

canadian adventist

Messenger

march 2009



“Joe Who?” and You

What every member can do during the year of evangelism.

PM40069337

Who Do You Listen To?

As children, many of us were told by our parents to choose our friends wisely, that we're known by the company we keep. Those of us who have gone on to become parents ourselves have likely repeated that advice to our own children as they've grown into social beings. I wonder, however, if we tend to forget this principle as we get older? If we devalue the importance of it in our own lives?

It seems to me that, although young people tend to be more obvious about valuing their relationships, friendship never ceases to be important, no matter how old we get. Whereas once upon a time my life was consumed by 'hanging out' with my friends, adult responsibilities now prevent me from doing so every day, but that certainly does not mean that I value my friends any less. In fact, as life has become more complex and brought both joys and hardships my way, my friendships have become stronger and deeper. I have relied upon my friends in good times and bad and am more able than ever to deeply appreciate them and the myriad ways that they have been there for me.

Of course, I have friends of the highest calibre! I have gathered them from here and there based upon . . . well, I'm not entirely sure what it's based upon, but it's got to be a very complex process with both conscious and subconscious involvement! One of the qualities that I consciously seek in friends is the ability and willingness to tell me the truth whether it is what I want to hear or not. They challenge me. Even better, though, they are discerning. They can often see what I cannot. They are people to whom I would do well to listen even if they weren't part of my social circle.

This brings to mind the story of Job and his so-called friends. It intrigues me that although they were there for him in his suffering—at least they came to visit him—they did not have that quality of discernment that I prize in my friends. As I read through the story, I *want* to give those three guys some credit for not sugar-coating things for Job. I like that they talk plainly to Job, telling him the truth and giving him their advice. The problem is that the truth as they saw it was not truth in fact. In spite of their good intentions, they were steering him in the wrong direction. Job's wife, too, advised him wrongly in spite of her good intentions: "Curse God and die," she said. Good thing for him that he didn't listen to any of his advisors!

I wonder if it be well for us to reflect sometimes upon those people we admit into our lives via friendship, those with whom we choose to surround ourselves. Are they, like Job's friends, people who think they know best but who have not shown themselves to be discerning? Or are they people who enrich our lives with their counsel? Proverbs 12:26 says, "the righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the ways of the wicked leads them astray."

Crystal

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The Canadian Adventist Messenger—the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—is published 12 times per year. Free to SDACC members. Annual foreign subscription price: US\$15.00. Printed by Maracle Press Limited. ISSN 0702-5084. Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index. Member of the Associated Church Press and the Canadian Church Press.



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Deadlines

June issue	April 1
July issue	May 4
August issue	June 1

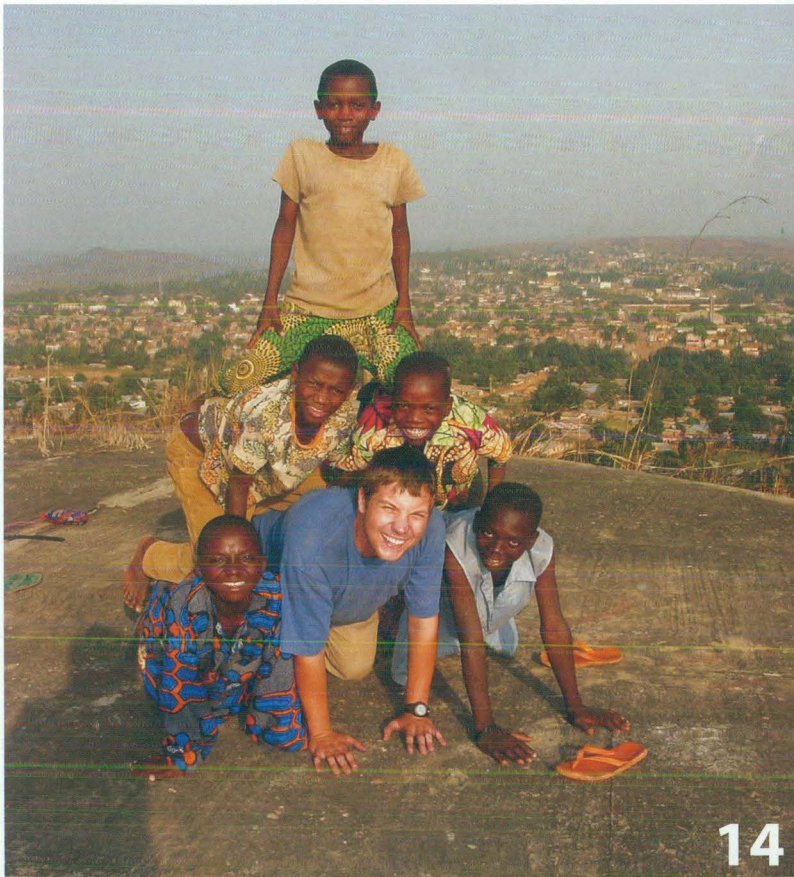
>> View this issue online at www.sdacc.org/messenger

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable Canadian addresses to *Messenger* subscriptions, 1148 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8

Canada Post agreement number 40069337.

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March 2009



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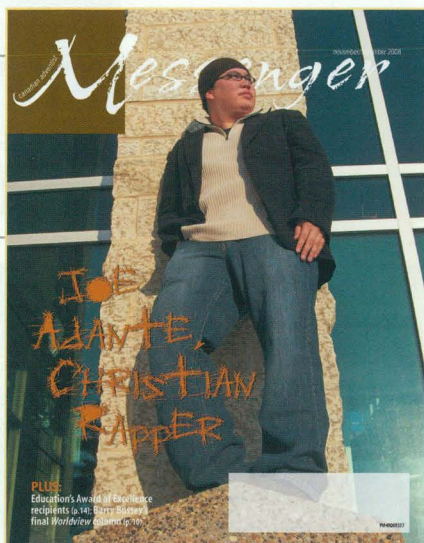
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Your Words

“I have seen kids giving their lives to Jesus, having bible studies and ...going on to be baptized... I am so proud of our kids, and I know that Jesus is smiling down upon them.”

RE: “Joe Adante, Christian Rapper,” November/December 2008

I enjoy your editorials; sometimes you write my exact thoughts.

The reason I am writing this is to address the article in the Nov./Dec. issue about Joe Adante and his “Christian” rap. I cannot tell you the depths of surprise and horror the article brought out. I was shocked that it was condoned and blessed and got that much coverage! To begin with, God is not the author of confusion, and rap is such, for sure! There is no such thing as “Christian rap” or “Christian rock” or “Christian porn.”

We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy to use pure and exact language. Rap is, at best, poor grammar. At worst, it is just another satanic play at confusing our young people. They can get all this kind of entertainment on the street.

I cannot imagine Jesus doing puppets and pantomime and rap and rock to bring them in, rather pointing them to the pure beauties of His creation, leading them by love and not (mindless) entertainment.

I pray this young man finds a better way to witness to his young friends.

— E. Liske, Brandon, Man.

I am writing to you to say as a Seventh-day Adventist for the past 24 years that I am concerned with what is considered Godly and accepted in our church these days! Christian rap is an oxymoron.

Could you really picture Jesus rapping to win people to the gospel? We are doing God’s work the devil’s way. We are not to win souls through any part of entertainment or worldly means. We know that from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy! Maybe various other denominations are doing this, but that does not mean we should!

The only way souls will be won to this church and be ready for Christ’s coming will never be through these methods but only by the truth presented by a Christ-like person and following Christ’s methods alone. He healed the people and cared for their needs and then He bade them follow me! We are taking God to a worldly level by using entertainment. God is holy, high and lifted up, and only holy people will be allowed to enter the gates into the city.

I am appalled that this was on the front page and promoted for our church. And I know that I am not the only SDA that is angry that these things are being allowed to enter God’s last day remnant church.

I see that you do not publish all letters. I hope you will consider what I am saying and publish this one!? I assure you I am saying this with utmost love and concern to you and to all God’s last day people! We need to lift the standard up and never bring it down to a worldly level!

— L. Hacker, Guelph, Ont.

So many young people in this church are, like Joe Adante: “regular members who have jobs, or go to school each day” and are using their talents to finish the work. My concern lies in the fact that Mr. Adante and many other leaders within the church have chosen to look to popular media and culture for ways to spread God’s end-time message. I would prefer to see exposure in our church publications given to the dozens of grassroots movements springing up all over the continent and the country which are led by Spirit-filled youth who have God’s purposes first and foremost in their hearts and minds. I would love to see those stories printed in our church magazines—stories about ACTS for Christ, Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC), CAMPUS, GLOW, ARISE, and the list goes on. Many young Canadian Seventh-day Adventists are mobilizing through ministries established in the United States, and I feel as though Canada is being left behind. Let’s get our literature, health and other ministries functioning fully in every province, and let’s effectively harness the energy and passion of dedicated Canadian youth for the furthering of the work!

— F. Wood, Nanaimo, B.C.

RE: letter in response to cover text of September 2008 issue, January 2008

Is there a possibility of including last names in the “Your Words” section of

the *Messenger*. I have had a number of people ask me (those are the brave ones!) about the letter I wrote. Horrors! I wonder how many others think I wrote it and are too polite to mention it.

I have no problem calling my offspring or anyone else's, "kids." Nor do I think it condones a gay or lesbian lifestyle!

I think if people take the time to write (especially *those* kinds of letters), their last names should be included to protect the innocent.

—A. Haggkvist,
Lacombe, Alta.

I had to chuckle to myself, and it has even prompted me to send this note, at the comments by our dear sister, Audrey. I have received and read the *Messenger* for more than 40 years, and some things will just never change. Even though, I am no longer Adventist, it is letters like this and the mentality of those who feel the burden to rant about something so absolutely silly and insignificant, that makes it worth still checking in once in a while.

You are doing a nice job, so don't take her to seriously. All four of my "kids" are relatively normal heterosexuals despite being called "kids" for 19-24 years. LOL.

—R. Gerber, via email

I was flabbergasted when I read the letters to the editor in your January 2009

issue. How could one associate using the term "kids" with a homosexual lifestyle?

Webster's dictionary defines the word kid as, "Informal; a child or young person." It also defines child as "a young boy or girl." So my question is how does the term "child" differentiate between boys and girls any more the term "kid?" Well, it doesn't; "child" is neither feminine or masculine. I cannot understand how using the word "kid" would condone a homosexual lifestyle or, for that matter, confuse kids in regards to their sexuality.

My husband operates one of the summer camps represented in Ms. Steeves-Holloway's article, and I am proud of our camp and our kids. I have seen kids giving their lives to Jesus, having bible studies and—through prayer and guidance—going on to be baptized. I have watched kids return summer after summer and then go on to work as staff at camp, ministering for Christ. I am so proud of our kids, and I know that Jesus is smiling down upon them.

Rest assured that homosexuality is a little more complicated than having been referred to as a "kid" while growing up. Anyway, Jesus loves the homosexual.

As Christians we would do well to remember that.

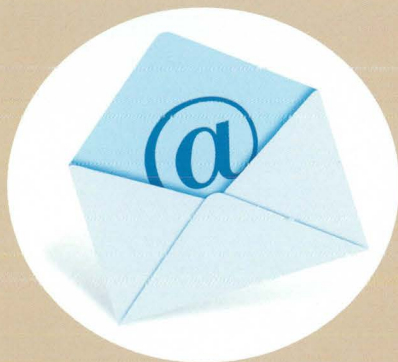
—H. Williams,
Lacombe, Alta.

Really? You are going to leave your *Messenger* unread because you think the term "kids" does not allow for gender differentiation or respect the youth of today. As a teacher, I can assure you that that many high school students would be much more insulted if I called them "children" than if I called them "kids." These students know their identity as males or females. And, unlike those worried about certain terminology, they are able to look beyond details to seek the message behind the words.

Since you chose not open this edition, let me tell you it contains a wonderful back-to-school message written by our Church president, informative information about Christian summer camps that our youth can attend, an open discussion with teens about sexuality and so much more. I would encourage you, Audrey H., to go beyond the details that trap and turn so many away from what is really important and look at the message being communicated.

—K. Harrington,
Williams Lake, 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.



Keep 'em Comin'!!

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

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

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



Josué Sanchez is astonished at how God puts up with His church in spite of all its mistakes!

Giving Up on Church

March, 2009

I've kinda given up on this whole church thing . . . I mean I still *love* God and believe in Him and everything. But I just don't like the church part. What I've noticed is some people talk inside the church talk and judge other people, and it's not right, I don't wanna be part of something that shouldn't be happening.

Josué Sánchez

Answer

I hear ya, man...

There's definitely gossip and judging inside the church. No question about it. Still, church is one of the best things that can happen to you, for several reasons.



1) Social > Ok, you are on Facebook, right? How many groups and fan pages do you belong to? Humans are social animals. :) We gotta be with others who share the same interests. Well, the same goes with our church membership. We all love Jesus and are compelled to share our ups and downs and how He intervenes to save us.

2) Spiritual > After a whole week of being in touch with God and seeing Him act in our life, it is a natural instinct to worship Him. So, we all get together at church and worship Him at once. It is an amazing experience! (Now, if you miss the worship side of it altogether, then it leaves room for getting out of control with gossip and all that unpleasant stuff).

3) Training for real life scenarios > I know lots of people who hold management positions at work thanks to the experience they got in their church involvement. Seriously. Church life trains you in so many ways! It helps you build skills that will help you in your week life at work and/or school-college-university.

So here is my own question to you: Why don't you consider being part of the solution? Go back to church and fight that unfortunate behavior by setting a good example! Get active. Lead and influence others to make the right decisions. Don't be a conformist or "de-formist" but a "pro-formist!"

Help build a better church!

TeenTalk Online

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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!

Creation Corner



For
Kids

“Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.” Hebrews 10: 24, 25 (NAS)

Bohemian Waxwing



When I was younger, the home our family lived in had a large mountain ash tree in the front yard. Mountain ash trees produce great clusters of pretty red berries late in the summer. They are pretty, but the berries are really nothing to get excited about. Not if you're a human, that is. But if you're a Bohemian waxwing, a tree loaded with mountain ash berries is something worth celebrating.

You'll see Bohemian waxwings traveling together in huge flocks as they scout out city neighbourhoods for mountain ash berries. Then when they spot a good tree, the whole flock will change shape and direction and head straight for that mountain ash, settling together upon the branches. Once they've landed for their feast, it's hard to know which there are more of—berries or birds.

When they're finished feeding together, they take to the sky again, like a rising feathered cloud, to hunt for another feeding spot.



Think about it.

Going to church regularly is important. Not only do we get spiritually fed there, but we have the opportunity to learn from others. Sometimes what we learn is not what we'd hoped to learn. We may see church members behaving badly. We may at times be surprised when a Christian from our church does or says something awful, making us wonder if church attendance is really good for us after all. But the Bible teaches that going to church is important, not just for what we can get from it, but for what we can give.

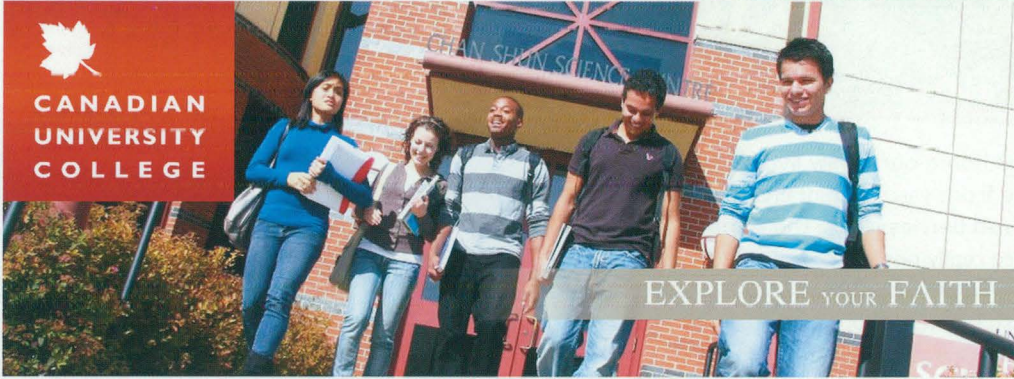
Do it.

Are there problems in your church? What can you do to help others in your church? Make a list of church members who need your help. Beside each name, write what you can do for each person. Then ... do it!



—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.





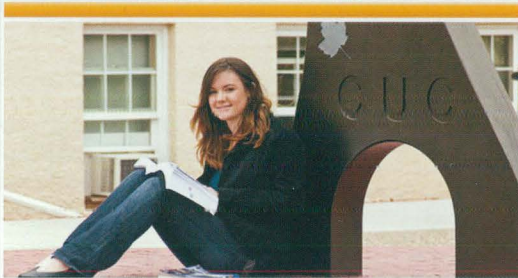
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 Call today to speak with an enrolment advisor and get your application rolling. The earlier you apply and get your paperwork in the more you can save on your tuition! Don't forget to speak with a student finance advisor and see what scholarships you can apply for. Apply now!

Welcome To Canadian University College
 Located in Alberta, Canada's sunniest province, and surrounded by lakes and sweeping landscapes, Canadian University College offers a Christian atmosphere and exceptional academics. Established in 1907, CUC has a rich history and tradition with thousands of alumni worldwide. With our smaller class sizes students not only learn but build relationships with their professors. We encourage students to not only THINK, but BELIEVE, and ACT. At CUC we believe in the complete university college experience. Students are provided an environment where academic, physical, and spiritual growth is encouraged. So wherever it is you want to go, whatever it is you want to be, let us help you get there.

"I just love the fact that it is such a warm environment... I am just going to miss this place because it's been a milestone in my life"



Charity Alcalde
 Elementary Education, 4th-year

UPCOMING EVENTS

CW: Options
 January 27, 11:00 am

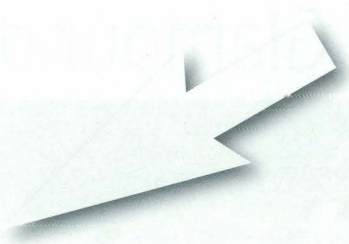
SA Forum
 January 29, 11:00 am

V: Heart & Soul for Kenya
 January 30, 7:30 pm

CUC Board Meetings
 January 30 - February 1

Shinny Hockey
 January 31, 7:00 pm

CUC Launches *New* Website



Have you visited the Canadian University College website (www.cauc.ca) recently? If not, you are in for a pleasant surprise.

After months of redesign planning and behind-the-scenes work with higher education consultants, the university college officially launched its new website on January 14, 2009.

The new www.cauc.ca features a fresh design, improved usability, and a greater focus on prospective students and other external audiences. The launch of the new site caps a year-long process of research, consulting, content development and technology upgrades. Feedback from all aspects of the university college was taken into consideration. Early on in the process, focus groups were conducted with members of the faculty, staff, students and administration to ensure that the new website would be relevant to their specific needs. Melody Illacas, fourth-year Business Administration major and Student Association president, was one of the students who participated in the focus groups in early 2008. Today she is glad to have been part of the process and is impressed with the new website. Says Illacas, "Compared to the old version of the website, the new website is what I would term as more user friendly. It's easier for people who do not regularly visit the website to find the information they need. It also allows students to know what is happening on campus, such as vespers, community worship speakers, Saturday night activities, etc. It is a reliable resource for finding what you want to know about CUC."

With such a diverse group of communities to cater to, the new CUC website employs a navigation system that is user friendly no matter the audience. The new design and navigational structure make it easier for users, both on-campus and off, to find the content they are looking for. The main navigation consists of an "About CUC" menu and six separate menus for the six distinct audiences that the university college caters to: Prospective Students, Current Students, Parents & Family, Faculty & Staff, Alumni and the local Community. When first viewing the new website, viewers can quickly see what category they might fit with and quickly find the information relevant to

a person in that category. While this menu structure is meant to ease site navigation for someone looking for specific information, anyone is free to navigate freely and explore the whole site.

A significant change from the old website is the greater focus on external audiences, especially prospective students. Most of the current university college aged students, and especially the current high school students have always had the world wide web. Prospective students are savvy internet users and expect your website to have the same functionality as the websites they often visit. Blogs (online journals), pictures and video are a big part of a prospective students web experience, and know they experience exactly that on the new CUC website. Danielle Goulet, one of CUC's enrolment advisors, spends a lot of her time with prospective students across Canada and is confident that the new website will better showcase the CUC experience. "The students I meet want to know first hand what CUC is like. With video of the campus and student testimonials on our new website, they can do just that from their computer." Goulet adds, "It's great! With the features on our new website, we will be communicating to them on their terms."

According to Bryan Lee, vice president of Marketing and Enrolment at Canadian University College, the new website is a necessary step to ensure CUC's relevancy in the online world. "This is an exciting and significant step in our marketing to prospective students and parents. Our website was 10 years old and often seen as a negative rather than a positive representation of CUC. We now have a contemporary, fresh, and current web site appropriately representing Canadian University College in the web marketplace." ■

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



The Glamour of International Development



Anna's family (Anna is third from the right.)



Ferdinand (centre) with friends.

It's 4:35 am, January 15, 2009. I am in Kigali, in the Hotel Gorillas. After a very late night writing a proposal for ADRA Rwanda's next search for Canadian funding, I fell asleep only to be awakened three hours later by an annoying and very persistent mosquito. I have finally been patient enough for the pest to settle on my forehead. I slap my face in the dark in my fifth attempt at silencing it. Finally I can go to sleep.

But now the crows and sparrows have started conversing outside my window. Motorbikes, trucks and cabs rattle past along the nearby road. I wonder why there is so much action so early in the morning?

A person outside my windows hacks and spits.

I left Canada and arrived in Nairobi more than a month ago. Once there, I visited the ADRA Kenya office and met with the outgoing country director and downloaded my latest email. I don't know when I will have internet access again. I change some US dollars into Kenya shillings, buy some anti malarial drugs, and I am ready to visit the project.

On Sunday morning I am up at 5:30 to catch a Kenya Airways flight to Kisumu on the shores of Lake Victoria. I am on my way to work with the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) project team, a project that was started more than fourteen years ago by Ken Hill, a Canadian committed to helping disabled children walk again. Today the project is funded by ADRA Canada and CIDA. The team of 10 educates members of a community where disabilities are believed to be a curse and where such children were once hidden away. Today, parents not only identify childhood disabilities early but also bring them to the CBR team for treatment and even accompany them for surgery to places like Kendu Bay Adventist Hospital and other hospitals further afield.

In November 2007, while monitoring project progress, I met Ferdinand, a young man of 18 who was paralyzed after contracting tuberculosis of the spine. The CBR team had just

become aware of his situation and promised to take him on as a 'client'. During my present trip I return to see Ferdinand and find him three kilometres from his house tending to two small children whom he had carried to the local clinic on his bicycle. You would never know that a little over a year ago he was completely bed ridden.

In this work, every now and then something happens that defies all 'Western' logic. I was making a follow-up visit to Anna, a six-year-old girl suffering from epilepsy. I found her to be much improved since November 2007, but it was her mother who really showed me something amazing. Having six children and a husband who is rarely around to help, she struggles. The family does not have sufficient clothes or food, but as we were leaving, Anna's mother disappeared into her simple mud hut and returned with a large squash and a watermelon. What generosity! What a show of appreciation for what the CBR team is doing! Of course we told her to keep her precious food for her children, as she needed it more than us.

It is moments such as seeing Ferdinand ride a bike, or Anna's mother offering the only gift she has, that make this work so rewarding. Back in my hotel, it is thinking on moments like these that keep me sane. The shower supplies a choice of either boiling hot water or a freezing cold dribble, a reggae/rap/hip hop disco continues to pound into the wee hours of the morning, an all-night church service is going on 500 metres from my hotel window and mosquitoes fly in formation around my room, but it is people like Ferdinand, Anna and her mother who keep me looking forward to another day in this not-so-glamorous business.

Thank you for your support of ADRA Canada. Together we are making a difference, one life at a time. ■

Nick Trent is the program coordinator for ADRA Canada.





Dear It Is Written . . .

We get literally hundreds of pieces of correspondence every week. I try to read as much of it myself as I can. The other day this letter came across my desk, and I have not stopped thinking about it since.

Dear It Is Written Canada

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May God continue to shower you all with His riches in glory. I've been watching *It Is Written* for the past 10 years. I'm unable to help abundantly in finance, but my prayers are ever ascending on high to our Heavenly Father who will never withhold His blessings.

Previously I wrote to you about my son, Mark, who is serving a life sentence for a crime of which he is innocent. He has already lost 10 years of being a father to his five sons. He is now 47 years old. He has always loved the Lord but became cold for some time and did not attend church even though he was very careful to see that his family continued to attend.

I give glory to God for giving Mark a chance to renew his life commitment to Him. Since his incarceration, the prison ministry in his area has been revived. Five years ago, Mark's cellmate accepted the Adventist message and was baptized. I sent them the entire DVD and CD collection from the evangelistic series in Winnipeg with Pastor Bill Santos, and as a result, 12 inmates were baptized on November 15, 2008.

Mark was always a worker for Jesus, participating in crusades all over our area, until he became cold. I said to him: "Like Jonah, you tried to run, but now, trapped as if in the bowels of the whale, you are doing God's bidding"

Would you kindly write a letter of encouragement for me? Thanks and God bless every one of you.

Your sister in Christ, Jean

I trust you also will not soon forget Mark and his prison evangelistic efforts. Please keep him in your prayers. And please pray for your It Is Written Canada team as we continue to do our best to complete the work. ■

Bill Santos is the speaker-director of It Is Written Canada.

Declining Enrollments



BY DENNIS
MARSHALL

CHALLENGE AND CHANGE—PART 3

In the face of a global economic crisis, with unemployment rising to unprecedented levels in the USA and Canada, is there a bright future for Adventist education in Canada? Our recent survey of school administrators, teachers, support staff and school board members revealed both the good and the bad about Adventist education. In my previous article (January 2009), I highlighted the good things stakeholders said about Adventist education in Canada. In this article, I'll spotlight a few of the criticisms and give some insights from my analysis about the future of Adventist education.

What did stakeholders feel needed improving in our schools? School supporters attribute declining enrolment in Adventist schools to school personnel, its educational program, school facilities, inadequate marketing, school finance, and leadership support.

Personnel

Lack of vision and long range planning by school administration and poor communication with parents which resulted in misunderstandings, disagreements and hard feelings were the main charges made against the school administration by 26 per cent of respondents. They also complained that teaching principals were overworked and were incapable of managing their schools effectively when simultaneously carrying a heavy teaching load.

Some respondents cited disagreements between school boards and principals as negatively affecting school growth. Others cited the lack of leadership skills in some principals, recognizing that many assume their role without any formal training in school administration. Some principals were also criticized for their inability to effectively discipline students and create a positive learning environment. Some teachers were criticized for being divisive instead of cohesive, for not fostering a team spirit.

Educational Program—Criticism of the academic program varied. Seventeen per cent of respondents commented on the low academics and the perception that public schools provide more opportunities for academic achievement. They emphasized the need to include more options such as art, drama, business and technical/vocational subjects. They wanted classes that catered to their children's giftedness and other exceptional needs. They wanted French immersion programs and more extra-curricular activities/sports, especially at the secondary level. They wanted schools to demonstrate high-quality academics through national test scores. One respondent captured the sentiment of the respondents by saying, "If we were more seen as offering a quality education and striving for academic excellence, more people might be encouraged to send their children."

School Plant/Facilities—Another main area of criticism was the school's physical plant, its facilities and location. Twenty-three per cent of respondents identified the school plant/facilities and location as a definite weakness in the Adventist school system. "Our facilities are deteriorating. We are trying to raise money to build a new school," said one respondent. "Transportation is very difficult for the students and their parents, and it is difficult to get the parents to volunteer and be involved because we are somewhat out of the way," observed another. Respondents complained that their school was too small, lacked adequate classroom space, and had no gym for physical education classes, no cafeteria and no library. They complained about the unattractive physical appearance of their school buildings and the inappropriateness of having to hold school in the basement of churches.

Marketing—Seventeen per cent of respondents linked low school enrolment to poor marketing of Adventist education. Low school enrolment creates the perception that Adventist schools are inferior. Stakeholders contended that the small school image presents a negative image to the public, indicating a school with limited subject offerings, few teachers, and multi-grade classes. Low enrollment, they argued, "is a sign of non-growth, a school that is struggling to stay open." Stakeholders asserted that the lack of a marketing budget and a carefully thought through marketing strategy contributed to the low school enrollment in many of their schools. Effective marketing necessitated the support of key stakeholders.

Finance—Lack of funds was cited as a weakness by 10 per cent of respondents. Funds were needed to lower school fees, to renovate and maintain school plants, to replace outdated textbooks, to acquire resources such as computer hardware and software, to establish special education programs, to run before- and after-school programs, to operate a bussing service, to hire teaching assistants to ease the instructional load of teaching principals and multi-grade teachers, to purchase gym equipment and to provide budgets for marketing their school.

Leadership Support—Eight per cent of respondents complained about the lack of support for their church school from pastors. They complained about pastors enrolling their children in public schools or other faith-based schools instead of the

Adventist school in their district. They see this as having a negative impact on school enrollment. They expressed concerns about uncooperative and uncommitted parents as well as uncommitted teachers who set low standards for their students. They want pastors to join forces with teachers, parents and students in positive word-of-mouth marketing.

Research on high performing schools demonstrates that they have the following combination of common characteristics: a clear and shared focus; high standards and expectations for all students; effective school leadership; high levels of collaboration and communication; curriculum, instruction and assessments aligned with provincial standards; frequent monitoring of learning and teaching; focussed professional development; a supportive learning environment; and high levels of parent and community involvement.¹ In addition to a spiritual focus and safe environment, Adventist schools must reflect these characteristics in order to retain current students and win the confidence of the 70 per cent of Adventist parents whose children are currently enrolled in other school systems.

Adventists have good schools, but they must become great schools. What steps must be taken along the journey to excellence to make this transformation? To become a great educational system, we must ensure that all our schools are high-performing schools. The following suggestions arising out of the survey can become the catalyst for change:

- Upgrade school facilities and furnish them with an abundance of high quality resources
- Expand the curriculum to include business/technical /vocational and fine arts courses
- Providing for special needs students
- Ensure that teachers are both denominationally and provincially certified and that certification is maintained
- Ensure that principals are certified in school administration
- Establish a bussing service where necessary
- Hold pastors, teachers and school administrators accountable for the success of their school
- Establish scholarships and grants for low income parents
- Require every school to have a marketing plan
- Align curriculum, instruction and assessments with provincial and denominational standards

Is it possible for the Adventist schools in Canada to become great learning institutions? Is it feasible in these difficult economic times to raise the bar of excellence by implementing the above stated imperatives? What will it take to move from the point of challenge to the point of change, from good to great? It will take the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders: the union, conference, church and parents. We must have a shared vision for our schools and re-establish a firm belief in the value and the prophetic mission of Adventist education. It will take this kind of partnership to make us great. ■

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



¹ "Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools." Retrieved January 12, 2009 from (http://maine.gov/education/nclb/school_improvement/ninecharact.pdf)

*Walking
with
Faddele*



ust billows in little clouds around our feet.

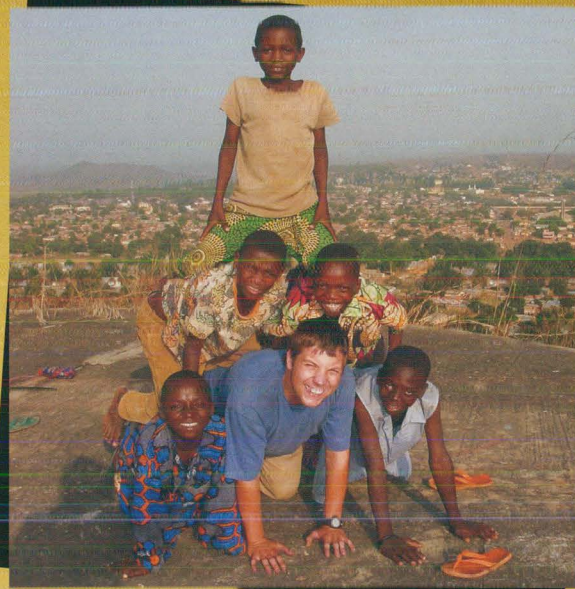
I am walking with Fadele, a friend I met a couple weeks after I arrived here in Natitingou, Benin, to assist Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) missionary, Suzy Baldwin.

I was leery of our friendship at first since some people here want to be friends with white people just for the things they might get, but Fadele has proven to be a real friend. We don't see each other often. He is a busy high-school student, and when he is not in school, he is either studying or on errands for his mother. I appreciate our friendship, but at times he brings out the worst in me. I don't show my agitation outwardly, but inwardly it irks me. You see, Fadele walks very slowly with a severe limp. (I have not asked him what caused his limp.) Me, I like to get places and get things done. This drive is positive in many ways, but it can propel me right past people—people like Fadele.

As Fadele and I walk, he smiles a lot and talks a lot, too. I cut my usual walking speed in half to march his. With every step, God teaches me. I see how much more patient I need to be with everyone. I realize that even if I do not always see eye to eye with this culture, I must not get angry. I begin to grasp that when a child is disrespectful or a young person misses church, there is always a story behind the problem, usually involving family dysfunction. I begin to see people as Jesus sees them—as treasures. I am reminded that I am just like Fadele spiritually. I limp along, stumbling and even falling, yet God patiently walks beside me, picking me up, smiling lots, and always loving me.

In my few months here in Benin, I have met many more Fadeles. By God's grace, I am learning to be patient with all of them, no matter if their limp is physical, emotional, social or spiritual. I ask God to remind me that I limp, too, and that He wants to heal us all. He can make us whole again—spiritually here on earth, and someday physically in Heaven.

At Suzy's house, there is a book of official photographs from the film *The Passion of the Christ*. One picture always captivates me; it's Simon of Cyrene and Jesus struggling with the cross. Simon is using all his might,



supporting the cross as well as Jesus. Jesus' face is marked with the most intense fatigue and agony. Here the King of the Universe being supported by a stranger, a Jew from a far country come to celebrate the Passover. John 1:14 begins, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . ." The Word came not simply to preach, to teach and to heal, but to dwell—to dwell to the point of becoming dependent on a feeble human just to walk. And He asks me to dwell, too—to become the Word made flesh in Benin. God sent me here to dwell, and God has sent you to dwell. To walk, to talk, to love, to live among people and limp alongside them. It is my prayer and Jesus' prayer (John 17) that you and I may dwell as He dwelt, even to give up our lives for one another. ■

Eric Anderson is a student missionary with AFM in Natitingou, Benin, West Africa. Before his current venture, he was a student at Canadian University College studying Adventure-based Counseling and Theology. You can read more about his experiences at ericinbenin.blogspot.com.





“Joe wh

Many people, when you mention Joe Clark, still look blank and ask, “Joe Who?”

Never mind that the unknown Prairie kid and his Conservatives overthrew the flamboyant Pierre Trudeau and broke the stranglehold that the Liberals had on Canadians for 16 years. Never mind that, at 39, Joe Clark became the youngest Prime Minister that the country has ever had. To most Canadians he still is “Joe Who?”

One reason for Joe’s anonymity may be that, as with Prince Charles of Great Britain, the media tended to focus on his wife. Feminism was still a new idea in the late ‘70s, and Maureen McTeer, an author and lawyer specializing in medical cases, opted to keep her maiden name—undoubtedly for professional reasons, yet chauvinists were all too willing to charge her with egotism. Others conceded that she might have kept her name to avoid negative publicity for her husband. After all, who likes a lawyer?

Whatever the reason, Maureen kept her own name and did her own thing, and because of negative perception by the public, this proved to be a disadvantage to her husband’s career. As a result, Joe Clark, who unquestionably has a claim to fame, became known as “Joe Who?”

Names are important. My father was named after a relative nobody liked, and the stigma followed him. When my husband was a teenager, his father did not give him many rules. He just told him, “All I ask is that you use your head so that you won’t bring disgrace to our family name.”

Perhaps that’s why God, when He wrote the Ten Commandments, included one about His name. You know what it says, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” I used to think this just prohibited swearing, but now I’m convinced that it goes much deeper than that.

Isaiah was prophesying about a time when some women wanted to do their own thing, yet unlike the politico Maureen McTeer, (she also ran for office, unsuccessfully) they desperately wanted to adopt a husband’s name. Isaiah 4:1 says that “seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, ‘We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; only let us be called by your name.’” Isaiah wasn’t talking about polygamy initiated by women. Instead, he was talking about the church and her relationship to Christ. He was talking about people who call themselves Christian, yet are very un-Christlike in their words and actions. Changing

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BY ELFRIEDE VOLK

their name did not bring about a change in behavior. In essence, they took the name of the Lord in vain.

Gandhi reportedly said that if Christians demonstrated the qualities found in the life of Christ, all India would be Christian. Unfortunately, India is a country where Christians are persecuted most fiercely. Why? Because we have talked the talk yet failed to walk the walk. We have demonstrated that we were Christian in name only, and that has turned people off. We have put self first, and on the rare occasions when we tried to witness, the response has been, "Jesus Who?"

But there are exceptions. Both Amarjit and Jaswinder* are teachers. When Jaswinder was a child, his mother became Christian, and persecution from neighbors drove the little family out of the village. The experience left Jaswinder very reluctant to witness for his faith . . . until recently.

With fewer than 10% of the villagers literate, the couple began tutoring children who would otherwise have no chance at an education. Then they began visiting their neighbors, caring for those who were sick. Amarjit began cooking large meals on Fridays after work, so she would have food to share with others on Sabbath. And people began to notice and wonder why

they were so different. This gave them an opportunity to share Christ, and people were receptive.

Needing a place to worship with their new brothers and sisters, Amarjit sold her jewelry to buy land on which to build a church. When they could not get permission to build a church, they built a prayer hall, which is filled to capacity each Sabbath from early in the morning until late at night. On Sabbath afternoons, after the meal that Amarjit provides, those who can, read well-known portions of Scripture while the others repeat the verses after them. In this way even the illiterate have memorized the Ten Commandments, the 23rd Psalm and the Beatitudes. Now they are working on the book of Revelation, and their church membership is growing.

Gandhi's formula for Christianizing does not only work in India. It can work for us, too, wherever we are. When we don't take God's name in vain, when we are Christians in deed rather than in name only, God will be glorified and His church will grow. Then, very soon, no one will need to ask, "Jesus Who?" ■

Elfriede Volk writes from Summerland, B.C. Together with her husband, she enjoys conducting ShareHim campaigns both at home and abroad.

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Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Creative Ministry—Candy Cane Distribution in Regina



Regina's candy cane distribution team.

The Christmas season was upon us, and members of the Hill Avenue Seventh Day Adventist Church in Regina were looking for a creative way to spread Christmas cheer across the city. Out of this eagerness to reach people in Regina, an idea was proposed to distribute candy canes to people across the city and the students at the University of Regina. It was on December 4 that a group of eight individuals traveled to the University of Regina to deliver more than 600 candy canes to the student population. On each of these candy canes was a message that wished the students well on their upcoming finals and an enjoyable holiday season. The candy canes were well received by the students as many were thrilled at the generosity of those who delivered the candy canes.

On December 13, when temperatures were bitterly cold

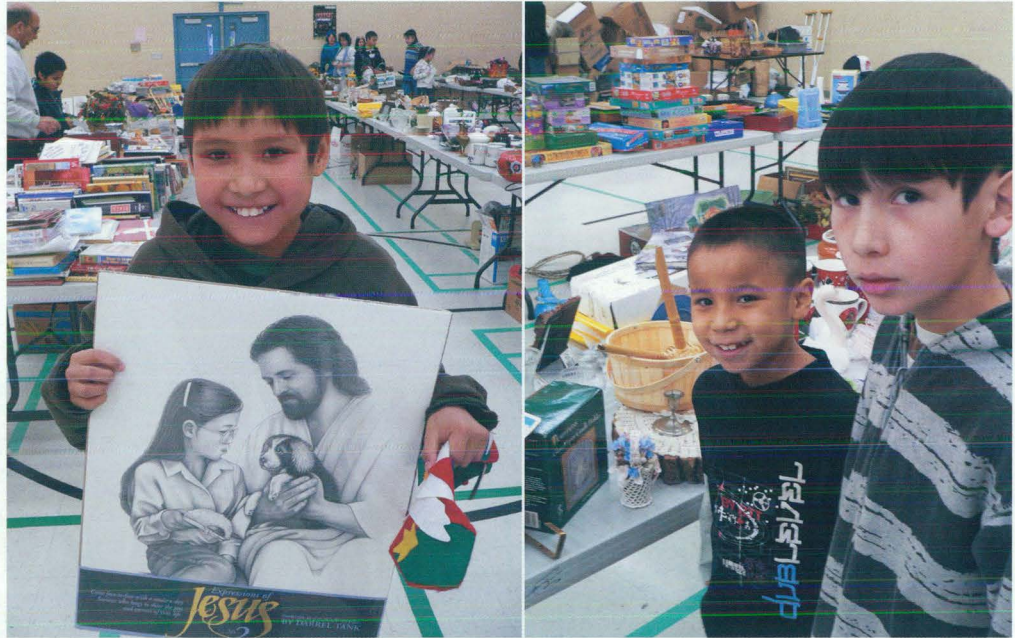
(approximately -47°C with windchill), a group of 10 decided to brave the elements to hand out more than 1000 candy canes to shoppers in Northgate Mall and in downtown Regina as a way of bringing Christmas cheer and promoting the upcoming Christmas pageant. To individuals tired and worn out from shopping, these candy canes were a welcome treat many. In a few short hours, all 1000 candy canes were delivered, and those who handed out the canes knew that they had helped to spread some Christmas cheer. It was a real mission endeavor to take the time to deliver these, but also to make the tags and attach them to each cane, and we appreciate everyone who was involved. This was a total church effort that helped to bring some joy at a stressful time of year for those in Regina. ■

Alberta

MANS's Christmas Shopping Mall

Isn't the mission field a place where we meet the needs of underprivileged, urban street dwellers with soup kitchens and homeless shelters? Or maybe the term mission field reminds us more of third world countries with poorly clothed and underfed children begging in the streets to stay alive another day? Or maybe the closest our thoughts get to the mission field is the World Vision magnet on the fridge?

Here at Mamawi, we are face to face with genuinely underprivileged children every day. This mission field is right here in Alberta. It's a side of Canada that most people have never seen—a place where many students have not known a “regular” childhood. Their families lack the means to give them a ride to a friend's house or to church; they don't have the latest toys or games, and, more importantly, their basic needs are not being met, either. The only jackets the children have are inadequate for the frigid winter months where temperatures can hover at -30°C degrees. At Mamawi, breakfast and lunch programs at school are used by many of the students because they come to school without having had either. Many of the children return to homes after school that have windows broken or boarded up, and, inside there is only haggard furnishings, scant provisions, and an absence of direction that leave a void of hope. Alcohol and drugs are prevalent and are the tools of gangs trying to control the lives of the youth. Driving through the reserve, you see that bullet holes from powerful weapons dot some of the homes. Gang violence and domestic abuse are widespread. It is an environment that creates



Happy “shoppers” at Mamawi Atosketan Native School.

ubiquitous fear in the young hearts of the students who attend Mamawi. Can we change this? Maybe. Maybe not. Few are called to spearhead societal revolutions. But each of us is called to show the love of Christ whenever and wherever we can.

At Mamawi we have found a simple vehicle for showing our students the care and love of Christ: we call it the “Mamawi Christmas Shopping Mall.” The shopping mall is not an easy undertaking. To be frank, it would make the hustle and bustle of Christmastime much easier if we were to forget the whole idea. However, every late night pick up, every kilometer driven, every minute spent organizing and displaying the items and every moment of clean up are more than worth the work when we see the bright enthusiastic smiles on the students' faces. As they dig through the hundreds of items, generously donated by the residents of Alberta, there is no question in our minds why this is one of the most significant things that we provide for

our students during this season.

This year, as the date for the “mall” was getting closer, I began to get a little concerned. We had not received many donated items, and I thought we would have to either cancel the event or perhaps have only selected grades go “shopping.” We began to pray for an influx of items, and God did not disappoint. In the final two weeks before the shopping mall, the phone calls began to come one after the other. I think we may have even surpassed last year's donations. Some churches even took the initiative to put a box in their foyers for donated items, which is greatly appreciated.

As the students pressed their noses to the gym doors, anticipating the moment they could burst through and begin shopping, we were still scrambling to get everything organized. The grades 7, 8, and 9 students did a wonderful job sorting through and categorizing the items. They also did fantastic work in creating gift baskets for moms, dads, grandparents, and siblings, ensuring that single items would be put to good

use. And when it came time to shop, the older students could be seen taking the younger students by the hand and guiding them through the process. Little children with eyes shining in anticipation made sure that all the family members on their lists were taken care of. Some of the older students even helped in the classrooms with wrapping the gifts. So many presents went home that day, that we almost did not have room for the students on the buses! But we

managed to squeeze in everyone and everything in time for Christmas. What a joy it was for the staff to watch the excitement, energy, and eagerness of the students as they took their gifts home to their families.

Without the big-hearted people of Alberta, this crucial event would not even happen. There are no words to say how grateful we are for the role you play in putting smiles on our students' faces. We cannot effectively

express how thankful we are to have you on our team, sharing the love of Christ. By your sacrifices, you made the Christmas season brighter for our students. All we can say is *thank you!* May God bless you in the upcoming year as much as you have blessed our students, staff, and the school. ■

—Julie Bancarz,
MANS principal

Chinook Winds Adventist Academy California Tour



A surge of excitement filled the room as our choir and band director, Greg Kapiniak, announced a choir tour to California for all senior high students at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy. We squealed with enthusiasm and elation, our eyes dilated with vivacity and passion was soon carved deeply into our singing and performances. After months of studious hard work, generous aid from sponsors and practicing during school and after school, we were ready for the California Tour of 2008!

On November 4, we—23 students and four sponsors—embarked on a journey to demonstrate our God-given gifts through the medium of music. Late that night, we arrived in Los Angeles,

exhausted but grateful. We had all made it through US Customs without incident and arrived in California safely. Spending our first two nights at La Sierra University, we were given the opportunity to tour the La Sierra campus, indulge in their delicious cafeteria food, and meet the La Sierra Chamber Singers and their director, Dr. Richards, who was gracious enough to take the time to instruct us on how to improve our vocal technique. Following our campus tour, we performed at the Loma Linda Valley Villa, a senior citizens' home in Loma Linda. Dressed in our crisp uniforms and pleased smiles, we were well-appreciated, greatly welcomed, and gratefully thanked.

In addition, other venues of our performances throughout the tour included the following: Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian School, Friday vespers at the South Bay Adventist Church (San Diego), Sabbath church service at the Murrieta Springs Church, and Conejo Adventist Elementary School, as well as a couple of 'impromptu' performances on the flight to California and in a hot air balloon high above the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Being so fond of singing, we were willing to sing anywhere we went and whenever anyone would listen.

Sunday was one of the favourite days of the tour because each of us could choose how we wanted to spend the

day. Of course, the choices were not easy, with the options being Disneyland, Six Flags or an NBA Clippers game. Of course, we also took time to visit the ocean, Sea World, Hollywood and shopping!

We could not forget one of the most important items on the agenda: the opportunity to grow spiritually. The theme of our tour program (Portraits of Grace) as well as the tour

experience itself, brought to life the songs we sang. From witnessing the many wonders of God's creation at the Wild Animal Park and the scenic views during our drives, we were shown firsthand His works of art.

Throughout this tour we had to learn to be patient with one another and practice being flexible; things don't always turn out exactly as planned! But through these experiences, we developed

close bonds with one another. As some of us became sick near the end of tour and as some needed help looking for lost items, we all realized that we are one family and that we need each other, we are dependent on one another and, overall, we are united through God, His gift of music, and "The Many Faces of Grace." ■

—Joy Launio, student

Ontario

Changing Faces Youth Evangelistic Series

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jer. 29:11KJV

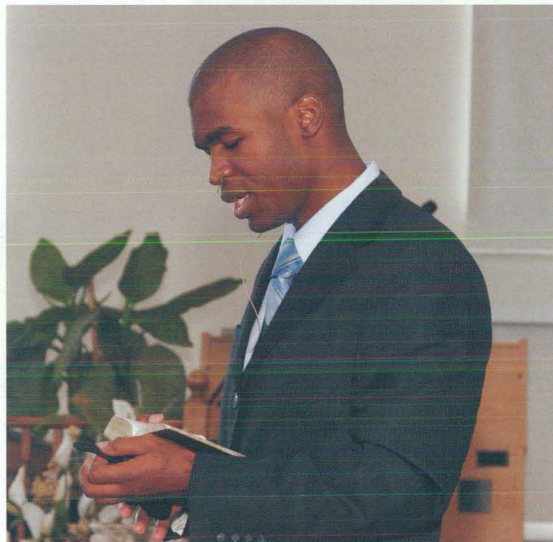
These words rang out every evening after Kenton Perrin finished his sermons. The Changing Faces youth evangelistic series was a dynamic collection of presentations geared towards the youth of Apple Creek church and the surrounding areas. The meetings began on October 18, 2008 and were titled "One Bust Seven Bangs"—a detailed look into the creation of the world and how a loving God interacted with his creation and laid plans for their redemption.

At the very outset, the goal of Perrin and the Youth Coordinating Council (YCC) was to present the word of God and promote Christian values in a different way than previous times. Each night had special features such as prize giveaways and trivia. The youth were encouraged to bring their friends, and parents their children. Another

goal of the YCC was to keep the programs "short and spicy" with the aim to finish by 8:30 nightly. This goal was consistently met.

The series contained some elements never seen before in ministry. The sermons contained videos dealing with current issues that affect youth. Perrin used these videos as a springboard into his sermon, bringing closer to home the relevance of the Bible to the present times. The team ensured that the content was relevant and applicable to some of the issues that the youth of today face and how the promises of the Bible give us hope for the future. Three individuals were baptized at the end of the series. They are a welcome addition to the family of the Apple Creek Youth Society.

The series ended on November 8



Kenton Perrin

with "Stunt 101." This grand finale was an entertaining and encouraging look at the promise of heaven and how earthly treasures pale in comparison to our awaiting mansions. ■

—Andrew Porteous, member

German Camp Meeting—May 1-3, 2009

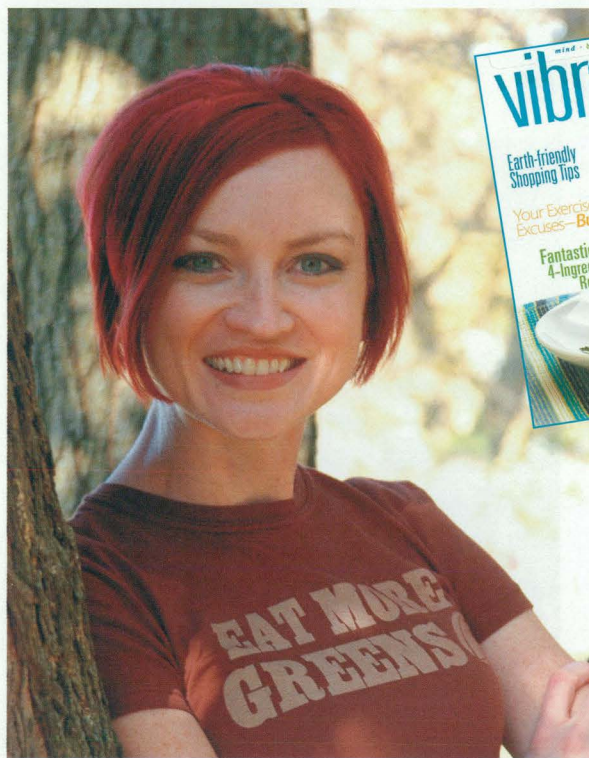
Mountain View Camp (Camp Hope's "Youth Hill"), 61855 Lougheed Highway, Hope, B.C.

Georg Grellmann, former Pastor of the Winnipeg German SDA Church, author of *My Enemy, My Brother* will be a featured speaker. Bring your German Bible; musical instruments; and special music for blessings in worship; and delicious German food for the potluck. For room and camping reservations call 604/869-2615. For more information contact Reiner Kupperts at 604/826-0300; email rkupperts@telus.net.

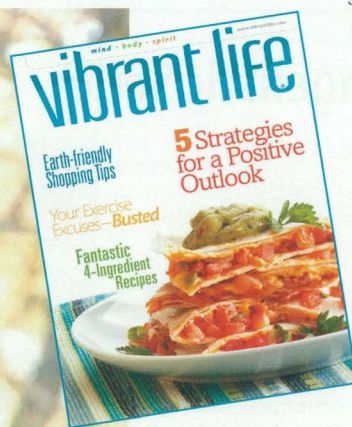
North American Division

Keepin' It Fresh

Vibrant Life Editor Giving Health Message a New Twist



Heather Quintana



This year, the church's health journal, *Vibrant Life*, is heading in a new direction. Heather Quintana, the editor, talks about the changes:

What new approaches are you taking toward the health message?

Jesus spent a lot of time healing mind, body, and spirit. *Vibrant Life* shares His ministry by meeting people where they are and by providing information and encouragement that will help them live abundantly.

We strive to present health principles in a modern way that works for people who are busy. We want to give practical, affordable suggestions that fit into demanding schedules and help people prevent and fight disease. For example, some upcoming topics include healthy foods for less than 50 cents, five-minute health boosters, four-ingredient healthy recipes, the benefits of Sabbath rest, and simple exercises you can do at home without equipment or a gym membership.

When people open the magazine, they'll see a fresh, new design full of color and life. There are more links to bonus material on the website, vibrantlife.com. For the first time we have a regular column and a blog about going green that describes how we can be better stewards of our environment. We have a Trend Watch

column that offers a holistic, Adventist perspective on health fads; a variety of accomplished chefs sharing their favorite recipes; first-hand experiences about making healthy changes; and more information for young families trying to make healthy choices.

How are you incorporating spirituality into health?

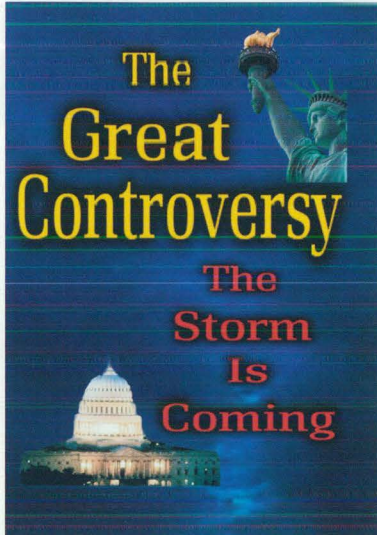
Spirituality is a beautiful component of overall health. Having a relationship with God empowers people to make positive changes in their lives. If you're struggling with depression or hopelessness, it affects your activity level, your diet, and your overall wellbeing. Conversely, when your life includes healthy components such as rest, healthful foods, strong relationships, fresh air and exercise; you've cleared the way for spiritual growth. *Vibrant Life* recognizes the undeniable connection of the mental, physical, and spiritual components of life.

Who is *Vibrant Life* written for?

Whether you are fit and vigorous or struggling with health problems, *Vibrant Life* has information that will help you move closer to the life you were designed to live. Most importantly, the magazine is created for sharing the Adventist approach to health and wholeness. It's a wonderful way to introduce people to God's plan for us to have harmony of mind, body, and spirit. You can give subscriptions to neighbors, friends, or coworkers; order a stack to place in a local grocery store, business, or doctor's office; or use it as a part of local church health initiatives, such as blood drives or cooking classes. ■

To receive a free trial issue of *Vibrant Life*, please call us at 800/456-3991 or visit us at www.vibrantlife.com.

BIG PLANS for *The Great Controversy*



Jack Henderson of Hendersonville, North Carolina, used to sell *The Great Controversy* as a literature evangelist. Now he wants to give it away—to everybody! On January 12, he announced his “Great Controversy Project” on 3ABN’s *Today* show. He plans to send Ellen White’s book to every home in the country.

It’s an ambitious goal, but people are catching the vision. Donors are calling with small and large gifts to support the project. Already, money has been raised to send several hundred thousand copies. The staff at the Review and Herald Publishing Association (who prints the books for Henderson and mails them out) has been overwhelmed by calls. “The calls have been coming in at such a rate that as we deal with one call, three others have had to leave a message,” says Howard Scoggins, an administrator at the Review and Herald. “The fire has spread to Australia, Canada and England.”

A physician called who had worked

her way through school selling *The Great Controversy*. She wanted to send the book to everyone in her zip code. Another caller wanted to blanket the area around his Utah home because this was the book that had brought him into the church.

Employees at the Review and Herald are so enthused that some have pledged as much as two or three week’s salary to support the project, according to Scoggins.

Henderson likes to quote a letter written in 1905 by Ellen White in which she said “I am more anxious to see a wider circulation for this book than for any others that I have written; for in *The Great Controversy*, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books.”

“Seeing people respond from all over the world, tells me that people want to see this work finished,” says Henderson.

For more information, visit www.ReviewandHerald.com. ■

SDA Church in Canada

New PARL Director/Legal Counsel



Grace Mackintosh

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is pleased to welcome Grace Mackintosh to our staff. Grace comes to us from Calgary, Alberta, to fill the position of Public Affairs/Religious Liberty director and legal counsel—a position left vacant when Barry Bussey took a position with the General Conference.

For several years, Grace has been involved with constitutional issues and matters involving discrimination with respect to human rights codes in Canada. Grace has written policy and represented complainants while working for the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission. She also has represented complainants and respondents in her private practice where she worked with an emphasis

in the employment and governmental sectors.

Grace’s background in health services and her education in science and law are integral to her comprehension of the health sector and its unique challenges. Grace has been involved with legal issues relating to the drafting and creation of service contracts and the governance of service relationships for the Calgary Health Region. Through this involvement, Grace is familiar with issues involving health care providers in hospitals, clinics, home care and congregate living environments. Grace has written and spoken on various charity, health and human rights matters.

Thank you, Grace, for lending your experience and expertise to the Church in Canada! ■

SHARE THE HOPE

Our desire is to reach as many people as possible in 2009.

1 Year • 1 Goal • 100,000 Souls

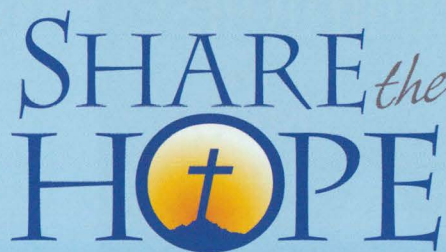
Every Pastor Hold a Spring and Fall Evangelistic Series.

www.sharethehope2009.com

www.sharethehope2009.com

Support for your Church

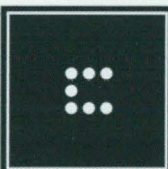
- National website for meeting locations
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May 2009, temporary venue on Andrews University Campus.
May 2010, proposed venue at Canadian University College.

Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Lori MacDonald Imacdonald @sdacc.org or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at www.sdacc.org/messenger.
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Announcements

100th Anniversary Celebration

for the Beiseker Level Land SDA Church July 31- Aug.2, 2009. Please come and celebrate with us! To register and for more information please contact beisekersdachurch@me.com or call 403/947-2909.

Calling all Red River Valley Junior Academy alumni,

former staff, friends and supporters. You are invited to join us in celebrating 85 years of Adventist education in Winnipeg. Our 85th anniversary alumni homecoming weekend will be held Aug. 28-30, 2009 in Winnipeg, Man. For more information, visit www.rrvja.ca or call the alumni hotline at 204/663-5980. (06/09)

New Members

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Holly Anderson, Len LaLiberte and **Roger Stark** were baptized in Creston, B.C. on Dec. 6, 2008 by Ian Cotton. Holly and Len made their decision to be baptized after attending the Discoveries '08 series by Mark Finley. Holly, Len and Roger are now members of the Creston church.

Alana Augustin was baptized in the Shuswap River, B.C. on June 29, 2008 by her grandfather, Victor Gill. She is now a member of the Enderby Adventist church.

Andre Boruck was baptized in Armstrong, B.C. on April 17, 2008 by Cam Koronko. He is now a member of the Enderby church.

Nikki Kostrosky was rebaptized and **Scott Wareham** was baptized in the Shuswap River, B.C. on July 19, 2008 by Cam Koronko. They were baptized after attending a prophecy seminar by Matt Parra. They are now members of the Armstrong Adventist Church.

Evalon and **Michala Matthew** were baptized in the Shuswap River on Sept. 13, 2008 by Cam Koronko. They were baptized after attending a prophecy seminar by Matt Parra. They are now members of the Armstrong Adventist Church.

Tyler Meier was baptized and **Ryan Seigl** was rebaptized in Armstrong, B.C. by Cam Koronko. Ryan was baptized after studying with Pastor Koronko, and Tyler was rebaptized after attending a prophecy seminar by Matt Parra. Tyler is now a member of the Armstrong Adventist church. Ryan is now a member of the Salmon Arm Adventist church.

Elena Ryzhukhin was baptized in Aldergrove, B.C. on Dec. 20, 2008 by Davidson Jamieson. She is now a member of the Aldergrove Adventist Church.

Joanna Zelaney was baptized in the Shuswap River, B.C. on Aug. 16, 2008 by Cam Koronko after attending a prophecy seminar by Matt Parra. She is now a member of the Enderby Adventist Church.

ALBERTA

Rebecca Alai, Jeanelle Tharte-Agard, Elijah Black, Shane-Lee Chan, Shannon Chan, Shenda Chimwoso, Shefreen Clarke, Garth Constantine, Breann Coutain, Brandon Coutain, Marcus Douglas, Kayla Elliott, Runako Yohance Ferary, Verona Harvey, Misha Kopciuk, Kisela Marie Kopciuk, Gertrude Lamontagne, Champaigne T. Massiah and **Janice Kathleen Mihut** were baptized on Oct. 18, 2008 in Calgary, Alta. They are now members of the Bridgeland Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Marife C. Agres, Timothy Alai, Abraham Dassin, Evelyn De Rosee, Kevin Duhaney, Sydonnie Harvey, SallyAnn Isaac, Janiece Kinlock, Eval Ming, Ken Morrison, Damaris Muthanji, Marilynd Noxolo Maseko,

Anita Ramos, Moses Mathias Muthanji and **Aki Yuge** were baptized in Calgary, Alta. on Oct. 25, 2008 by Samuel Telemaque. They are now members of the Bridgeland Seventh-day Adventist Church.

SASKATCHEWAN

Nana Bonsu was baptized in Regina, Sask. on July 19, 2008 by Darren Godsoe. He is now a member of the Regina Hill Avenue Church.

Marcos and **Renee Carrizo** were baptized in Regina, Sask on Dec. 20, 2008 by Darren Godsoe. They are now members of the Regina Spirit of Truth Community Church.

Births

Morgan Amanda Ashworth was born Mar. 8, 2008 to Debbie (Cranna) and Jeremy Ashworth of Regina, Sask.

Levi Diesel Deer was born Feb. 29, 2008 to Sheila (Cranna) and Tim Deer of Canora, Sask.

Grace Joy Khyzym was born Mar. 6, 2008 to Manal and Michael Khyzym of Regina, Sask.

Izabella Chane Magnusson was born Apr. 7, 2008 to Mackenzie Magnusson of Regina, Sask.

Bree Brenda Maitland was born Oct. 11, 2008 to Nicole (Evenson) and Glenn Maitland of Kisbey, Sask.

Weddings

Lorna Jean Briggs and **Donald Mazier** were married Oct. 24, 2008 in Hazelton, B.C. in a quiet home setting attended by close friend.

Melinda Hall and **Vincent Drouin** were married June 22, 2008 in Terrace, B.C. and are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Melinda is the daughter of Larry and Janet Hall of Lacombe, Alta. and Vincent is the son of Serge and Monique Drouin of Terrace.

Leah Kumpolt and **Olivier Drouin** were married Mar. 24, 2008 in Rosswood, B.C. and are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Leah is the daughter of David and Renie Kumpolt of Terrace, B.C. and Olivier is the son of Serge and Monique Drouin also of Terrace.

Obituaries

Clifford Clark was born May 15, 1919 in Lacombe, Alta. and died

Nov. 5, 2008 in Medicine Hat, Alta. Clifford served as a member of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference executive committee and on the board of Canadian University College. Surviving: wife Carol; sons Larry (Anita) of Yakima, Wash. and Robert (Dawn) of Shaunavon, Sask.; daughters Marilyn (Steve) Schiller of La Mirada, Calif., Lois Codington of Hendersonville, N.C., Isabel Clark of Calgary, Alta. and Sheila Clark of Lacombe; brother Willis; 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Denise (van Mentz) Eckstadt was born June 5, 1919 in Johannesburg, South Africa and died Sept. 27, 2008 in Salmon Arm, B.C. Denise was a charter member of the Salmon Arm church. She also worked as a colporteur and as a columnist for her local newspaper, by which she kept her community informed of church activities. She is predeceased by her first husband Emil Eckstadt, her second husband Alex Eckstadt and her daughter Rhoda. Surviving: daughters Diana Walker of Vancouver, B.C., Roselyn (Keith) Phare, and Goldie Denise (Denny) Caldwell both of Salmon Arm; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Jacob K. Fehr was born Sept. 18, 1918 in Friedensruh, Man. and died Nov. 5, 2008 in Stanley, Man. He served his church as head elder, deacon and was a charter member of the Morden/Winkler Seventh-day Adventist group. He is predeceased by his son Kenneth. Surviving: wife Justina; sons David (Loretta) of Calgary, Alta., Cornelius (Joy) of Lacombe, Alta. and Paul (Brenna) of Darlingford, Man.; daughters Justina (Ron) Stagg of St. Johns, N.L., Sara (Richard) Bell of Lloydminster, Alta. and Betty (Rudy) Ens of Morden, Man.; 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Bernard Grovet was born May 4, 1930 in Galahad, Alta. and died April 7, 2008 in Killam, Alta. Bernard served as an elder of the Sedgewick church until the time of his death. Surviving: wife Nadine; sons Douglas (Heather) of Galahad, Kevin (Dodi) of N.M. and Robert (Sherilyn) of Galahad.

Eric Hammergren was born Jan. 7, 1930 in Calgary, Alta. and died Nov. 27, 2008 in Taber, Alta. He is predeceased by his parents George and Hilder, his brother Stanley and sisters Dorothy, Vera and Pearl.

Lloyd Kenneth Hanson was born Aug. 5, 1935 in Prince Rupert, B.C. and died Oct. 2, 2008 in Redlands, Calif. Surviving: wife Yvonne; son Scott of Seattle, Wash.; daughter

Danielle (Louis) Grijalva of San Jose, Calif.; brothers Delbert (Carolyn) of Duncan, B.C., Donald (Winnie) of Sidney, B.C. and Beverly (Edith) of Charlottetown, P.E.I.; sister Lorraine (Frank) Pernigoni of Cobble Hill, B.C.; and three grandchildren.

Annie (Kantor) Krivoshein was born Oct. 29, 1913 in Czechoslovakia and died Sept. 24, 2008 in Leamington, Ont. Annie served for many years as the Dorcas leader for the church in Beaver Creek, Sask. She is predeceased by her first husband, Franz Eiselt and her second husband Steve Krivoshein. Surviving: daughters Margaret Franklin of B.C., Renate Wehtje of Mass. and Dorothy James of B.C.; sisters Helen Weis of N.C., Emily Radostis of Mich. and Eva Fowler of Ont.; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Norman Grant McMurray was born Nov. 1, 1946 in Saskatoon, Sask. and died Sept. 4, 2008 in Eastend, Sask. Norman served as Pathfinder director in Calgary, Alta., worked with Native groups in Northwestern B.C. and formed the gospel group Celebration. Surviving: wife Linda, son Travis (Kimberly) of Ponoka, Alta., daughter Jody of Calgary, and brother Richard of Eastend.

Ramnarine Ramharacksingh was born Jan. 10, 1931 in Caratal Village, Trinidad and died Dec. 7, 2008 in Barrie, Ont. Ramnarine served his church as deacon and elder in Trinidad, England, and in the Willowdale, Oshawa and Barrie, Ont. churches. He is predeceased by his wife Alice. Surviving: daughters Ellen Brady of Barrie and Esther (Ronald) Knott of Berrien Springs, Mich.; brothers Annan Ramharack, Dipnarine Ramharack, Danesh Ramharack and Robin Ramharack; sister Denacy Basdeo; and two grandchildren.

Annie (Donesky) Ramsay was born Oct. 1, 1915 in Struan, Sask. and died July 25, 2008 in Saskatoon, Sask. Surviving: sons Bob, Don, Carson, Jack, Rod, Harvey and Homer.

Ruth (Nasipayko) SanJenko was born June 24, 1922 in Arlee, Sask. and died Dec. 10, 2008 in Vegreville, Alta. Ruth served her church as colporteur and deaconess in Calgary and music chorister and greeter in Vegreville. She sewed and crocheted hundreds of baby quilts and thousands of cushions for ADRA. Surviving: husband Fred SanJenko; daughters Grace SanJenko of Edmonton, Alta., Darlene Rastegar and Jane (Lee) Farrow both of Vegreville; and

brother Bill (Aris) Nelson of Osoyoos, B.C.

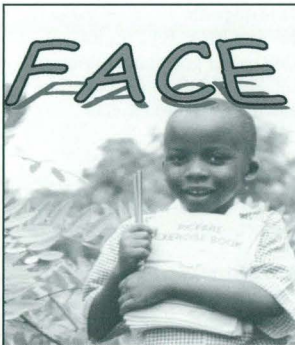
Ernest David Siemens was born Jan. 17, 1925 in Langham, Sask. and died Oct. 16, 2008 in Rocky Mountain House, Alta. Ernest shared his artistic talents painting the mural surrounding the baptistry in the Lacombe Community church. Surviving: wife Olive; sons David (Gina), Walter (Jean), Ronald, Terry and Dale (Barb); daughter Marnie (Jeff) Ackerman; brother Ben; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Ida (LaMarche) Thomson was born June 1, 1923 in Regina, Sask. and died Aug. 21, 2008 in Victoria, B.C. Surviving: husband Frank; son Ray Poirier of Grand Prairie, Alta.; and brother Lawrence LaMarche of Vancouver.

Herbert John Wecker was born May 8, 1918 in Fox Valley, Sask. and died Oct. 10, 2008 in Lacombe, Alta. Herbert served as builder for the Hill Avenue church in Regina, Sask., the Adventist University of Central Africa in Mudende, Rwanda and the Mamawi Atosketan Native school in Hobbema, Alta. He also participated in many mission trips with Maranatha Volunteers International. He is predeceased by his wife Miriam. Surviving: son Barry (Alberta) of Arthurette, N.B.; daughters Sharon (Rick) Fleck of Vancouver, Wash., Karen of Vancouver, Wash., Cynthia (Dave) Miller of Winnipeg, Man.; brother Walter (Esther) of Kelowna, B.C.; sister Viola Devnich of Lacombe; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Alice (Littman) Werner was born Feb. 19, 1927 in Russia and died Sept. 6, 2008 in Lacombe, Alta. Alice served her church as young people's leader, children's division leader, head deaconess and church clerk. She is predeceased by her husband Elmer. Surviving: son Doug (Patty) of Lacombe; daughter Sylvia Vories of College Place, Wash.; brother Emanuel Jr. (Fran) Littman of Wanham, Alta.; sisters Almeda (Oscar) Werner of Bredenbury, Sask. and Huzella (Ron) Sampsel of Lacombe; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Elvira Renate (Jurke) Zemlyak was born June 8, 1932 in Zittau, Germany and died Dec. 27, 2008 in Halifax, N.S. She is predeceased by her husband Franz and her stepson Joseph. Surviving: son Luke (Vivien) of Calgary, Alta., stepson Frank (Anita) of Murphy's Cove, N.S. and daughter Sonya.



FACE

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Seventh-day Adventist Filipino Certified Childcare Provider is seeking employment in Canada, preferably in B.C. Caregiver would prefer to work for an SDA family. If interested, please contact bel0121@yahoo.com. References available. (05/09)

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All pastors working in Canada are invited to attend the National Ministerial Convention June 21-25 at Canadian University College. Register on the web at www.sdacc.org/specialprojects. Deadline is February 27, 2009. (03/09)

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Kingsway College is inviting all former Aerials for the 25th Year Reunion. Mark your calendars because May 8-10, 2009 will be the most memorable weekend ever. Contact Gary Dooks at dooksg@kingswaycollege.on.ca for more information. Check out our Facebook group “Kingsway College Aerials 25th Year Reunion” for the latest info. (4/09)

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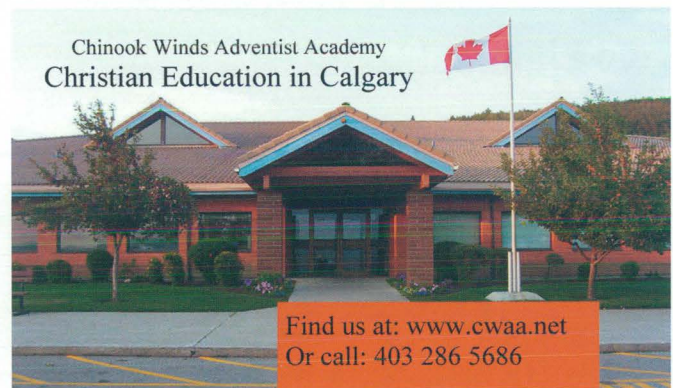
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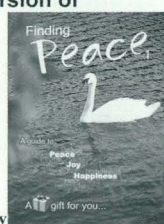
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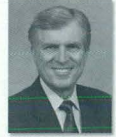
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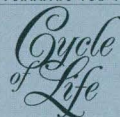
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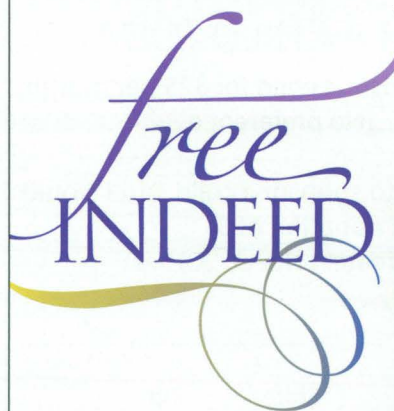
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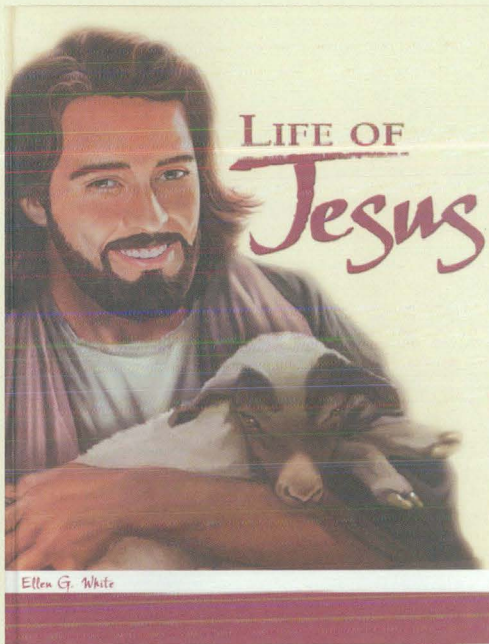
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LIFE OF JESUS



After reviewing *The Perfect Gift* in December, I truly believed, based on the sheer quality of that book's content and presentation, that it would be a tough act to follow. I knew that someday, somewhere, I would find a book that matched or possibly even surpassed *The Perfect Gift* in imparting a compelling account of Christ's ministry here on earth. I didn't realize it would be so soon. Walking into my local Adventist Book Center, a wonderful escape from a hectic schedule, I noted a hardcover book simply entitled *Life of Jesus*. I had noted it before, but it had always been shrink-wrapped. (I rarely purchase a book if I cannot sample it in-store.) However, that day there was a display copy available. It took all of two minutes of scanning before I knew I had to purchase it. I "field-tested" the book with my three-year-old son who quickly opened up the new purchase and exclaimed, "Is that Jesus on the cross?" He persistently petitioned to have that story for worship that night, much to my delight.

Life of Jesus is a beautifully illustrated book that takes a more traditional third-person descriptive approach to Christ's life than the first-person perspective of many parts of *The Perfect Gift*. It is a compilation of passages from Ellen G. White's writings. Although no notation is given anywhere in the book—a flaw that should be corrected in reprinting, if possible—I assume much of it comes from *The Desire of Ages*. The contents are broken into four key aspects of Christ's ministry: Jesus Comes to Earth, Jesus in the Midst of People, The Passion of Christ, and finally Jesus Brings Hope. Each aspect is broken down into smaller chapters, and within those chapters are titled selections which are easy to digest and quick to read. Reading this book for worship has been a pleasant experience as we have chosen a selection or two from each division as requested by each child. I originally thought the diction and style of Ellen White would be too difficult for my young children to comprehend; however, they sat quietly and enjoyed the reading while enraptured by the wonderful illustrations, which is the second strength of this work.

The layout of the book is very child-friendly while still appealing to adults. Each two-page spread has a full wash of colour, making black text on white paper non-existent. The art balances the text, generally splitting the allocation of page resources in an equitable manner, yet the illustrations are not "locked" into a set location on each spread, adding diversity to each turn of the page. The artwork is detailed, vivid and passage-specific. It delights young children who are drawn to the pictures, enticing them to inquire about what they see, providing abundant opportunities to teach them about Christ's ministry.

The appeal of this book is definitely reminiscent of *The Perfect Gift*. Each delivers a wonderful perspective on an ageless message through wonderfully crafted words and images. If you haven't purchased one of these books yet, I highly recommend it. No Christian home should be without a copy. ■

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

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