyone is welcomed, of course). It is moderated by Adventist young adults, and its content is mostly focussed on Christian stuff but

there are also funny videos and users can personalize their own profile, add applications, and all the regular features that you've come to be accustomed to with the other secular SN's.

So yeah, give FlowWith.me a try and add me as a friend! =D

Of course, you can also find Adventist groups and pages in Facebook, the most popular SN in Canada. For instance, we just created a page for this column! Cool, eh? It's called TeenTalk (duh!) and if you type www.TeenTalkPage.com into your browser, you will be directed to it. You'll have to create a Facebook account if you don't have one yet.

Now, I have to ask, what do you mean asking about a site where Adventist youth "can go on Sabbath?" That can be quite subjective. You could browse a Christian SN for the wrong reasons (i.e. I often have to moderate stuff on Adventist sites), just the same way that you could be on Facebook doing something completely "Sabbath-friendly." It's more your attitude than the actual site you are visiting which counts.

My advice is to act Christian-like wherever you decide to browse. Sabbath or not, it's always a good idea to filter the content that you expose yourself to. We are Christians 24/7, right?

I think you get the point ;-)



TeenTalk Online

www.TeenTalkPage.com



Now you can join the conversation on TeenTalk's brand new page on Facebook where you can submit questions, share stories and make new friends!

Become a fan of TeenTalk to keep updated (you'll need a Facebook account)

Josue

www.JosueSanchez.com

Josué is a youth pastor with a passion to share Jesus with teens. He currently lives in Hagerstown, MD with his wife and small daughter.

Make sure you add him to your **Facebook**, **MySpace**, **Twitter** or **FlowWith.me** friends list!

Join the conversation on this topic at www.TeenTalkPage.com

Creation Corner for Kids

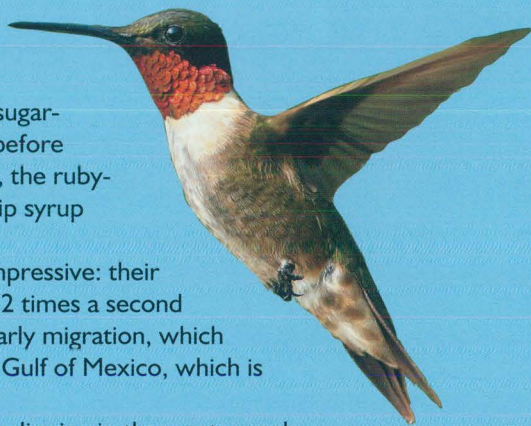
“Let not your adornment be external only . . . but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.” 1 Peter 3:3,4 (NAS)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

I recently bought a window-mounted hummingbird feeder, filled it with sugar-water syrup and mounted it on our dining room window. It wasn't long before we started to get tiny, hungry visitors to the feeder. With wings whirring, the ruby-throated hummingbirds stopped frequently throughout the summer to sip syrup from the feeder.

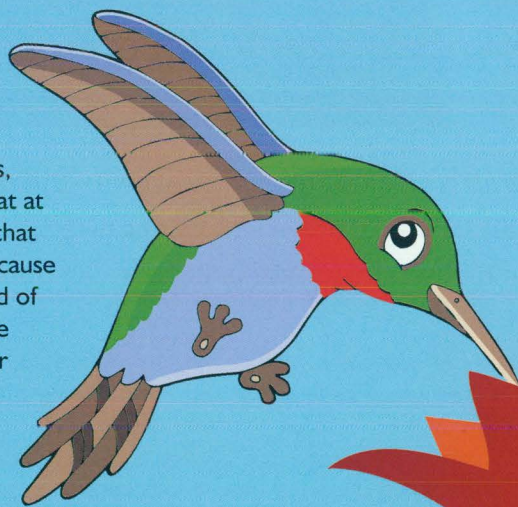
Hummingbirds are such amazing creatures! Their vital statistics are impressive: their heart beats 1,200 per minute when active, their wings beat on average 52 times a second and their average weight is only 3.1 grams. Equally impressive is their yearly migration, which takes them all the way to Mexico, including the non-stop crossing of the Gulf of Mexico, which is more than 1,000 km!

Their beauty is just as remarkable. Late one afternoon, as the sun was dipping in the west, a male hummingbird arrived at the feeder as our family watched. Turning its head to face the sun, the red patch on its throat suddenly lit up like a glowing gem as the sunlight fell upon it. Then it turned and the light struck its back, flashing green from its iridescent emerald feathers. Breathtaking!



Think about it.

The tiny ruby-throated hummingbird's glowing colours, the graceful power of diving orcas, a perfect sunset and a sea of wheat at harvest time all attest to the fact that God truly loves beautiful things because beauty began in the beautiful mind of our Creator God. But there is one beautiful thing that God needs our cooperation to create. He can't do it without our permission. Do you know what that is?



Do it.

Watch for beauty in others this week. Look for unexpected kind acts and listen for encouraging words. These are reflections of God's beautiful love. When you catch a glimpse of God's reflection in someone, let them know that you recognize God's work in them. You could say, "God used you to bless me today!" And ask yourself: are you reflecting God's beauty to others around you?

—Tammie Burak has recently published a children's activity book called *Creatures of the Boreal Forest*, which is available as an ebook at www.creationactivitybook.com or from the Alberta Adventist Book Centre.



"I'm Not Here

It's 6:30 in the morning—a particularly cold morning in Moscow—and my alarm is going off. I do the same thing I do when it goes off too early at Canadian University College: ignore it for a solid 10 minutes before pulling together the resolve to actually get out of bed.

Even though I went to bed on time the night before, it feels like I've only been asleep for a few moments, but as I have my devotions, take a very hot shower and eat my porridge, I remind myself of exactly why I set that alarm so early. I'm not here to sleep; I'm here to be a student missionary. With this in mind, I step outside into the frigid Russian morning. It's about 7:30 now, still dark, but the signs of life in this Eastern European megalopolis are already showing. The roads are already busy. The line for the tram is long enough that I decide to walk instead of being crammed in with 100 people in a 50 person car, and I head to the school—my mission field this morning.

Two mornings a week I give a private lesson to a Moscow businessman. I call it a lesson, but the reality is, in this one-on-one setting, that it's essentially just two guys talking over tea before work. My student wants to learn to speak better English, but since our

very first lesson it's been clear to me that he's looking for more in his life than language skills. When I came here, I prayed that God would show me people to whom I could relate and minister. He answered with several students in various classes, but especially with this student. It was during one of our first meetings that the topic of education came up, and of course he asked the same question everyone does: "What do you study?" I'm not ashamed of my calling, so I always tell people the truth—"religious studies"—and the next question always is "what are you going to do with that?" That's when I drop the p-bomb. I get two reactions when I tell people I'm studying to become a pastor. The most common is, "Oh, that's nice. Now, where were we in the lesson?" The much more infrequent is, "Oh yeah? Maybe you can tell me about [insert, generally deep, theological question here]."

From this man, I got the second reaction. His

to Sleep”



question was about commitment to God. More specifically he wanted to know how I dealt with all the rules that pastors are supposed to follow and how I expected to be able to do it for my whole life. So we talked about it that day. Since then he's had more questions, and we talk freely. I wish I could say it was like that with everyone, but it's not. For every instance of someone showing genuine interest, there's a case of someone not wanting to talk. In addition, there are serious challenges with spreading your faith here. The other day, I was in one of Moscow's many beautiful parks with some friends from church, helping them hand out literature. The police came to talk to one of our group. The officers put it in no uncertain terms that they wanted us out of the park. We discussed the matter fairly quickly when we reassembled as a group and decided that our witness would be stronger to leave in peace than cause a commotion and leave with the police.

In short, this is a great mission field which God has opened wide. There are several million people here in this concrete jungle, and many of them are searching for a deeper truth having been equally failed by rigid

ideologies of imperialism, communism and now capitalism. At the same time there are challenges here like any other field. All things considered though, I can't think of a place I'd rather be right now. Russia is a country that has a history of believing in something and being failed by it. As Christians, we have something to offer that won't fail, and I consider it a great opportunity to be called here to offer it. My time will pass, and in August I'll be heading back to Alberta (by way of a week at home in BC, I hope!) to resume studying at CUC, but right I'm loving this place and these people day by day. Taking time to be a missionary has proven to be one of the best experiences of my life so far. God has taught me a lot already, and it's been great. If you ever get the chance to do an overseas mission, take it. You'll learn and experience so many things. You'll grow closer to God. You'll gain a broader perspective on this faith we share. ■

David Burnie is a second-year religious studies major who is teaching English as a Second Language as a student missionary in Moscow, Russia.



Help for Adventist C

Feeling dazed and confused about communicating your message i

BY NICOLE BATTEN

If you've ever been asked to serve as communication director or webmaster for your church, you know the challenges that come with the job. Many members who end up serving in these kinds of positions have little or no training in communications. They aren't sure how to write and submit a press release to their local newspaper. They don't know how to create a website that attracts young families. They have never edited a newsletter and dealt with frustrating printing issues. They also usually don't have the first clue how to create a YouTube video for their church.

The thought of doing these kinds of communication tasks can be overwhelming for anyone. But the great news is you don't have to do it alone. There is an organization called the Society of Adventist

Communicators (SAC) that provides support for Adventists involved in the field of communications. It is for everyone—from communication professionals to lay-people serving in their local church.

I recently attended SAC's annual conference—something to which I look forward every year. Besides great speakers and valuable workshops that help you hone your communication skills, you get to meet people from all over the North American Division who do what you do. You can swap ideas and ask for help on projects. It is an amazing networking opportunity. The attendees range from professionals who work for the denomination to freelancers to newspaper reporters to local members who serve in their churches. They all have one thing in common though—they're Seventh-day Adventists who want

to use their talents to communicate God's love.

This year's SAC conference included seminars on topics such as: how to use social media to build your presence online, how to pitch reporters with confidence, how to use the power of video, and how to communicate in a crisis situation. In addition to the learning and training that happened at the conference there was an important spiritual component. Excellent presenters, such as Dick Stenbakken, shared Jesus in new and powerful ways. And over the weekend a sense of camaraderie developed—one that made me realize we are in this "battle" together, that we are not alone. I came away from the weekend feeling spiritually energized, ready to tackle whatever challenges the devil sends my way and armed with new knowledge that would empower me to be a better communicator.

I have been a member of the Society of Adventist Communicators for six years now, and while I enjoy the annual conference immensely, I also benefit all year long from the resources and contacts they provide—resources like their online learning center, job bank, membership directory, and their media credentialing. Whether you are local church communication director or a professional working in the field, you will find SAC's membership benefits worth their meagre \$25 annual membership fee (\$10 for students).

SAC's membership benefits include perks like a free monthly newsletter and access to the Members Only part of their website. My favourite perk, though, is the online membership directory. This is helpful in

finding people with whom to collaborate. For example, do you need to find someone who produces videos, designs websites, or writes press releases? You'll find them in SAC's online directory. You can also post your own profile—even upload samples from your portfolio.

The Members Only part of SAC's website also has an online learning center where you can listen to podcasts on various communication topics. All of the speakers and seminars from this year's annual convention are posted here.

If you work in the field of communication, you will definitely find SAC's job bank very helpful. It allows you to post jobs or post resumes. SAC also offers local chapters. If there isn't one in your area, you can start one. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each of our Canadian conferences had their own chapter?

The point is—whether through the membership directory, joining a local chapter, or attending the annual convention—you'll benefit from a professional organization like the Society of Adventist Communicators. Empower yourself and your church. Check out SAC today (www.adventistcommunicators.org). Perhaps I'll see you next year at the annual convention. ■

Nicole Batten lives in Newfoundland with her husband Stephen and their two boys. There, she works as a public relations consultant. Write her at nicole@gofishpublicity.com.

ommunicators

day's media saturated world? Don't worry. There's help.

>> What is SAC?

The Society of Adventist Communicators nurtures the spiritual, social, and professional growth of Seventh-day Adventists who are involved in the field of communication. Their members are comprised of communication professionals both in and outside of the church structure, students, teachers, freelancers, and lay-people serving their local church. Their members are involved in all aspects of communication, including:

- Public relations/Media relations
- Corporate communications
- Marketing communication
- Broadcasting (TV and radio)
- Writing
- Web design/programming
- Editing
- Advertising
- Video production
- Graphic design
- Photography
- Teaching

To learn more about the Society of Adventist Communicators or become a member, visit www.adventistcommunicators.org.

No Place Like Home



ADRA worker helping victims of disaster.

Home is where you have peace of mind, enjoy simple joys with your family, sleep tight at night and wake up to face a new day ahead. Shelter, no matter where you live, is crucial and critical to survival. According to the United Nations' latest statistical report, there are more than 26,000,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees worldwide, and the numbers are growing daily.

Recently, the dusty roads of the Democratic Republic of the Congo became the only path to a better future and the home of millions of innocent victims fleeing yet another conflict in their country. Once these people reach an IDP camp—often after days and days of walking on the roads—they are offered shelter, food and medical attention. The camps should offer them protection too, but, unfortunately for many, the journey often takes another nasty turn. There have been numerous reports of camps being looted and pillaged by rebels—which leads the IDPs to flee once more, hanging on to the hope that somewhere, somehow there will be a safe place for them. A place where they will again be able to enjoy the simple joys of family life, watch their children grow and have peace of mind.

Others, ordinary people like you and me, have shelter,

enjoy a peaceful life with family and friends and are typically experiencing a normal day when suddenly—in only a few seconds—a wall of water or an earthquake takes it all away. For a survivor, the path to reconstruction goes beyond shelter and food, which are, of course, critical to survival; physical and emotional wounds also must be healed. Rehabilitation cannot be achieved without help.

In 2008, Asia was hit by two mega-disasters back to back: Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the Sichuan earthquake in China. Both of these disasters left millions of people without shelter, food and the basic necessities of life.

When disaster strikes, ADRA is present to offer immediate relief and then progressively transitions its relief efforts into rehabilitation programs to help people rebuild their shattered lives. In 2008 alone, ADRA Canada responded to 22 disasters, two of which were classified as mega-catastrophes.

Thank you for supporting ADRA Canada, for helping us to respond quickly and effectively in times of disaster. ■

Lydia Matveev is the emergency management coordinator for ADRA Canada.



Hope for ANGOLA

For Adventists in Angola, rebuilding the Church is an all-consuming passion.

The Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is made up of 23 countries. Angola, with a population of more than 12 million, is one of these countries. Situated in the western part of Southern Africa, along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, Angola is very rich in oil and diamonds. Colonized for almost 500 years by Portugal, Angola gained its independence in 1975, but it has not been at peace since then owing to a civil war which lasted for almost 40 years. These long years of unrest in Angola destroyed the entire infrastructure, affecting even churches, hospitals and schools. Pastors and church members were not spared either; they were among thousands who perished during this time.

Angola began to experience a respite from war in 2002, just six years ago. The mammoth task being faced now is to rebuild the Adventist Church in Angola. Forty years of collateral damage as a result of war means that the country is almost 40 years behind the Church in other nations not only in terms of infrastructure but also in training. There is a deficiency in the level and quality of education of both workers and lay-members. This is the most pressing need in the Church in Angola today.

For the people of Angola, rebuilding the country is a priority. For Adventists in Angola, rebuilding the Church is an all-consuming passion. Their most important resource is the human resource, the lay-leaders of the Church. Help in the form of sufficient, up-to-date, effective training for Adventist leaders and laity in Angola will, without question, become the springboard for the successful re-launching of the work in Angola.

The Adventist Church in Angola is composed largely of youth, and there is nothing as exciting as investing in the youth—our leaders of tomorrow and of today! The majority of Angolan Church workers are new and lack experience, and yet they are eager and willing to be trained. With a small workforce serving up to 300 000 members and doing evangelism,



it is a fact that, in Angola, the reapers are few but the harvest is huge!

Bill Santos, bilingual speaker-director of It Is Written Canada has the passion and the skills necessary for helping to develop a trained workforce in the Church in Angola.

It is with great anticipation that the Church in Angola and throughout the SID is preparing for Project Hope —Angola, when Pastor Santos will lead meetings in Luanda, Angola's capital city. We pray that this series may be just the beginning of great ventures together for the Lord!

As the Adventist family in Angola renews their strength and pursues their God-given mission, it is very important that their Adventist brothers and sisters around the world resolve, in turn, to do whatever they can to support them. And this is why we are looking to It Is Written Canada to partner with Angola in their present adventure.

Your generous support of It Is Written Canada will allow Pastor Santos to conduct the evangelistic campaign and train thousands of youth to become lay leaders. In this way, the work of the Lord in Angola will be thrive, and so will you! It is in giving to others that you will discover great blessing yourselves, and we can rejoice together in the blessed hope. ■

Gilberto C. Araujo is the vice president of the South Africa-Indian Ocean Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Declining Enrollment



BY DENNIS MARSHALL

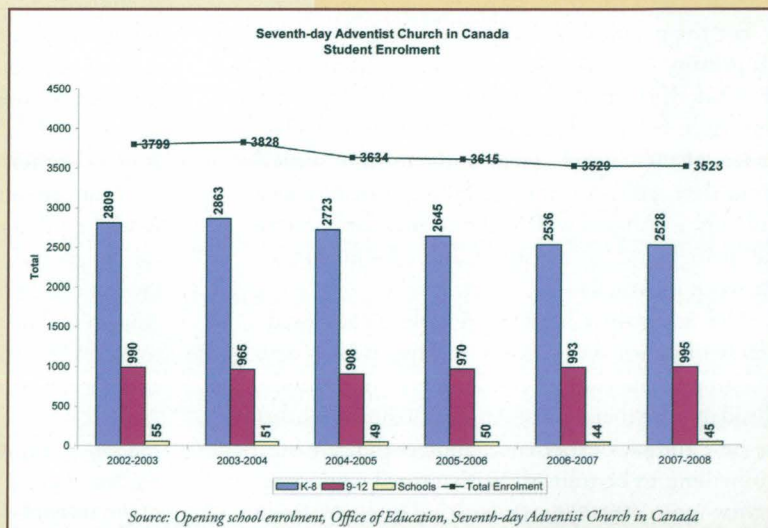
HOW IMPORTANT IS ADVENTIST EDUCATION—PART 2

Jesus is coming soon, and, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is increasing its efforts to spread this good news to the entire world. Church membership in Canada has been growing continuously since 1972, but school enrollment has remained at a low level. In fact, over the past several years, we have noticed a declining enrollment trend.

Many reasons have been given for this decline: tuition cost, changing demographics, competition from public schools, concern about academic quality and a lack of parental commitment to church values and our educational system.

Figure 1 graphically depicts the declining enrollment trend in Adventist schools across Canada over the past six years. During 2002-2003 school year, 3,799

students were enrolled in our 55 K-12 schools, but by the current school year, enrollment has declined by 276 (a 7% decrease) and the number of schools were reduced from 55 to 45 (an 18% decrease). If the Adventist school system is to position itself as a credible option for members and for the community, strategic planning must take place to stop and reverse this trend.



Source: Opening school enrolment, Office of Education, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

Between November 2007 and March 2009, the Education department of the SDACC conducted a survey among teachers, school administrators, support staff and school board members to determine the key reasons for declining enrollment and what can be done to address them.

School Plant, Facilities and Resources

We believe that parents tend to judge the quality and suitability of a school by its appearance, size, facilities, location and resources. The school plant and its environment create impressions that suggest something about the quality of the school as a whole.

Our survey results showed that 55.6% of survey participants—the school employees and stakeholders themselves—thought that their school was attractive; 63.6% thought that their school facilities were adequate for high-quality education; and 56.6% thought that their school had the resources in place to promote high-quality education. These numbers are not impressive, and if enrollment is tied, even in part, to this issue, there is definite cause for concern.

School Safety

In an era of increasing school violence, it seems logical that a chief concern of parents would be to find a school that offers a safe haven for their children. Of course parents want to know that when they drop their children off at school, their safety is not at risk. According to our survey, Adventist schools, in general, have a good reputation as safe havens for our young people. Our survey results showed that 87% of survey respondents thought that their school was a safe place for children and would make a strong recommendation to that effect to parents who see safety as a top priority in their choice of schools.

Another way of determining the safety of a school is by looking at the attitude and behavior of its students. Are the students well behaved? Do they have respect for their teachers and one another? Is there a high incidence of bullying? Are students co-operative? In other words, are the students attending the school well disciplined? When asked to comment on the behavior of their students, 77.9% of respondents rated them as respectful and co-operative.

Program Quality and Academic Achievement

Program quality has to do with the rigor of the curriculum, the breadth (range of subjects) of the program offering and program delivery. It is assumable that an item high on any parental priority list is

knowing that their children's schools are delivering an academic program that will adequately equip students for further education in any postsecondary institution. When asked to comment on whether their school offered a high quality education, 79.6% of the respondents felt it did. In spite of this positive response, however, we cannot ignore the fact that 15.2% of the respondents were of a neutral opinion, and 4.8% disagreed.

In addition to high-quality academic programs, schools must also deliver this program in a way that will translate into students' high performance. When asked to state whether or not students who attend Adventist schools do well academically, 72.9% of respondents said that they do.

These findings are consistent with the findings of a similar national survey which was undertaken by Dr. Mike Lekic in 2005. Dr. Lekic, the former Director of Education for the SDACC, surveyed more than 3,000 Adventists and non-Adventist parents who had children in our school system. He found that respondents perceived that school facilities were not always adequate for high-quality education, that there was a need for a greater variety of resources, that the academic program of the school was of high quality, and that the school environment was safe and orderly. (Lekic 2005, pp.100-104)

Cognitive Genesis, a four-year study which began in 2006 and involves the testing of more than 30,000 grade 3-9 and 11 students in Adventist schools in North America, confirms the quality of the academic programs in Adventist schools. Preliminary data shows that the overall achievement of Adventist students in every grade studied is above the national norm. It seems that, regardless of school size and facilities, students attending Adventist schools are doing well academically.

So why, then, is there a decline in school enrolment in Adventist schools? In our next article, we will look at some other variables. ■

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



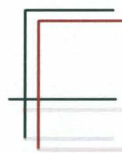
Evangelism

2009



A new year brings new opportunities. *Messenger* editor Crystal Holloway sat down with Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) president Dan Jackson to discuss how the Church is seeking to maximize on those opportunities in

2009 the Year of Evangelism



Ider Jackson, would you tell me what is significant about this coming year?

Well, 2009 has been designated by the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (NAD) as the Year of Pastoral Evangelism. Or I should say that it was initially identified that way. There were a variety of people who said that really we needed to make it the Year of Evangelism so that you are inviting not only pastors but pastors *and their members* to be involved in some kind of evangelistic outreach. What the NAD has set as a goal is 100,000 baptisms during 2009.

All across North America?

Across North America. The highest that North America has ever reached previously, if I'm not mistaken, is somewhere

around 37000. That would have been in just after the first 'Net' series.

And this is an initiative of the North American Division?

This is NAD, but it also connects with the General Conference's Tell the World initiative.

And the SDACC affirms it for our union?

Yes, we've affirmed it for the union. The request of the NAD is that every pastor conducts two evangelistic campaigns during the year. In Canada, we've tweaked that a little. We have basically said, "Why don't we aim for two outreach events in every congregation in the year?" So you may have a pastor conducting one and lay members conducting the other one. Or you may be doing some other kind of major outreach event and an evangelistic series. So, we have said we'd like two outreach events from every congregation. We are encouraging it; we can't mandate it.

So what would you classify as an evangelistic event other than an evangelistic meeting?

I think any major bridging event. Any event that is helping the community take a step closer to wholeness, health, happiness—whether that be the traditional CHIP program or a program on the family or a program on stress reduction or some major health emphasis. It could include a Daniel seminar or a Revelation seminar. It could involve the local congregation connecting with the local community in some major event that's of significance to the community. Anything that exposes, that reaches out, that gets the congregation outside the walls of the church I think is what we are talking about.

So for some congregations to live up to the idea of this plan, they wouldn't have to change much at all because they are already doing well more than two events a year.

That is true. That is very true. The idea is to hold a minimum of one major evangelistic outreach and couple that with something else. You know my idea... Well, let me say that if I was a pastor now, I would say that we'll have two evangelistic meetings; that doesn't mean we won't have the other outreach events, because I think that you can't do those things, or shouldn't do those things, in a vacuum. So, for me, I would say to my people, "You support me in the first one and then I'll support you in the next one." In other words, "I'll show you the guts, how we do this stuff—or how I do it, and how I do it may not be perfect or right or wrong, but I'll show you how to do it the first time around—and you watch what I do,

and we'll kind of use it as a training moment. But then the second one you will do, and I will then be in the background being the 'go-fer' for you. But you do the preaching, the leading, the designing, the 'how do we visit the people,' the 'how many brochures' ... You do all of that. You strategize." So essentially I'd say, "You walk with me as we strategize and implement the first one, than I'll walk with you as we strategize and implement the second."

And you would come at the Year of Evangelism in that way—with two big series of meetings—even though evangelistic campaigns are quite ... let's call them 'unpopular' in North America at the moment?

If you were to ask the people in Portland about that, they might disagree with you. They didn't do a meeting in Portland for years, but then they did one where they actually planned for it and had people doing Bible studies and working with their neighbours and friends. And then when they had a meeting ... they baptized close to 500 people. So if you asked them about public evangelism, they would tell you that their experience was quite different.

I worked enough in the prairies to know that I've never seen a farmer with a combine in the middle of a field of summer fallow. They only harvest what they plant and nurture. And when evangelism is done cold turkey, when we just head off into the blue and put our shingle up in front of the auditorium, and we've done nothing up to that point, of course it's a bad experience because everyone feels awkward. Everybody's embarrassed. And the worst people in attendance are most of our own people. They get turned off. And they don't want to go themselves because they've heard it 42 times already. And as long as we have the mentality in the church that the evangelistic series is for me, then it will never wash. It will never seem good. Because after two times, I mean, "I've heard this stuff before," right? But as a member I shouldn't go to an evangelistic series for any reason other than that I'm going to be praying for the pastor, I'm going to be praying for the people who are there listening, I'm there as a part of a spiritual team to ask God to bless those people who are in attendance and maybe to bring someone my self, which is the preferred one, right?

I think it becomes very uncomfortable when you haven't done any work in advance and all of a sudden there you are, the shingle is up, the meetings start and you've got 16 Adventists and 18 non-Adventists. And the 18 non-Adventists look at the 16 Adventists—because they all tend to know—and they say, "This thing must not be very important to that church because these people don't really think that it's all

that great, and they are a part of it.”

So, you know, there's two or three reasons why I think that people are turned off of evangelism. Number one, we do it cold turkey, and it isn't going to wash—big time—that way. Number two, I think we have the wrong mentality about evangelism and that is that I think people go there expecting to hear something new, and they're not going to. They hear the nuances of a personality, and if they happen to like the guy or he's charming or he's charismatic, then they will tend to go for that. But in terms of the message...well, I think we have to be honest, our people have heard the story before and they don't particularly want to hear it again.

That's sad.

That is sad, but I think that is where the paradigm has to shift. And part of this is the pastor's fault, to lay the blame at their feet, because the philosophy used to be “you don't let the laypeople get their hands on this because they'll wreck it” and “we're the pastors; we're the pros.” And so the people were kind of held at a distance. In reality, I think it is the role of the pastor to say to the people, “We are a part of the same team. I don't expect that you are going to learn too much out of these coming meetings, but I do expect that you will pray about being a part of the team that comes there from night to night, not just as a part of the prayer ministry or as a part of the greeters or whatever, but that you are there as a part of the body, as a part of the team, praying for the success of that thing. And that you are not going there with the expectation that you've got to get a buzz out of it. You know, you're there for the purpose of representing Christ, His church, of praying for the pastors, of praying for the guests, of praying for the community. That is your role if you don't have any other role. But I think, more importantly, people tend to *get* involved when they *are* involved, and that is when they are bringing friends or loved ones with them who have not heard this before.

T.V. is dead. Why would people market? What we are doing, basically, is marketing the gospel when we stand up in a public presentation. Now, I am also of the opinion that in the metro areas—I mean, they just held a series in Toronto at the Convention Center: 149 baptisms, several churches participating—but I think in metro areas there might be other approaches. If I was still pastoring in a metro area, I would do weekend things. Friday, Saturday, Sunday. I'm going to do a series in Regina, and it's going to be Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. And all the rest of the nights are free. And we'll see how that works. We'll see if we can keep the people connected.

I don't think that the days of proclamation of anything are over. How you do it is another thing. How you engage that group of people is another thing.

What I do think is that traditional public evangelism is not nor should it be the only way to reach out to a community. I tend to think of the model in Cambodia where in the city of Phnom Penh they cannot afford church buildings, so they have 160 house churches in that city of 1 million people. So, if Toronto has 5 million people, maybe you should have 800 house churches. There are other ways, is what I am saying. I think some of our lay people in different places across Canada have shown this when they've held little meetings in their own home in the kitchen or in the kitchen of the church. I don't think you always need to have the spotlights and the auditorium. And I think that the small group can be very effective as long as you are going to be very faithful to that small group in terms of whatever it is you are presenting.

And what about that? What about the material you present? Prophecy seminars are a big Adventist favourite but what about health seminars or family management meetings and all those things?

You know, when I was president in B.C. . . . we said, “From now on, you don't come in January to workers' meetings, or in September, and say, ‘we're going to hold meetings’ because we will not give you any money. There is no more money for evangelism. The conference wants to operate on a different paradigm, and the paradigm is: you map out how you are going to reach your community for Christ and expect a harvest two years from now—or a year; if you want to try a year, that's fine, but we want a two- or three-year plan—you tell us what you want, what you are dreaming, what you and your congregation have decided to do to deliberately reach into the lives of men and women in your community and give them a better hope, a better life and a connection with God, and we want to be a part of it. But find the niche.



DAN JACKSON

But I've never seen a farmer with a combine in a field of summer fallow.

So you are of the opinion that, done correctly, public evangelism can still be applicable here in Canada?

Absolutely. I do not believe that the world is beyond it. If I did, I'd also have to believe that advertising on

Find the place where you can market the gospel to the people in your community and then follow that plan. Systematically follow that plan. Whatever it is. Whatever the needs are in your community.”

We had one pastor one time in Man-Sask who did a—I guess it was a manage-your-money seminar. He baptized three people out of that. Three people were so benefitted by what they heard in that group, they said, “We want to hear what you have to say about the Bible. We know you are a pastor.” And he gave them Bible studies and baptized them. Three people.

In Man-Sask and in B.C. I had what I called the “experimental fund” where we told our pastors, “Go on out and fail. Then tell us how you did that. And we can help you. We’ll sit down and talk about how you can succeed the next time around.”

Really? That seems like a good idea.

We had \$60 thousand. A small conference took out \$60 thousand. We said, “This is available for anyone who will experiment. Do something different and new, and if you fail, well okay, you failed. But let’s sit down and talk about why you failed and how we can strengthen whatever it was that you were doing to make it a success in the future.”

Jesus said, “Go and disciple and baptize.” We shouldn’t be ashamed of that. We shouldn’t be ashamed of the fact that our role in the world isn’t just to be a part of the ministerial association. It’s not. I mean, I was always a part of the ministerial association, and I think we should always build good relations with others, but I don’t think we make any bones about the fact—and every church should be doing this, not just Adventists—that hey, our role on this planet is not to be part of the ministerial so that we can all have good terms and look good and smell good to everybody in the community.

We have a purpose. We have a goal. And our purpose is to reach men and women, to give them happiness and hope and a connection with God. And we feel we have some answers. We don’t have a monopoly on all truth, but we do have some answers that are relevant to this day and age. And I don’t think we should be ashamed of that. And so that means, you know, that “he who fails to plan, plans to fail” and evangelism becomes a failure when you haven’t really planned for it.

That’s what I believe in my guts. I think that if you say we’re going to hold two evangelistic series in 2009 and there’s no preparation, no action, nobody involved and then here comes the evangelist on March 1, and he stands up to preach then to those three people who’ve come somehow off the street because they read a brochure and to the other people

who come, it’s discouraging. People get mad. You know, they feel, “This is a waste. Evangelism is dead.” And they blame the evangelist, the pastor and those stupid guys in the conference or the General Conference of the North American Division who keep insisting we do this!

But I’ve never seen a farmer with a combine in a field of summer fallow. I’ve never seen it.



DAN JACKSON

Reaching the community needs to be a year-round project. Every year until Jesus comes.

Okay, but there is another issue. In my mind, you can’t talk about evangelism without talking about what comes next. How do you retain those people you’ve harvested? No one wants to see a series result in a bunch of baptisms and then a year or two later, two-thirds of those new people are gone.

But when evangelism is an event, that is what happens. If the church doesn’t have a mission that keeps going, then people come in the front door and get hit with a feeling of, “Oh boy, I’m glad that’s over.” And that’s not to say that we should not be reasonable. People are busy today and we need to respect that. But that does not give the church the right to be indolent. And, in reality, that is the problem. Because the church concludes, “Oh, thank heavens that thing is over! We don’t have to do that anymore for probably four more years.” And you bring new people into that??

Go to a hockey game where a team scores three goals in the first five minutes and then says, “Well, we don’t have to play very hard for the rest of the game.” The people will look at them and say they are a bunch of idiots because there is no mission, there is no goal, there is no focus. I don’t believe God called groups of people together in different communities in Canada or around the world and said, “Okay, reach out to the world for one month every four years, and that will be okay.”

One of the goals behind the goal is to get people involved in thinking about evangelism differently. See, evangelism, because it’s got a bad name, when you use the word ‘evangelism’ people go “gulp!” You get a little resistance to it, right? But reaching the community to help them with happiness, hope and quality of life and a connection with God—that needs to be a year-round project.

Every year until Jesus comes. That’s what I believe. ■

Alberta

Wildrose Food Drive



The Saturday night collecting crew: Terry Greenlaw, Harald Zinner, Byron Nahorney, Shaelyn Nahorney, Brayden Nahorney (front), Cameron Bache, Nathan Hamberly, Paw Bache.

The Wildrose Pathfinders of the Sherwood Park Seventh-day Adventist Church collected 242 articles of non-perishable food during their Halloween food drive for the church's Community Services Food Bank. Since Halloween fell on Friday, the Pathfinders distributed empty paper bags in a neighbourhood near their church on Wednesday evening and returned on Saturday night to collect the donations.

The food they were given made a very welcome addition to the food bank as Olga Huk, community services

director, had just received more requests for emergency food hampers. In fact, preparing food hampers is another long-standing Sherwood Park tradition, and 2008 marks the church's 25th year that our Sherwood Park church community services department has been providing food hampers and providing assistance to those in urgent circumstances. In addition to helping individuals and families, they also support the Christmas Bureau, Women's Shelter, Youth Emergency Shelter, and the local Food Bank, and the Pathfinder's help makes an important contribution to maintaining

this program.

Members of the Wildrose club include Cameron Bache, Soren Bache, Nathan Hamberly, Brayden Nahorney, Shaelyn Nahorney, Kerry Waller, and Sheila Waters. For the food drive, they were accompanied on the food drive by their leader, Harald Zinner, and sponsors Terry Greenlaw, Byron Nahorney, and Paw Bache.

Though a small club, the Sherwood Park Pathfinders are planning big and one of their goals is to be at the August 2009 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. ■

Ontario

Stoney Creek Food Drive



Our hearts are filled with thankfulness and praise for God. Members of the Hamilton Adventurers Club and the youth of the Heritage Green Seventh-day Adventist Church collected over 2,000 items of non-perishable food during our October food drive. Thank you so much to our local Fortino's grocery store for donating the grocery bags that were left at homes in our Stoney Creek mountain neighbourhood with a letter explaining our mission. When we returned the following week to pick up the bags, we were amazed by the generosity of our neighbours. Donated food will be used for Christmas baskets for needy families in the area and we will also be able to make contributions to the women's shelter and food bank. Our group of approximately 25 youth aged 18 months to 18 years was very uplifted by our experience and have determined to make this an annual event. ■

Conference Braces for Economic Downturn

The Ontario conference is taking steps to prepare for the worldwide economic downturn that has already reached Ontario.

At a recent meeting of conference directors and support staff, conference treasurer, Ulysses Guarin, outlined the first steps that, he hopes, will help the church in Ontario ride through the future economic uncertainties.

He reminded everyone of the measures that were already in place and then

introduced additional ones. There is an on-going moratorium on hiring new workers, delay in replacement hiring, educational sponsorships, conference sponsorship of ministerial retreats and capital expenditure. New measures include no salary increase or travel rate increase. Steps will also be taken to increase use of electronic mail and minimize use of regular mail, stationery and other printed materials such as flyers. Travel for directors will be reduced by 50%.

These measures, among others, were described as "prudent" by the treasurer. He noted that the church is not immune from the challenges of the economic climate and wise stewardship should be practised in all situations. He was quick, however, to offer thanks to God for the faithfulness of the membership across Ontario.

— Halsey Peat,
communication director

Reprinted from the "Ontario Conference Newsletter."

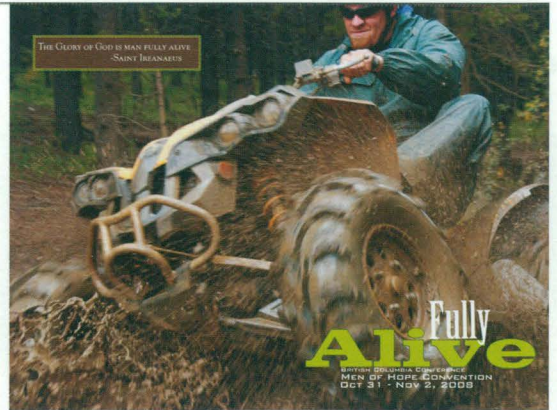
British Columbia

B.C.'s 4th Annual Men of Hope

On October 31–November 2, more than 150 men attended the British Columbia conference's Men of Hope weekend. This year's conference, held at Camp Hope, was entitled Fully Alive. This 4th annual men's gathering was deeply moving with the powerful preaching of Randy Skeete. Skeete's messages were deeply thought provoking and called upon the attendees to fulfill their purpose and to really know God by having an experience with Him. Skeete illustrated how God leads us by sharing his own personal journey in wrestling with God as God called him to preach the Word as a full time revivalist who was free to travel wherever God called him.

Other messages challenged the men to reveal God in living a Christlike life and to live for God by being faithful to Him in every aspect of life. The conference's ministerial secretary, Wayne Culmore, gave a powerful morning devotional when he shared his own personal journey of learning to lean on Christ and prioritizing communion with God. The Freedom Singers added to the spiritual tone of the weekend with their harmony and deep spiritual blend of inspiring songs that prepared our hearts to receive the word of God.

Sabbath afternoon and Sunday morning 'breakout sessions' gave a chance for the men to focus on specific topics like raising boys, practising



communication skills, understanding God's grace and dealing with sexual addictions.

Many comments suggested that the weekend provided more than was expected and were greatly appreciative of the time to be with other men for a great time inspiration and fellowship. A first time attendee wrote, "It was awesome for me. This was my first one, and Lord willing, I look forward to the next."

—Greg Wellman, BC Men of Hope

North American Division

Voice of Prophecy: New Broadcast Formats Coming in 2009



The Voice of Prophecy on-air team. From left: back row—Elizabeth Talbot, Connie Vandeman Jeffery; front row—Mike Tucker, Fred Kinsey.

Voice of Prophecy broadcasts in 2009 feature new formats and a new on-air team of speakers.

Fred Kinsey, speaker/director for Voice of Prophecy, focuses on his favorite Bible texts on the magazine-style weekend broadcast. He and co-host Connie Vandeman Jeffery will also dialogue on spiritual applications of current events and interview interesting authors, mission workers, and others.

Joining the broadcast with occasional segments is Willa Sandmeyer, an Emmy-award-winning reporter, who will bring inspirational stories of people whose faith is making a difference in the world as they reach out and touch lives for Jesus.

The daily broadcast is all new as well, featuring Pastor Mike Tucker and Pastor Elizabeth Talbot in great conversations about the Bible. Through the end of February, they will be looking at the gospel of Matthew, with special emphasis on the ways that the life of Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies. Their high-energy discussions will bring listeners a fresh

approach to Bible study.

Besides his new role at Voice of Prophecy, Kinsey is also assistant to the president for communication in the North American Division. He and his wife live near the Silver Spring, Maryland division headquarters.

Tucker is speaker/director of Faith For Today and pastors the 1900-member Adventist church in Arlington, Texas. Talbot, an Adventist pastor in Southern California, is a Ph.D. candidate in biblical

studies at the University of Gloucestershire, UK.

“While the voices on the broadcasts have changed,” says Kinsey, “the mission is still to tell a hurting world the story of Jesus through radio, Bible courses, and the Internet.”

The Voice of Prophecy radio station log is posted at www.vop.com. Programs are also available as podcasts, and may be accessed 24/7 as RealAudio and mp3 files at this website, where they are permanently archived. ■

Hope Channel Completes 1,000th Program for Project Hope Initiative

Hope Channel, the official TV network of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, recently celebrated the completion of its one-thousandth Project Hope program. Production wrapped up in Sophia, Bulgaria, on Wednesday, December 3, 2008.

Project Hope is an initiative to produce culturally relevant Christ-centered programming in various parts of the world using local languages, local talent, and local resources.

“This journey has taken us to Zambia, Philippines, Kenya, Lebanon, Australia, and now Bulgaria. We’ve even conducted two Project Hopes here in the US for Spanish and Chinese audiences,” said Brad Thorp, Hope Channel president.

More than 7000 people from around the world have participated in all these productions. Programs air on Hope Channel, Hope Channel Europe, Hope Channel International, and several others of the eight-channel network.

In just 25 production days, Hope Channel’s vice president for programming and international development, Kandus Thorp, oversaw the production of 119 episodes for eight new TV series that will air across Bulgaria on cable and individual stations, around the world on the internet and be available on DVD. Earlier this year, Thorp and a team in Australia produced 222 programs in about six weeks.

Hope Channel’s formula is simple. Working with local church leadership, they provide some basic TV production equipment and detailed training on how to use it for a local coordinator, and help recruit as many volunteers as necessary. The programs’ sets are constructed of affordable local materials and furnished with donated or borrowed furniture. Local experts come to be interviewed by volunteers for programs about healthy living and family life, and local pastors or church officials come to do Bible preaching and teaching programs. Each Project Hope features programs for women, men, children, teens, and families.

“What is so interesting is that with these many series, we’ve seen so much creativity and no duplication. This has been a great blessing for the Hope Channel network, the world church, and our viewers,” added Brad Thorp. “Project Hope has opened huge doors of opportunity to reflect the diversity and giftedness of the world Adventist Church, and we’ve done so at an economical price per program.”

Major network television can cost from \$10,000 to \$100,000 or more per completed minute. Inexpensive local TV commercials can be produced for \$1,000 per minute. With Project Hope, Hope Channel has produced complete, high-quality 30-minute programs for about \$750 each.

The project in Bulgaria included programs like “Oh, Really?,” which brought together doctors, psychologists, and scientists as guests to explore and debunk myths about evolution. A pastor closes each program with a biblically-based spiritual message. “Court Decree” features a local judge who discusses real-life human rights cases with lawyers and a studio audience. In “16 + 7” a panel of doctors, lawyers, and business leaders addresses from a biblical perspective issues important to young adults. “Freeze Frame” utilizes a lot of outdoors footage and man-on-the-street interviews in a postmodern approach to overcome that mindset with correct concepts of God and spirituality. Church members also produced several hours of medically-focused programs on healthy living, and top-quality preaching programs that address the daily contexts of local people’s lives.

In a Hope Channel first, the Bulgarian group hosted a Bible quiz program. Producers of “I Guessed it Right!” researched and wrote all the questions and answers, figured out all the details of how the program would function, and raised money for the grand prize of a vacation to Greece.

“The producer and host is hilarious,” said Kandus Thorp. “I don’t know what he’s saying, but I can just tell by watching him, the contestants, and the audience, that he’s an absolute crack-up. This is going to be yet another great program to capture viewers’ attention and teach them about Jesus.”

“After producing more than 1,000 half hour programs in the last year and a half, I thought I’d seen the limits of creativity,” admitted Thorp, “but this group has really impressed me, and the Lord has blessed greatly. Our training sessions here in April, and (Hope Channel producer) Joe Sloan’s field production training here in September, really opened their eyes and sparked their creativity.”

Individuals wishing to learn more about or support Project Hope can contact Hope Channel at 888-4-HOPE-TV (888-446-7388) or info@HopeTV.org. ■

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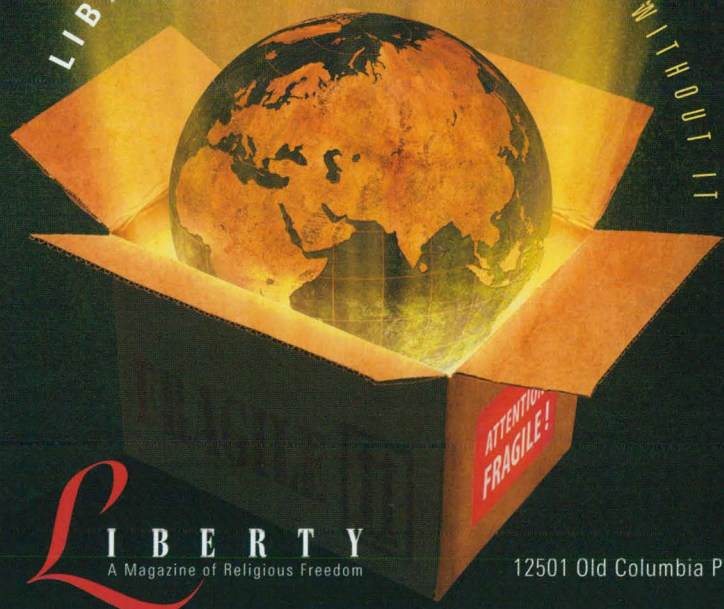
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■ **Announcements**

**Andrews University
Undergoing Accreditation
Public Invited to Comment**

Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit March 22–25, 2009 by a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Andrews University has been accredited by the Commission since 1939. Its accreditation is at the doctoral degree level and includes degree sites at various other locations around the world.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the university: Public Comment on Andrews University, The Higher Learning Commission, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 2400, Chicago IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed. Comments cannot be treated as confidential. All comments must be received by February 22, 2009.

All pastors working in Canada are invited to attend the National Ministerial Convention June 21-25 at Canadian University College. Save the date; more information coming soon!

■ **New Members**

ONTARIO

Andrius "AA" Antonius and Emilio E.S. "AC" Aguinaldo were baptized in Downsview, Ont. on Oct. 4, 2008 by Edwin Martin. Andrius and Emilio were baptized after studying with George Solijon, Oliver Rey, Lowen Tenerife and Jay Gamez. Andrius and Emilio are now members of the Mount Zion Filipino church.

■ **Births**

Seth James Benoit was born Oct. 21, 2008 to Alicia (Stapleton) and Brian Benoit of Abbotsford, B.C.

■ **Anniversaries**

Lee and Lola McMiller of Swift

Current, Sask. were married on Sept. 29, 1943 and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a surprise party on Oct. 1, 2008. The McMiller's were pleased to have in attendance their only son, Frank, and their grandson, Tyler, both from Abbotsford, B.C. They also welcomed several close friends who joined the celebration.

■ **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.

Siegfried 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 March 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 Filla; 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.

■ **Advertisements**

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2009 Workshop on Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy:

Andrews University Seminary will be offering its popular 6-day workshop on August 2-7. Besides university faculty, it includes Dr. Agatha Thrash and Dr. Don Miller of Uchee Pines Institute, Dr. David DeRose of Compass Health, and Evelyn Kissingner, MS, RD, Director and Nutritionist of Lifestyle Matters, Michigan Conference. For information, call Fran McMullen at 269/471-3541 or email fran@andrews.edu. (01/09)

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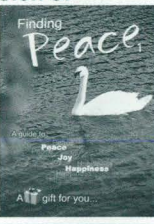
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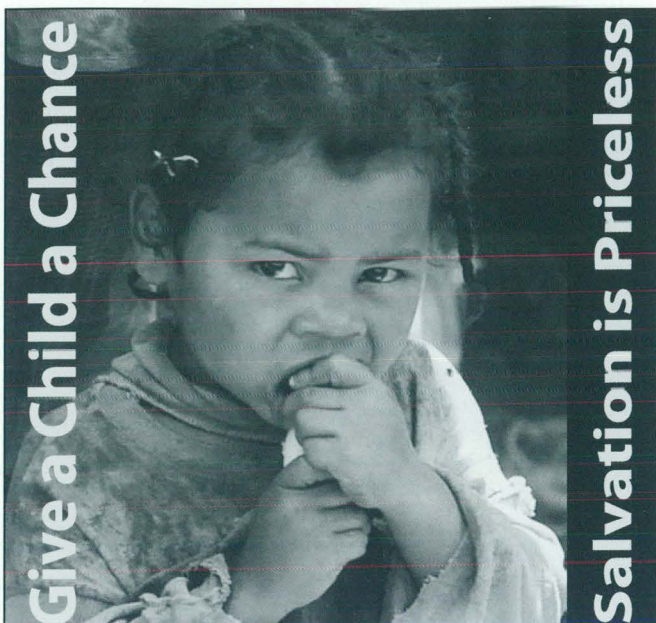
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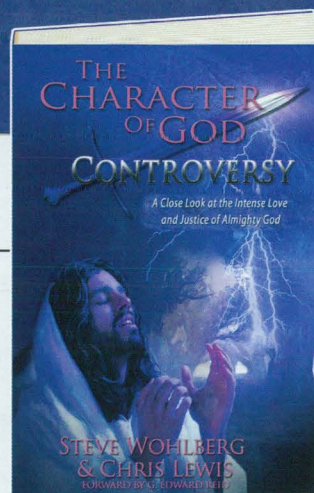
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"Of what I call God, And fools call Nature." —Robert Browning

I always have trepidations about a film whose four-star plug on the front of the DVD case is credited to the movie's own author/producer/host: "I love this film"—Ben Stein. After watching it, however, I better understood why he made that statement. Not that I agreed that it is, in fact, a four-star film—it's a far cry from that for me personally—but I came to understand that Ben Stein *does* love this film and its message. It was a personal investment of time, money and effort on his behalf that got this documentary released. And the does do a good job of raising awareness of the issue of American academic freedom over the theory of intelligent design.

If you haven't heard about this documentary, you're not alone. I recall seeing the DVD for the first time at my local Wal-Mart and thinking, "What a ridiculous cover." I immediately chalked it up to yet another Hollywood attempt at mundane comedy. Only after seeing this same film in my local ABC did I feel impressed to pick it up and peruse the contents. I was both surprised and intrigued, and I bought a copy.

Intelligent design (ID) is another name for creationism. *Expelled* discloses information about journalists, professors, assistant professors and teachers who have lost their jobs because they have acknowledged that the theory of ID has some merit and should be examined alongside the theory of evolution. It also examines the idea of what the world would be like without a religious influence to guide science. *Expelled* moves through its interviews effectively and in a logical order that does

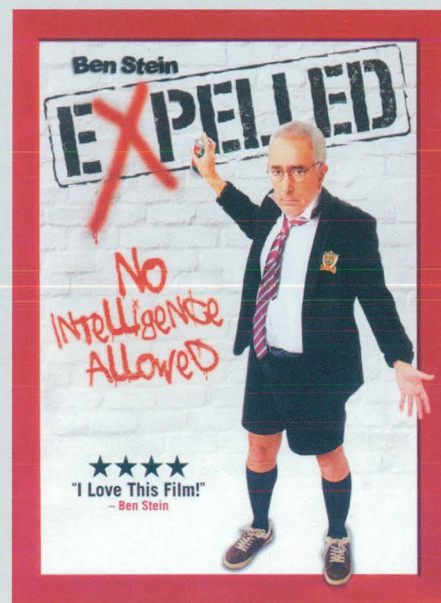
offer some satisfaction to the viewer.

This documentary has its merits and flaws, like any other film. Its strengths lie in the content and the ideas it explores. It is shocking to see the narrow-mindedness of the interviewed scientific community. They will go to lengths where they say that aliens may have seeded the planet with life or that life spontaneously happened on the backs of mystical crystals, but they absolutely refuse to contemplate that there is a master Designer with a blueprint for life.

The weaknesses, however, seriously detract from the film. Interspersed throughout the interview clips there are snippets of black and white 1950-esque pop culture film clips from outdated sources which attempt to add some humour, but, for the most part, only insult the intelligence of the viewer. Considering how seriously Ben Stein takes this controversy, it surprised me that he allowed these elements into his documentary. It would have been refreshing to view a well-composed documentary about this serious issue without the attempts at humour thrown in.

Overall, I did appreciate this film's content. The PG rating is extremely cautious; I would have given it a G rating personally. And I would recommend a viewing to most Christians, as *Expelled* does explore the idea of religious and academic freedom. ■

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



A FILM REVIEW



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