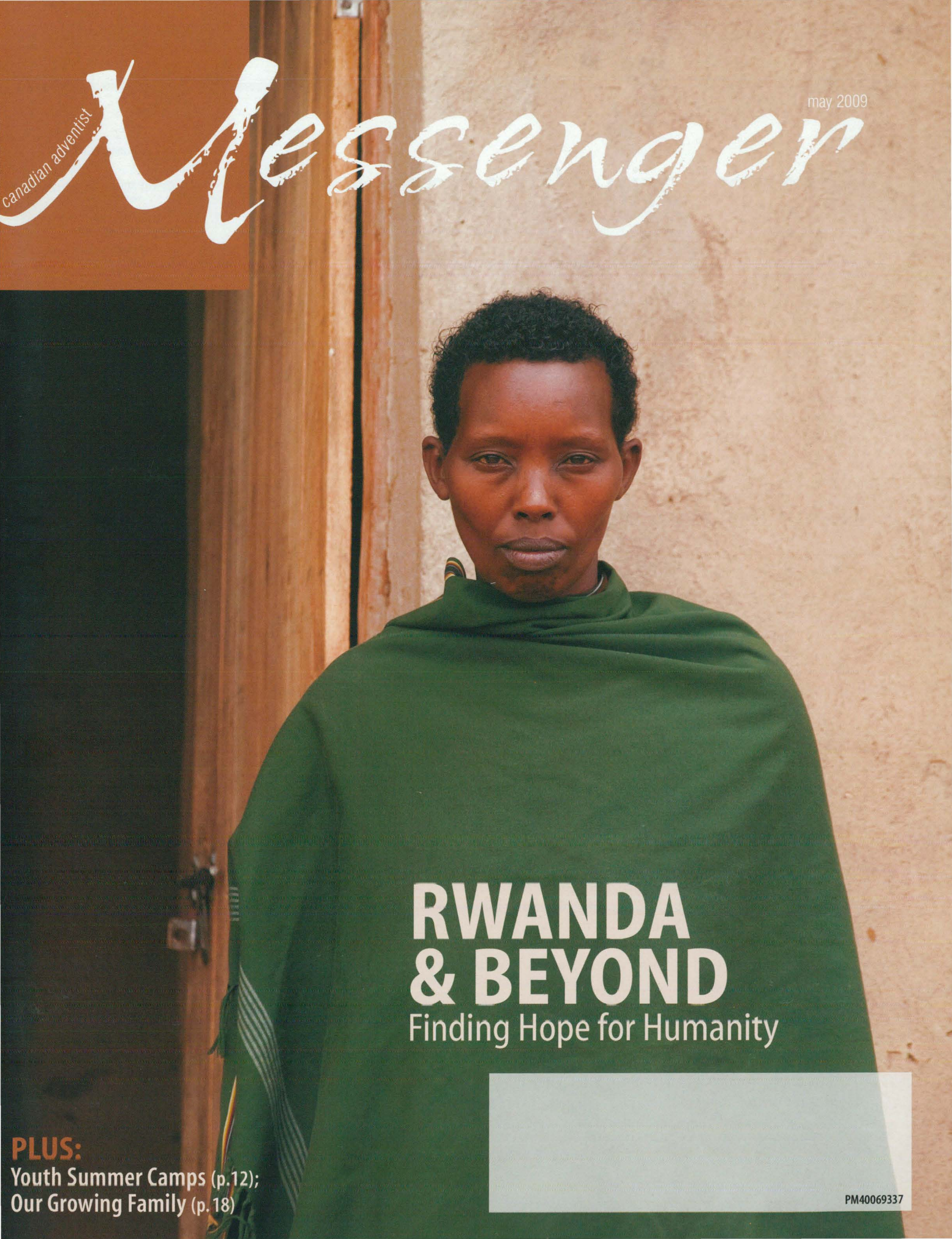


canadian adventist

Messenger

may 2009

A woman with short, dark, curly hair is looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a vibrant green shawl draped over her shoulders. She stands in a doorway, with a wooden door frame to her left and a light-colored, textured wall behind her. The lighting is soft, highlighting her features and the texture of the shawl.

RWANDA & BEYOND

Finding Hope for Humanity

PLUS:
Youth Summer Camps (p.12);
Our Growing Family (p.18)

PM40069337

Remembering Rwanda

For me, Rwanda is a place of contradiction.

As I travelled the country, I couldn't help but see that the landscape was fertile and alive. To my admittedly untrained eye, trees were lush, crops were abundant, colours were rich, and the earth seemed to be popping with life and enthusiasm. In the people, however, life had stopped. We know, of course, that the genocide snuffed out the lives of nearly a million Rwandans 15 years ago, but even in those who remained, it seemed to me there were only wounded souls and broken spirits. Though they breathed and moved, though they ate and slept and talked and walked, it was as if life had stopped for them, as well. I felt almost overwhelmed when I saw their sad, empty eyes and their needs as massive as the mountains that dominated their land.

There were moments when I was jarred and shocked by the contradictions of Rwanda. It challenged all I believed. Ever the journalist, I scrawled notes to myself all the time and everywhere we went. Re-reading them a year later, I find words like, "In my mind, Rwanda is stained. In reality, it is immaculate." I read, "Though the blood no longer runs in the streets, I feel it under my feet when I walk here." I read, "Will Rwanda ever become something else to me? Now it is death. Will tours of orphanages and widows' homes deepen that or change it? Will Rwanda ever include hope? Can Rwanda ever be part of a better world?"

So you might say that my experience with Rwanda, at least the first many days of it, was difficult. To me, everything was in question. Good and bad—concepts that seemed almost irrelevant there—were reversed, for obedience led to slaughter; disobedience was noble. Up was down and down was up. Even at my most observant, I couldn't differentiate between victim and murderer, and in this country weren't those often the same? All around me swirled death and life, evil and good, hate and love, despair and . . .

Well, despair goes with hope, doesn't it? I believe God knew I needed to see that, even there in Rwanda, in the place that has been called the threshold to hell, even there was hope. In my confused stupor, I couldn't find any—didn't think to look for it, in fact. But, thanks to Him and to His people who have been working in and supporting the work in Rwanda, hope found me.

It started when our group visited an orphanage, and I met a very special baby boy named Malik. When we arrived, he was napping. I looked down at him, feeling very sorry for any child growing up inundated by the sadness of that country. But as I watched, he woke, turned his head to look at me and smiled. Smiled the purest, most truly contented smile I'd seen in a long time and certainly the first of its sort I saw in Rwanda. I couldn't help but pick him up and hold him close. He had that perfect baby smell made those perfect baby noises. Instantly, it was as if I'd always known him, as if he was my own. Holding him was the most natural thing in the world, and, given that everything was reversed and unnatural and confusing in this place, the normalcy was especially important.

—continued on page 17



Photo: Insignia Photography.

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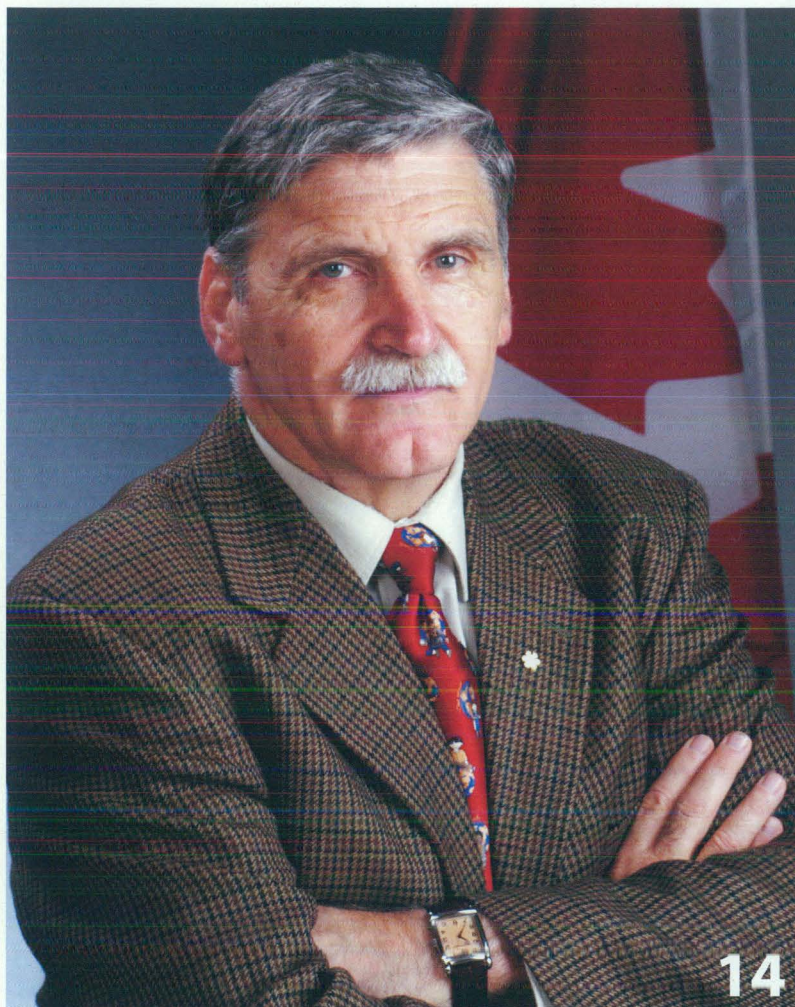
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May 2009

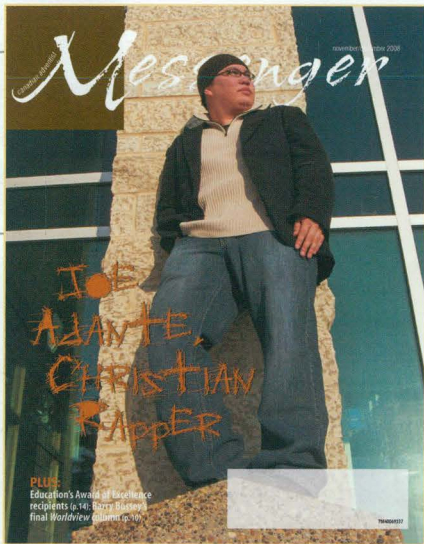


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Your Words

“My God doesn’t live in a box and neither will I. And it appears Joe Adante won’t either. Good for him.”

RE: miscellaneous

Whenever the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* arrives in my office, I find some time to look at it. One reason for reading it is because I worked in Canada, but I also enjoy the magazine. I appreciate the quality of the journal and, in particular, I like many covers you have. Thanks very much for producing a quality magazine.

—N. Satelmajer, editor, Ministry magazine

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

Just a comment on the “kids” controversy. My father, a pastor, disliked calling my girls “kids” as he felt it inferred that he was an “old goat!” No kidding!

—N. Gill, via email

RE: letters in response to “Joe Adante, Christian Rapper” (cover story Sept 2008), February & March 2009

The letters of K. Lemky and R. Henderson provides ample information to readers that these two like to sit in Moses’ seat: their pharisaical attitudes, knowledge of scripture and lack of respect for Jesus, the Father and Holy Spirit shown by their usurping God’s role to judge man and his motives. God did not appoint them to protect His

Church; the Holy Spirit is quite capable of that. They need to know that the Holy Spirit may have sent Joe Adante to reach those that only he can reach. Their toxic comments are a form of spiritual and emotional abuse . . . and may cause many to leave the Church.

Music is an interpretative process, and the Holy Spirit many times uses Satan’s attempts to destroy against him. In the 50s and 60s, the music of Elvis was considered to be of the devil. Today his music is played in the Church as beautiful and acceptable music.

Please stop wasting God’s time and pray that He will lead you to individuals whom only you may help. This takes commitment and not platitudes of false praise and then vehement criticism of one possibly chosen by the Holy Spirit for a special calling. “By their fruits you know them” (Matt. 7:20), and do not try to separate the wheat from the tares (Matt. 13:24-30). Jesus, Holy Spirit and the Father will take care of that chore.

—H. Brown, via email

Apparently there has been some controversy about the Nov/Dec 2008 *Messenger* article featuring Joe Adante. I first encountered Joe Adante at the September 2008 Youth Summit at Pugwash, N.S. Rap/hip-hop is not my favourite style of music, but of all the music presented at the Youth Summit there were two items that left a lasting impression with me. One was a vocal

group from Quebec. The other was Joe Adante. He began with a testimony telling us how at times, especially while travelling in the US, he was afraid, and then he proceeded to tell us how he was inspired to write the song that he shared with us; a song about “Protection.”

I do not recall any dancing or swaying. I was struck by the recurring theme, “Protection,” a message very similar to the fourth stanza of #101 in our *Adventist Hymnal* which reads in part, “Praise the Lord in joyful numbers; Your Protector never slumbers.”

If Joe Adante, with his music, can reach even someone who has reached the proverbial threescore-years-plus-ten let alone someone who is not really into rap music, then I believe his ministry can be very effective in reaching the younger generation in our society.

Just because some rappers are uncouth doesn’t justify giving them all a bad rap!

—G. Lehmann, Bedford, N.S.

Thank you for the courage to print articles of relevance and interest to 21st century SDA’s. If this publication has “the voice” of the Church, maybe there is hope for this denomination. As a fourth generation SDA, I have become increasingly disgusted with those who feel they have the power of E.G. White and God to judge others. I pray that Joe Adante and others like him can still keep their faith in God when the “saints” rain fire and judgment on them. Who

are we to judge what God will use to save a soul? I personally don't care for rap, but I have no right to force my opinion on others. (I also detest pipe organ music.) The "kids" will listen whether it's Christian or not, so please give them an option.

Christ was a drunkard and a glutton to the saints of His day. Maybe He'd be a gangsta' or rapper today. Stop judging and try to follow Him! "A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out" (Isa. 42:3).

— R. Dalke, via email

When I saw the cover of the Nov./Dec. issue and the headline "Joe Adante, Christian Rapper," I thought to myself, "Aaaaand here we go. I hope the *Messenger* staff is prepared for the slew of negative mail that is most certainly going to come from the conservative segment of the church." Sure enough, no fewer than five letters were printed over the next two issues, spewing venom and hate. Suffice it to say, they need some new material. For example, this tired comparison of contemporary forms of Christian music to 'Christian porn'—an overused, insulting, ludicrous, completely inappropriate analogy if there ever was one. I would be a happy man if I never heard that ignorant, ridiculous parallel again in my lifetime. Are such low-level gutter polemics really needed to make a point? How shameful, then, that Joe should have to endure such criticism of his music ministry.

It's nothing short of amazing that our church still hashes over music in the 21st century when other denominations have long moved past this issue. Are we really still stuck on this topic? Does anyone else find this completely embarrassing? It is unutterably sad that many in the church are so blinded by their hatred for contemporary expressions of Christian music that they would have absolutely no respect for those in Adventism who prefer those very musical styles. Always pandering to the lowest common denominator of persuasion, they try to intimidate us through fear mongering and dogmatic claims that

God unquestionably shares their views. Isn't that how cults keep their members in line on almost every issue? Do we really want to go there?

I decided long ago that I will not tolerate anyone bullying me over this matter. It is spiritual abuse of the highest form. These people are *not* the Holy Spirit, and they should leave the work of conviction for the One who is qualified to do it. The bottom line? There is a vast, grand buffet of music out there, and I intend to sample as much as my personal conscience and conviction will allow. If that is not okay to some, I really don't care. God made me with a creative, artistic hunger that cannot be filled adequately by a mere five 'fundamentalist-Adventist approved' musical artists. My God doesn't live in a box and neither will I. And it appears Joe Adante won't either. Good for him.

— M. Corbel, Olds, Alta.

I have on my table before me three *Messengers*; January, February, March all of 2009. In the January issue, President Dan Jackson closes his article by stating, "tear down the walls, Mr. and Mrs. Churchmember." In the February issue, Dragan Stojanovic talks about "The Art of Silence." In both the February and March issues are some strong reactions to Rapper Joe Adante.

To Joe the Rapper I would like to say, "Hang in there, Joe. Many of us might not agree with your rapping lifestyle, but, then again, many of us do not have a lifestyle and therefore we do nothing to win our friends. I wish to welcome you into the real world, as well as into the church which is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the vallies. You have experienced not the beautiful, colourful, sweet-smelling characteristics of this fabulous church but the long, sharp and aggravating thorns of that same fabulous church, that same Rose of Sharon, which happens to be the bride of my Beloved."

To my fellow saints of the Most High, I would say to you, "Go back to Dan Jackson's article in January's issue, and answer his question on column 2,

paragraph 1, starting with, 'As we begin a new year, I wonder . . . ' In fact re-read the entire article. I would continue to ask you to go back to February's issue and re-read seriously, 'The Art of Silence.' End on his closing paragraph.

I challenge you, readers to the *Messenger*, to harmonize and correlate both Dan and Dragan's article with your reactions to the rapper.

Writers were concerned about the influence Joe would have on other young people. I would be much more concerned about telling others of my methods of telling my friends of earth's most glorious event coming for fear that I, like Joe, would get burned at the stake and nailed to the wall.

— H. J. Welch, Condor, Alta.

RE: various concerns, March issue

Greetings. I would like to comment on the March *Messenger*. First, let me say that I appreciate the quality of the work that goes into preparing *Messenger* on a monthly basis. It is very well done. I congratulate all involved.

Two items concerned me in the March issue, however. First, I would like to express my concerns about the article regarding "BIG PLANS for *The Great Controversy*." It is a wonderful book and much needed for these times. I wonder, however, how wise it is to indiscriminately circulate a book throughout North America, and perhaps the world, that most Roman Catholics will find very offensive. Some, perhaps many Adventists, believe the truth should be told no matter who it offends or what the outcomes are. But we are also admonished to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves." I think this plan meets neither of those criteria. We don't create converts, or even friends, by offending people. There are many Roman Catholics in positions of power and influence in government both in the US and Canada. Do we really expect them to be sympathetic to our cause when we insult theirs? It appears this plan has been endorsed by the Review and Herald and thus by

—continued on page 23

Get In, Sit Down, Buckle Up *and* Hold On!



To be honest, I get a little weary of listening to individuals who have concluded that somehow, through some insidious means, the devil has taken control of the Church. The feeling is that both the leadership and membership have found their way into such a state of confusion and apostasy that the only hope of guiding them back into the truth is some new missive or full-colour DVD. To the naysayers, the Church is broken and probably cannot be fixed.

This kind of thinking reminds me of a discussion that frequently arose around the table in my home of origins. My father owned a 1955 Ford Fairlane that always seemed to be teetering on the brink of death. He would describe its weaknesses to an extent that left all of us certain that the next trip to the relatives—who lived only a few miles away—would wind up disastrously. However, in spite of the weal and woe that my father put forward as evidence of our need for a new vehicle, that old car took us to an amazing array of places. I remember sitting in the backseat, holding my breath, as we scaled the heights and manoeuvred around the curves of the Big Bend Highway in British Columbia. We journeyed to other exotic-sounding places, like Coeur d’Alene, Idaho and Spokane, Washington. The old Ford was not perfect and certainly no luxury liner, but the fact is that it got us where we needed to go. It never performed the way my father wanted it to, but it did perform. I was sad the day he traded it in for a more modern, sleek Ford.

As long as we walk on this earth, our discerning eyes will be able to find flaws in machines, individuals, and organizations. True, the Church is not perfect, but the reason is simple: people aren’t perfect. We all bring with us into the fabric of the Church our unique selves, our pasts and our presents. And what a mixture results!

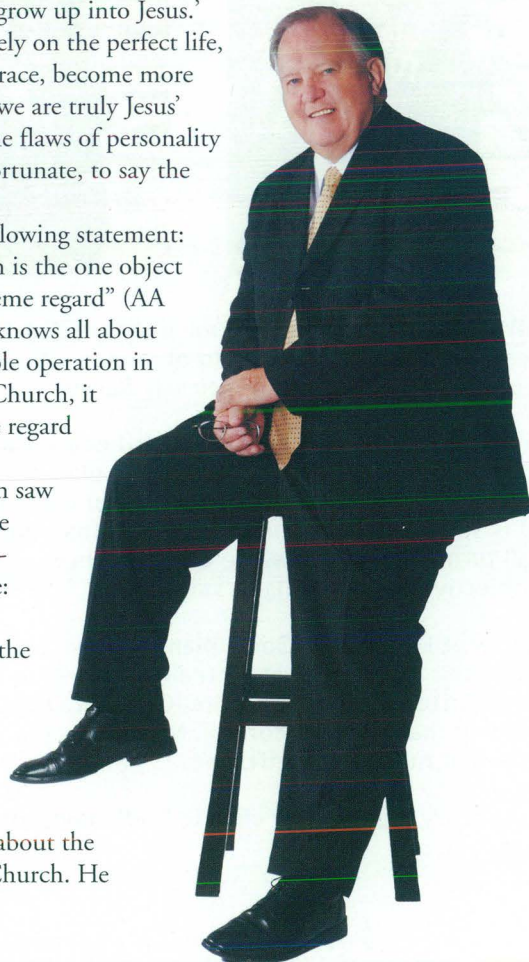
As long as the statement of scripture holds true, we will have people from every background, tongue and race within the household of faith. This reality not only creates challenges with respect to ethnicity and race, but also causes us to be confronted with culture and lifestyle. As we drill down deeper into the family, we enter into the complex world of personality, which includes personal weaknesses and predispositions. And what do you find? The Church.

By saying this, I do not mean to imply that we should all now draw in a big intoxicating breath of complacency. Satisfaction creates inertia. God’s Church in the final days of earth’s history needs to be moving in the opposite direction. Individually and collectively, we need to be making commitments to ‘grow up into Jesus.’ We must, by God’s grace, focus our eyes more intensely on the perfect life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We must, by God’s grace, become more loving and loveable so that all people will know that we are truly Jesus’ disciples. But, giving up on the Church because of the flaws of personality or because of the mistakes of the organization is unfortunate, to say the least.

The messenger to God’s people once made the following statement: “Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard” (AA 12.1). God knows all about the Church today—He knows all about you and me—and yet, He continues to hold the whole operation in ‘supreme regard.’ If God thinks that way about the Church, it seems to me that we need to be careful in the way we regard the Church.

In the first chapter of Revelation, the apostle, John saw “one like the Son of Man” walking in the midst of the candlesticks. Bible scholars inform us that the candlesticks represent the Church. Think about this picture: John sees our Lord Jesus walking in the midst of the Church. In other words, He is here—He is a part of the life of the Church. What a marvellous picture!

No thinking or spiritually committed person would deny our need of change and revival in the Church today. However, let us praise God that the Master is walking in the house. We can be confident that His footsteps and presence will bring about the glorious destiny that He himself designated for the Church. He will take us where we need to go. ■



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



Josué is quite intrigued about God's nonsense.

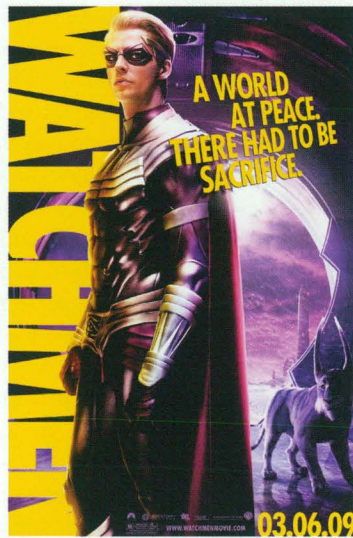
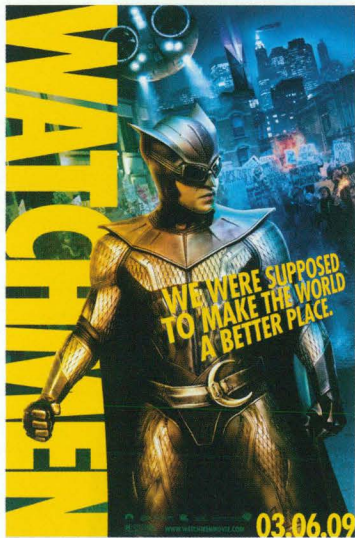
Watchmen, the movie. A gospel filter.

April, 2009

My friends and I went to see *Watchmen*. It was kinda cool, but quite freaky at the same time. My friends are not Christian, and one of them asked me what Christians thought of *Watchmen*. I didn't know what to say. Could you give me like a gospel filter or something like that, please?

Josué Sánchez

Answer



The *Watchmen* movie showed me in a very disturbing and grotesque manner that any kind of human attempt to bring true peace to our world is hopelessly flawed.

Human sacrifice can't bring peace, and peace can't be based on a lie, either. Even though the master plan, which is unveiled at the end of the movie, convinces Doctor Manhattan—whose mind is supposedly way more advanced than the human mind—it all turns out to be a waste of human lives. The most logical and objective attempt fails to succeed.

That's what I like about God's plan. It doesn't make sense. It is out of this world and yet eternally attached to it. The Creator dies for (instead of!) His creature. Complete nonsense! And something that we can't control. Maybe it is the lack of human control that makes it so effective.

Call me crazy, but I rather choose God's nonsense. Forget human logic.

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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

“Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee.”
Ephesians 6:2, 3

ZOO

Jaguar

The sign at the wildlife park announced a “Jaguar Show” at 1:30. We had gone to Discovery Wildlife Park mostly to see the bears. We didn’t expect to see jaguars. They were an added bonus!

We were among the first of the visitors to arrive at the jaguar enclosure. We wanted to get a front row view of these magnificent big cats. The trainer soon arrived and explained that, although the jaguars had been raised by hand from birth, when the cats neared puberty (sometime after six months of age), the trainers stopped going inside the enclosure. It just wasn’t safe for the trainer to go near them anymore.

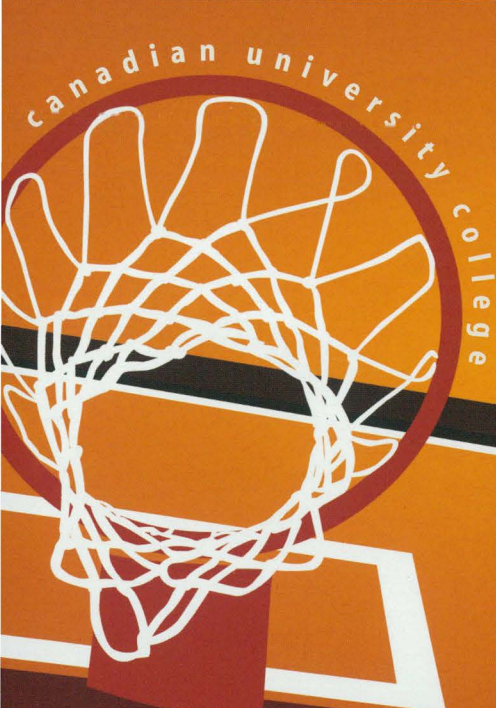


Do it

Next time you hear yourself snarling at your parents, ask Jesus to take control of your life. Apologize right away and try again. For more on Jaguars (and to hear a really nasty snarl), visit: www.bigcatrescue.org/cats/wild/jaguar.htm or www.indian tiger.org/wild-cats/jaguar.html

Think about it.

As the jaguars matured, they changed, but not for the better. They seemed to have forgotten all the kindnesses lavished upon them by their trainers. Unfortunately, human children are sometimes like those unthankful jaguars. Some teens become surly and rude to their parents and are not pleasant to be around. It doesn’t need to be this way. Unlike the jaguars, God has given us the freedom of choice. We can choose to be thankful and act lovingly even when we don’t feel like it.



MORE THAN JUST BASKETBALL

They were in opposition territory. The game clock slowly wound down to zero, and a quick glance at the scoreboard only brought more disappointment to the faces of the CUC Aurora men's basketball team. The Olds College Broncos had just beaten the CUC Aurora 90 to 35—a 55-point difference.



The students were tired, and the loss made the hour-long drive back to campus feel even longer. It was a sombre evening, and that was just game one of the 2009 season. Even with the loss, however, no one gave up. Being a part of the team meant more than just basketball.

When goals and priorities for sports teams are set, winning usually is at the top of the list. For the student athletes on the CUC Aurora basketball team, winning is important but not at the expense of academics, integrity and personal growth. A few days every week, players from the CUC Aurora men's basketball team take a break from classes during the middle of the day to volunteer at the Mamawi Atoskeran Native School (MANS) near Hobbema, just a half hour drive north of the CUC campus. At first, students were surprised that they were expected to not only practice hard and maintain their grades but also give back to the community. Surprise and hesitation quickly turned to enjoyment as the students began making regular

trips to MANS to run clinics and teach the grade 7-9 students about basketball.

According to Coach Peter Ford, who is also the Pastor in Hobbema, being on the team means more than just basketball. "The students need to understand that this [being on the basketball team] isn't about them. It's more than the game they play and how good they look on court. It's how they interact with people. It's how they represent CUC, their families, and God to the community," states Ford.

Students have eagerly accepted their roles and have made an impact on the junior high students they have come into contact with. Aaron Densmore, a second-year student from Terrace, B.C., is excited about the role he is able to take with the students at MANS. "I thought it was cool that we could be a link to the community, maybe even a role model for the kids," states Densmore. And a positive response from the MANS students has only strengthened the team's commitment to the program. Benefits can be felt on both sides of the program: the young students at MANS learn new skills and receive role models they can look up to—a goal to keep in mind for themselves; on the other hand, CUC students get a chance to serve and impart the knowledge they have learned as members of a team.

As the team gets deeper into the season, signs of growth are evident. A little more

than a month after their first game of the season, the CUC Aurora find themselves in another battle with the Olds College Broncos. It's a hard-contested game that stays close throughout the night. The memory of the 55-point loss lingers in the air. At the final sound of the buzzer, however, fellow CUC students in attendance let out a cheer to celebrate a 73 to 61 win over the Broncos. The team has grown, and the members share a closeness with one another, not only as a result of playing together, but also from working together to affect other people's lives.

"We are growing. We are learning from each other. We understand our strengths and our different roles," states Densmore. Perseverance, teamwork, and service have become more than just goals; they are now skills the students can carry and apply for the rest of their lives. ■

JR Ferrer is the communications director for Canadian University College.





SUMMER CAMPS ACROSS CANADA



British Columbia

Mountainview Summer Camp, near Hope, B.C.

June 28-July 5	Junior Camp	age 10-12
July 5-12	Adventurer Camp	age 7-10
July 12-17	Blind Camp/Day Camp	all ages
Aug. 2-9	Teen Camp	age 12-14
Aug. 9-16	Youth Camp	age 14-17

*Visit www.mvsc.ca for online registration. For more information, email bwahl@bcadventist.ca or slewis@bcadventist.ca

Alberta

Foothills Summer Camp, near Olds, Alta.

June 28-July 2	Wakeboard Camp	age 13-17
June 28-July 2	Horsemanship Camp	age 13-17
July 12-19	Blind Camp	all ages
July 19-26	Adventure Camp	age 6-9
July 19-26	Sherwood Forest Camp 1	age 9-11
July 26-Aug. 2	Junior Camp 1	age 10-12
July 26-Aug. 2	Sherwood Forest Camp 2	age 10-12
Aug. 2-9	Junior Camp 2	age 10-12
Aug. 2-9	Sherwood Forest Camp 3	age 11-14
Aug. 9-16	Teen Camp	age 13-17

*Visit www.foothillscamp.org for online registration. For more information, call 877/228-1175

Manitoba & Saskatchewan

Camp Whitesand, Theodore, Sask.

July 14-19	Adventurer Camp	age 7-10
July 19-26	Junior Camp	age 9-12
July 26-Aug. 2	Teen Camp	age 12-14
Aug. 2-9	Youth Camp	age 14-17

*Visit www.campwhitesand.org for online registration. For more information, call Kevin Kiers at 306/244-9700

Ontario

Camp Frenda, Port Carling, Ont.

July 12-19	Family Camp 1	all ages
July 19-26	Junior Camp	age 8-12
July 19-26	Horsemanship Camp 1	age 8-12
July 19-26	Waterskiing Camp 1	age 8-12
July 19-26	Gymnastics Camp 1	age 8-12
July 26-Aug. 2	'Tween Camp	age 10-14
July 26-Aug. 2	Horsemanship Camp 2	age 10-14
July 26-Aug. 2	Waterskiing Camp 2	age 10-14
July 26-Aug. 2	Gymnastics Camp 2	age 10-14
Aug. 2-9	Teen Camp 1	age 12-16
Aug. 2-9	Horsemanship Camp 3	age 12-16
Aug. 2-9	Waterskiing Camp 3	age 12-16
Aug. 2-9	Gymnastics Camp 3	age 12-16
Aug. 9-16	Teen Camp 2	age 12-16
Aug. 9-16	Horsemanship Camp 4	age 12-16
Aug. 9-16	Waterskiing Camp 4	age 12-16
Aug. 9-16	Gymnastics Camp 4	age 12-16
Aug. 16-23	Family Camp 2	all ages

*Visit www.campfrenda.com for online registration. For more information email loliveira@adventistontario.org or call 905/571-1022 ext. 215

Maritimes

Pugwash Summer Camp, Pugwash, N.S.

July 5-12	Junior Camp	age 9-12
July 12-17	Blind Camp	all ages
July 12-17	Horsemanship Camp	ages 12+
July 17-24	Teen Camp	age 13-16

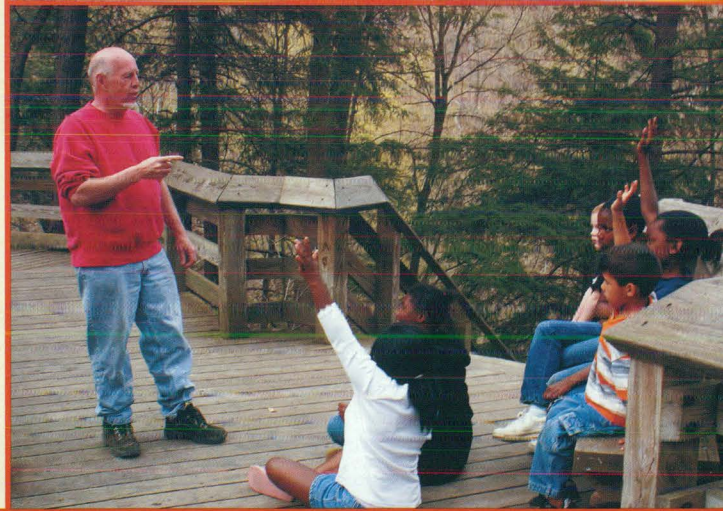
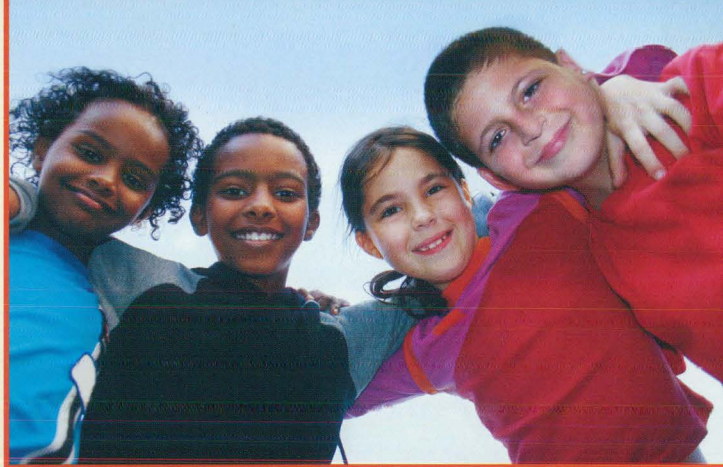
*To register and for more information, email maritimeconference@rogers.com or call 506/857-8722

Newfoundland and Labrador

Woody Acres Camp, Southwest Pond, Nfld.

July 26-Aug. 1	Junior Camp	age 9-13
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*To register and for more information, email ghodder@sdanf.org or call 709/745 4051



by Crystal Steeves-Holloway

RWANDA BEYOND

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA, ADRA CANADA HOSTS EVENT TO HELP US LEARN IMPORTANT LESSONS.

On April 6, 1994, the airplane carrying Rwandan president Juvénal Habyarimana was shot down near the Kigali International Airport, igniting smouldering tensions between extremist Hutus and Tutsis. The next three months brought a genocide such as this world had never seen: nearly one million people were slaughtered in 87 days—most killed by friends, neighbours or coworkers pressed into participation by fear of reprisal. Though resources, both human and monetary, were readily available in numbers needed to squash the murderous rampage, the international community either ignored the extermination, or, in some cases, fuelled it by supplying armed forces and weaponry.

To the ignorant, the Rwandan genocide may have seemed like little more than tribal feuding. Some may have pictured scantily clad natives running from grass hut to grass hut killing members of a rival clan. The reality was very different. The cities that were the front lines of fighting were very like our cities, the people living in them very like you and I. Kigali, with its nearly 300,000 inhabitants and 'big city' conveniences, was not unlike Halifax, N.S. or Victoria, B.C. Mugonero, with its many Seventh-day Adventist institutions and entities and with a high concentration of Adventist members living in the area, was not unlike Oshawa, Ont. or Lacombe, Alta. Far from a tribal feud, the attempted extermination swept across the nation, involving every man, woman and child. Those of us who knew and did nothing were complicit in their victimization.



Fifteen years later, the facts of the Rwandan genocide are widely known, the process of finding justice is ongoing and the rebuilding of the country's infrastructure is all but complete. Rwanda, though deeply scarred by its recent history, has a future that grows brighter each day. What remains is for the world to learn lessons from Rwanda, to debrief and debate the events of those three months and the actions leading up to them, in an effort to prevent it from happening again. ADRA Canada, as part of its ongoing mission "to create just and positive change," recently hosted an event to assist in that important endeavour.

"Rwanda and Beyond," held in Oshawa, Ont. on March 5-7, was a weekend event planned, according to ADRA Canada's website, "to sensitize Canadians to the issues of development and relief." To help foment the discussions, ADRA Canada featured two highly esteemed speakers: Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Romeo Dallaire and former ADRA Rwanda director Carl Wilkens (see sidebar for biographical information). Their presentations to the public, made at various events throughout ADRA Canada's "world focus weekend," seemed to be intentionally focussed not on the happenings of the 1994 Rwandan genocide itself but on the larger issues that motivated it and continue to plague the world today.

At a reception on Thursday evening, Dallaire and Wilkens mingled and chatted with attendees, displaying the same genuine interest in and care for people that led them to their heroic actions. Busy schedules and the demands of celebrity would normally keep these men out of reach of most of us, but the reception provided an opportunity for attendees to not only meet them but also to ask questions and further their own learning process.

Following the reception, Dallaire took to the podium to address the larger audience. "We are shifting the way in which we look at humanity itself," he declared. "That puts us in the middle of the most revolutionary time period in recorded history." Citing humanitarian crises like the persistence of nuclear weapons and the proliferation of child soldiers, Dallaire spoke of the continuing need for every world citizen to become involved with caring for each other.

Harkening back to the atrocities of Rwanda and commenting on the ongoing genocide in the Sudan, Dallaire further asserted, "We have, in this revolutionary era, set up a pecking order in humanity. The bottom layer is sub-Saharan Africa." Of course, Dallaire felt the full force of that pecking order as he led UN forces during the genocide. In response to his repeated requests for support, his superiors at the UN said, "There is nothing there—only human beings. And there are too many of them anyway." But it is no longer sufficient to care only for one's self or one's neighbour, Dallaire admonished, for we are a global community, and now more than ever we should ask with Scripture, "who is my neighbour?"

In many ways, Wilkens offered a powerful answer to exactly that question—who is my neighbour?—as his presentations continued through ADRA's "world focus weekend." Telling story after story from the time of the genocide, he put a face on labels like "victim" and "genocidaire," personalizing the tale that for many seemed so remote for so long. "Once you know, you have a responsibility to tell," he says. And tell, he did, throughout three riveting presentations on Friday and Saturday, helping those in attendance to live in another's shoes for at least a few moments.

Yet, in spite of the weighty matter under discussion, neither Dallaire nor Wilkens could be described as gloomy or depressing. Both reminded the audience that, though the genocide they lived through was horrific, it stopped and that it stopped largely because of individuals who dared to stand up against evil. Both took pains to point the audience to hope for tomorrow.

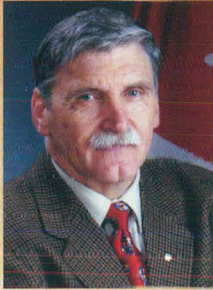
"As a human race, we are so rich. We are so rich!" said Wilkens. "So many times we focus on our poverty. We focus on what we don't have. But if we will take the moment, if we take the time, if we lead with our ears and follow with our mouth and let anger straggle behind, we will discover just how wealthy we are."

"Every time we act in a selfless manner, our future is enriched, we are enriched, we are more complete. Every time we act in a selfish manner, our future is changed and we are diminished," he continued, reminding us that selflessness usually requires action and that apathy is often the most selfish act of all.

The call to action was echoed in Dallaire's comments as he said, "We've abdicated our responsibility to the media and the politicians." Urging every individual to take thoughtful action to demand that human beings be treated as equals, he continued saying, "the aim is not to solve the crisis or to pick up the pieces after the crisis. The aim is to prevent the crisis, and I believe that will happen. As this revolution moves forward and we focus on human rights and see all humans as human, we will cease to turn to conflict to solve our problems. I believe it will happen; it may take some centuries, but it will happen because it must happen. The emphasis on equality for all people demands it."

Through their untiring work for humanity and through the hosting of important events like "Rwanda and Beyond," ADRA Canada is spurring on the revolution and providing a venue where all can act selflessly for the enrichment of our future. Although the continuing genocide in Sudan shows that we have not learned all that we need to learn to "prevent the crisis," ADRA Canada and its partners around the world—organizations and individuals—will continue to work until the objective is reached and our hoped for future becomes reality. ■

ROMEO DALLAIRE



The Honourable Romeo Dallaire, now a Canadian senator, was Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire at the time of the Rwandan genocide. In 1993, he was appointed to the position of Force Commander for UNAMIR, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda. It was Dallaire who is now credited with having made right decisions throughout the crisis, whose demands for assistance from the international community fell on deaf ears repeatedly and who, in spite of an outrageous lack of support, is directly responsible for saving the lives of more than 20,000 in Rwanda.

CARL WILKENS



Having been a high school shop teacher and a high school chaplain, Carl Wilkens marvelled at having been called to Rwanda to serve as director of ADRA there. It was 1990 when Carl, his wife and children established their home in Kigali. With a heart for service and for the Lord, they worked tirelessly for the good of the people in Rwanda for many years.

Knowing of Wilkens' heart for service, it may not be surprising that, when the genocide began in 1994, he decided to stay behind when other expatriates evacuated the country. The only American known to have stayed in Rwanda throughout the time of slaughter, Wilkens helped save the lives of thousands of orphans and others throughout the country. "I didn't know what I could do," he says, "but I knew I could be there. Being there is something that really matters."

continued from page 2

I really can't say how long I physically held on to Malik—a long time, but not nearly long enough. And all the while, I was vaguely aware that confusion and contradiction still swirled all around us, but it no longer mattered so much. Through this child, I, who should've been reaching out to offer comfort to him and the other thousands of Rwandan orphans like him, I was being comforted. Through this child, I detected for the first time, that there is a solution for the anguish of that country. In his eyes I saw a picture of a healed Rwanda, of the healthy nation that would be possible as this child and his peers grew and took their place in the world.

Hope, like his soggy diaper, soaked through him and got on me.

Hope for Rwanda is something that we each need to get on us. Hope for our hurting world is something we need to find and to create if we can't find it. We must reject pessimism. More challenging, we must reject apathy. We must actively, passionately do everything we can to create hope. We need it for ourselves, to be our anchor in the confusion that has overtaken our planet. But even more we need so we can pass it on to others.

James 1:27 says that, in the eyes of God "pure and undefiled religion...is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." In Rwanda and so many other

places around the globe, orphans and widows need food, clothing, shelter, education and so much more. But as much as they need, they can also give. That day in Rwanda, Malik gave me hope. That is why now, though he is a million miles away and I can't cuddle him and touch him and change his diaper, I still think of him every day and why, in my mind, I hold him tight every time I remember Rwanda. ■

Crystal

*Crystal Steeves-Holloway, editor
cholloway@sdacc.org*



OUR GROWING FAMILY

*A PORTUGUESE
SPEAKING
COMPANY IN
MONTREAL*



CANADA IS A COUNTRY OF IMMIGRANTS. A simple look at the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) website (<http://www.cic.gc.ca>) gives us an idea of the plans and programs that the government puts into place to attract, process applications from and integrate new immigrants into Canadian society. CIC processes immigration applications for all the provinces, however Quebec also maintains an immigration department (www.immq.gouv.qc.ca) with its own offices and objectives. In 2007, Quebec moved its South American immigration office from Buenos Aires in Argentina to São Paulo, Brazil in an effort to attract and facilitate immigration of Brazilian nationals to Quebec.

For the past few years, the Quebec programs of immigration have targeted South America and have been successful in attracting a number of young professionals who want to make Canada their adopted country. An increasing number of Brazilians are immigrating to Canada in general but to Quebec in particular.

Brazil has a population of more than 180,000,000, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brazil has more than 1,400,000 members. Using basic statistical laws, then, it would follow that for every 128 immigrants from Brazil, one would be an Adventist. If we also take into consideration the fact that Adventists pursue college education in a higher proportion than do the general population and that the highly educated are most pursued by immigration policies, we would not be surprised if that ratio was even higher. When Quebec's immigration office decided to target Brazil with its policies, it quickly became evident that a large number of Adventists could be immigrating to Quebec.

The first Brazilian Adventists who came between 2000 and 2008 connected themselves to the local French, English or Hispanic churches, and they became part of those church families. However, as more and more Adventists families arrived, they felt the need to worship in their own language and, at the same time, establish a base that would welcome newcomers and help them get integrated into the Quebec society.

To respond to this felt need, a group of Portuguese-speaking Adventists in Montreal met for the first time on November 29, 2008 for a worship service and to lay out plans to organize as a company. Dragan Stojanovic, president of the Quebec conference, was present and assisted as together they launched the Luso-Brazilian Company of Montreal. For that occasion, we not only had Portuguese speaking members but also some Spanish and Quebecois friends who came to provide support and encouragement to the group.

The Quebec conference placed the newly established company under the leadership of Pastor Luiz Vicuña. Vicuña takes care of the Gatineau church (*vis-à-vis* Ottawa) as well as another group further north, so his support to the Luso-Brazilian group is limited to a monthly visit. However, the group elected Evaldo Vicente, a musician who also holds a theology degree, as the company leader, Denise Machado as the assistant leader and Luiz Claudio Leão, a Computer Science major, as treasurer.

There are a few points about this group that need to be highlighted:

- First, this is a group composed mainly of young professionals who hold Bachelors, Masters and even PhD degrees.
- Secondly, they all have a Landed Immigrant status. Some who have just arrived are finishing language training before engaging in the work force, but most of them are already employed.
- Thirdly, they are highly talented and dedicated Adventists. Many among them are musical, and music plays an important role in their worship service.
- Lastly, but not least, they are committed to this ministry.

Through group email, members communicate amongst themselves and have also incorporated into their group email all the Brazilian Adventists they know who are making plans to come to Montreal in the near future. In this way prospective immigrants become acquainted with what is happening with the company before they arrive. When they come, they are immediately welcomed, supported and integrated.

The group also has an evangelistic perspective. The majority of Brazilian immigrants are not Adventist, of course, and the Luso-Brazilian SDA company intends to reach out to them, to befriend them and eventually to share the good news of salvation with them.

I had the privilege of being with the company at its first meeting in November. It was an exciting experience to see the enthusiasm that permeated the meeting. Living 500 kilometres from Montreal, I can only follow the development of the group from a distance. However, on March 21 I made a second trip to Montreal and experienced again the same enthusiasm I felt on my first visit—an enthusiasm not diminished by the fact that, for their first three months, they met at a venue that didn't meet their needs. Only recently have they been able to move into a better facility in an Italian church. They feel blessed to have access to this location that serves them well and is easily accessible by public transportation.

A rather interesting twist in the formation of this group is that some Spanish and Quebecois Adventists have also chosen to join them even though all the services are held in Portuguese.

On March 28, the first baptism was held. The company celebrated this memorable event in conjunction with the SDA Montreal Spanish Church. The new member has a very interesting background, and we have invited her to share her story and her Christian pilgrimage with us at a future edition of the Messenger.

I believe that the Luso-Brazilian Company of Montreal has a bright future ahead of them, and my prayer is that they will never lose their contagious enthusiasm that has, so far, been their trademark nor their evangelistic fervour, which is the most important dimension of their "raison d'être". I believe that this delightful group is well-positioned to grow and to become an organized church in the near future. ■

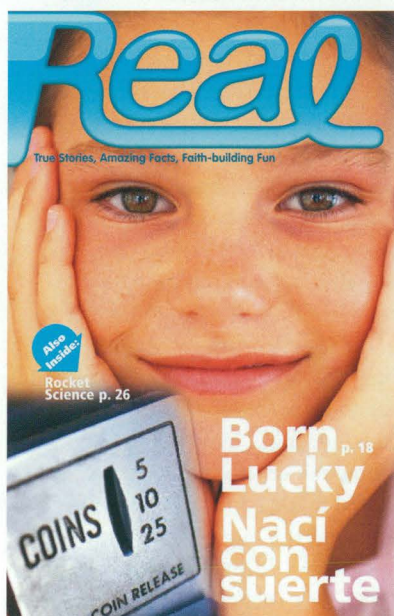
Nilton Amorim is the administrative vice-president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.



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North American Division

Guide Magazine Wants 10,000 Unchurched Kids to Get Real



Guide magazine is launching *Real*, a new Adventist outreach magazine for children, with a call for thousands of names and addresses—each one representing a young person who needs to know Jesus.

Adventists of all ages are invited to submit names of non-Adventist young people who should receive a free subscription to *Real*. The subscriptions will be paid for through donations. Guide has set a goal of collecting 10,000 names. “We want every Adventist, young and old, to be able to share this magazine with the children they care about, regardless of finances,” says Guide editor Randy Fishell. “As the names come in, we believe God will provide the means to send the subscriptions.”

The outreach magazine’s title, *Real*, comes from its emphasis on true stories. “*Real* is all about showing young people how God is involved in their lives,” says Fishell. The monthly magazine targets ages 10 to 14 and contains true stories, puzzles, fun facts, and Bible studies selected to meet the interests and needs of non-Adventist kids.

The new magazine builds on *Guide*’s 55-year history of ministry to Adventist juniors and earliteens. “*Real* takes Bible truths to children outside our churches,” says Fishell. “We especially want to involve young people in sharing *Real* with their classmates, neighbors, and friends.”

Submit names of children who should receive *Real* at www.guidemagazine.org/real, or mail the children’s names and addresses along with the name and address of the person submitting them, to *Guide* 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. ■

Homeschool Companion Radio Talk Show Continues to Expand: A Radio Talk Show Dedicated to Home-Based Education

The first talk show dedicated to home-based education was launched January 8, 2008, through the generosity of Life Talk radio and the partnership between the Review and Herald® and Griggs University.

“After that first show, we asked Calvin Follett—our producer—if he thought anyone had been listening. ‘Well, there were 27 people who streamed it live,’ he said. Candy and I looked at each other and smiled. We could probably name who those 27 people were—all our coworkers,” reported Rose Gamblin, education specialist.

But the show has caught the interest of the homeschooling and education communities, and through the summer of 2008 more listeners logged onto the live streaming feature of the web site, contributing to Life Talk’s decision to double their capacity for streaming.

In addition to live streaming, more than 4,000 *Homeschool*

Companion shows have been downloaded to portable devices over the course of the year. Other than that statistic, there is no way to know for sure how many are listening on the 76 stations that currently air the show. “We now receive calls from all over North America,” said DeVore, editor of *Kids’ Ministry Ideas*. “So that’s encouraging.”

Gamblin and DeVore believe that every family is involved in home-based education, and present shows on such topics as discipline, bullying, and basic learning strategies. “Some of the best insights come from teachers who call in,” DeVore said. “Yes, and the children,” Gamblin added.

“We are happy to be part of the Life Talk radio ministry. And we are honored to have contributed to the 90,000 hours of streamed time for 2008,” said DeVore. “We want to help fulfill the gospel commission.” If you’d like to participate in this ministry, please listen each Wednesday on www.lifetalk.net. ■

Ontario >> Please note: The date for Ontario's Portuguese Regional Camp Meeting has been changed to May 23.

Bronte Agape Prayer Feast: Celebrating International Women's Day

The Bronte SDA church adopted the theme "Every Woman for Every Woman" for its women's ministries for 2008-2010. Jesus' example to us was to feed those who were hungry, heal those who were sick, meeting physical needs first, and the Bronte church is committed to meeting these needs by nurturing and showing love to all our women, taking them to a place where Christian love will be recognised and practiced. Our goal for each woman over the next two years is to introduce another woman to Christ.

On Sabbath, March 7th, the Bronte church celebrated Women's International Day of Prayer and it was a spiritually uplifting day for all who were present.

Each woman was recognized in a special prayer of encouragement. Sister Lois Zygoweic shared a message on the important role women play in how they serve God and those around them by praying and taking time to visit. Prayer was the focus of the Agape Feast which followed the Divine Service.

During the Agape Feast our church



family came together and participated in a program on prayer entitled, ACTS. ACTS represents Acknowledge, Confession, Thankfulness, and Supplication. In these ACTS we were able to connect with God and one another through sharing love and prayer.

Bronte's women have also introduced the "Secret Sisters" program with its goal being to provide support and words of encouragement for each other. We expect that this program should run for a couple months culminating in a grand revealing social. ■

—Lisa Milovanov, member

British Columbia

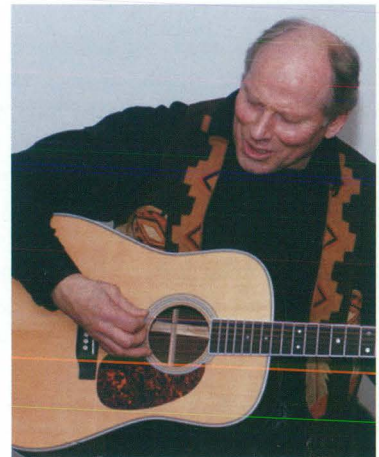
Many Firsts at All Nations Center

A Native Bible Prophecy Series with Pastor Brian Bechthold, held at the newly purchased All Nations Center in downtown Terrace, has just finished. You can sense the excitement from Charles Aguilar, district pastor, as he talks about the last day of the evangelistic series: "We had an average attendance of 13 visitors most of the 19 nights. There was powerful preaching, relevant testimonies, prayers and singing. During the closing ceremonies, the All Nations Center was

packed. The evening started with inspiring country gospel music by members of the Terrace church, Pastor Brian and First Nation musicians Sam Aksidan and John Tommy. Pastor Brian's last sermon was a description of how beautiful heaven will be and how he wished to see all of us there."

Following the series, Ron Dame, lay pastor, baptized four people, each with their own miracle story.

Catherine, a grade 7 student, had her



non-member parents there to witness her baptism. The next day Ron Dame visited the family and they made a commitment to let God help them with substance abuse and become involved with their new church community!

Loretta, a lovely First Nations lady whose life story included personal abuse, was also baptized. She shared that it was only through Jesus that she could learn to forgive those who have abused her. Loretta and her boyfriend have decided to get married soon. She plans to have both of her daughters attend the Terrace school next year.

Dan was also baptized. He has helped the Dames with the soup kitchen for years and is one of the consistent attendees. He loves the Sabbath

truth and is happy to say he can't wait for church to start.

John is from the village of Gitsegukla, about 112 km from Terrace. Bible worker missionaries from Kitwanga drive John to Terrace. He has been studying the Native New Day Bible Studies. Years ago, he was a youth pastor but left Christianity for a while until faithful Adventist members helped him get excited about the Bible again.

Aguilar reports that First Nation work in the North is starting to grow. Last week the Dames and the Oves traveled to the village of Greenville to attend the Nisga'a New Year, Hobiye. About 2,000 people were in attendance for a two-day celebration. The new First Nation church leaders set up a display

to share the good news. These leaders have visited more than 150 people; 73 signed up to study the Native New Day Bible Studies! Of the 73, two teachers said they would like to use the Native New Day Bible Study Guides for their class. Three First Nation elders say they would like to promote it to their village. Three village ministers/pastors want to use it for their Bible study groups. We don't know where this will lead us. However, this I know. The Holy Spirit will guide our way and will send us more missionaries to work in these First Nation villages. ■

—reprinted from *B.C. Alive*,
conference newsletter

SDA Church in Canada

Messenger Produces Audio Magazine for Visually Impaired



“This is Dan Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, and I just want to welcome you to the first edition of our audio *Messenger*...”

So begins track one on issue one of the newest project to roll out of the offices of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*—a CD set that presents the content of the print version of the magazine to our visually impaired members.

The *Messenger* has been the main means of communication for the Church in Canada for more than 75 years and takes seriously its mandate to take the message to as many members as possible. The audio *Messenger* is a continuation of that calling, a sincere effort on the part of the SDACC to be more inclusive to a wider audience. “Print communication is a wonderful thing,” says editor Crystal Steeves, “but it carries with it the disadvantage of excluding a whole sector of the population. The blind and visually impaired are important to society as a whole and certainly to the Church. The audio *Messenger* is something that really has not required much of an investment—we can produce it very inexpensively—but will provide a service that, I believe, is very necessary.”

Steeves, who also serves on the board of directors for

Christian Record Services Canada, the Church entity commissioned with ministering to the visually impaired, says that the idea for the audio *Messenger* came following the purchase of new software to improve the *Messenger's* web-presence. “It had a feature that allowed us to embed audio files,” she says, “and so we began to play with that a little bit. From there the idea morphed in many ways—turning from online delivery to CD distribution, for instance—and became this audio *Messenger*.”

The March 2009 issue was the first to be turned into an audio magazine and was mailed to a very limited audience. “We’re starting very small,” says Steeves. “We have a lot to learn and will steadily improve as time passes. But we had to start somewhere, and March was the time we chose.”

The audio *Messenger* carries all the content of the print version, excluding paid advertisements. “As much as possible, writers record their own work, but volunteer readers fill in the gaps. We aren’t professional, but we do what we can.”

If you or someone you know has a visual impairment and would like to begin receiving the audio *Messenger*, contact Ruth or Lori at 905/433-0011 ext. 2092. ■

—continued from page 5

the Church officially. We will not be able, as a Church, to issue disclaimers if we are confronted by the fallout from this plan as we did a few years ago when some well-meaning Adventists posted billboard notices in the United States that were similarly offensive and indiscrete. The distribution of *Desire of Ages* or *Steps to Christ* would, in my opinion, be much more representative of what our main message should be and, in fact, is. Those books may not be well received by some religious groups, but at least they do not overtly criticize another denomination or religion. And I applaud the advertisement you ran to do that very thing with *Steps to Christ*. That I can support.

I also thought the cover picture of former Prime Minister Joe Clark with the caption “Joe Who” was rather insensitive and insulting to the man. If he agreed to have his picture on our cover, did he also agree to this disparaging moniker? I have no quarrel with the article that gave rise to that cover. I would like to have seen us show a little more sensitivity and respect, however, to a man who was once head of this country.

—Jack Gallop, via email

RE: “Joe Who? and You,” cover story, March 2009.

Words can sometimes betray us. What seems at the time to be an apt and expressive phrase can set alarm bells ringing in the minds of some readers. Elfriede Volk’s cover article “Joe who? and You” was generally helpful, but an alarm bell did tinkle in my mind as I read the opening paragraph. Putting in a good word for Joe Clark, she writes: “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.” This kind of rhetoric is standard fare for a newspaper columnist, but it strikes me as being a little too facile for a religious journal. We might acknowledge, for example, that Pierre Trudeau could be flamboyant, but is that a fair dismissal

of a man who, whatever his faults, worked for a just society and strove to promote accord between Quebec and the rest of Canada? And what about the word “stranglehold”? We associate that term either with wrestling, or figuratively with the tyrannical rule of a Stalin or a Hitler. Canada is a democracy and its citizens exercise their political choice through free elections.

I believe that there is room for people of various political persuasions within the Adventist denomination. Jesus included both a former freedom fighter and a collaborator among his chosen disciples. Thus it seems appropriate for us to avoid giving the impression of political bias. Yes, words can betray us if we are not careful.

—C. Oddy,
Upper Tantallon, N.S.

I was somewhat surprised that your well intended article uses a living human being as an example of failure and therefore obscurity. If that was

your picture would you be pleased or perhaps hurt? Poorly does this reflect on Christian ethics of how we carelessly may hurt people. I pray Joe (who) does not think all Adventists are thinking the same of him. I pray Joe Clarke does not see your article.

—D. Honey,
Aldergrove, B.C.

Regarding “Joe Who? and You,” the cover article for the March *Messenger*, I am totally at a loss as to the relevancy of this politician’s large picture on the cover. The centerfold article inside, along with another picture, did not explain this privileged position either, other than to remind us how Canadians derided him.

Prime Minister Clark is a real human being that does not deserve to be treated like a cartoon character, or, on the other hand, share *Messenger* covers with our great church leaders and members.

—J. Bowie, Osoyoos, 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.

C.H.E.R. International Canada



C.H.E.R. Canada is an approved Independent Supporting Ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

When you sponsor a child, your monthly donation provides education in an Adventist school (tuition, books, uniforms, etc.), a daily nutritious meal and medical care to a needy child. You can get to know your child through regular letters and pictures.

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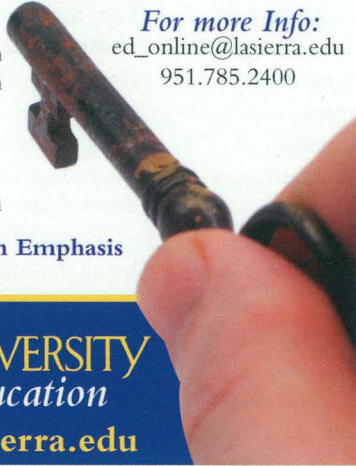
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Requirements:

- English as a first language
- Bachelor's degree
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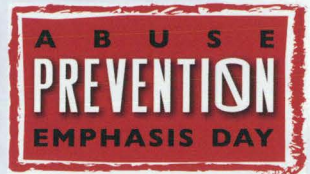
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Many Adventists believe Supporting Church Organizations:
 that abuse is not a problem Adult Ministries
 among church members, but Adventist Education
 the truth is that every kind of Children's Ministries
 abuse is nearly as prevalent Family Ministries
 among Adventists as in the Health Ministries
 general population. Each year Ministerial Association
 Adventist churches set aside Women's Ministries
 one Sabbath to focus on this Youth Ministries
 issue. This year's theme is
 "Support for Victims."



ABUSE
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65-09064

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.
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.sdacc.org/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

Announcements

40th Anniversary Church Celebration, May 23, 2009. Belleville Seventh-day Adventist church would like to invite all former church members and pastors to come and celebrate with us. To register or more information, please contact Pastor Ly at sly@adventistontario.org or call 613/968-4581.

55th Alumni Homecoming Weekend. Toronto Junior Academy/Crawford Adventist Academy invites you to the 55th Alumni Homecoming weekend celebration Thursday, May 21 to Sunday, May 24, 2009. Celebrating the honoured classes: 1999, 1989, 1984, 1979, 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959. For more information visit www.tadsb.com and click on the alumni link. RSVP to Derrick Hall (VP Advancement) at 866/960-2125, 416/633-0090 ext. 234; email: dhall@caasda.com, development@caasda.com.

Missing Members: The Maple Ridge church in B.C. is looking for Yaffa Andre. If you have any information about this member, please contact Trish Clark by phone at 604/465-3239, by email at pc3239@telus.net or at Maple Ridge Church, P.O. Box 374 Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 8K9.

Missing Members: Mount Hope church in B.C. is looking for Steven McNeal and Tyler Shepherd. If you have any information about these members, please contact Myrna by phone at 604/869-3210, by email at dmosier@telus.net or Darol by phone at 604/869-2592, or by email at darolr@uniserve.com.

Legal Notice

Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference)

Notice is hereby given that the 55th Regular Constituency Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia) will be held at Camp Hope, Katz, British Columbia. Camp Hope is located on Highway 7, approximately 10 kilometers (six miles) west of Hope.

The first general meeting of the regular session will begin at 8:00 a.m. Sunday, August 2, 2009 in the Campmeeting Pavilion.

The agenda of the Regular Meeting will include: 1) Election of officers for the ensuing term, 2) Appointment of the Board of Directors, 3) Appointment of the Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee and 4) the transaction of other business as may properly come before the Regular Session.

The Constitution provides for representation from each church within the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) on the basis of one delegate for each church without regard for membership, plus one additional delegate for each 50 church members or major fraction thereof, based on the membership as of December 31, 2008. (6/09)

Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Notice: Notice is hereby given that the 32nd Quadrennial Session of the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will take place on Friday, July 3, 2009 from 2 to 7 p.m., and will continue on Sunday, July 5, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, Room 4H.

Purpose: This session is called for the purpose of receiving reports for the past four years, to elect officers and directors of departments, to consider proposed updates to the Bylaws, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session.

Delegates: The Bylaws provide that Delegates to the session be chosen as follows: one delegate per church, without regard to size of membership, and one additional delegate for

every 50 members or major fraction thereof, with a minimum of three delegates per church.

New Members

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sonia Barabas and **Lissa Smart** were baptized by David Jamieson, **Lois Dyck** and **Donna Francis** were baptized by Francis Douville, **Nolan Francis** was baptized by Massiel Davila and **Tristan Weiss** was baptized by Derek Richter on Feb. 14, 2009 in Aldergrove, B.C. They are all now members of the Aldergrove church.

Marie Barber and **Shane West** were baptized in Surrey, B.C. on Nov. 29, 2008 by George Ali. They are now members of the Surrey church.

Margaret Brittain was baptized in Powell River, B.C. on Nov. 29, 2008 by Ernest Dunning. She is now a member of the Powell River church.

Andrea Gamero was baptized in Aldergrove, B.C. on Jan. 31, 2009 by Francis Douville. She is now a member of the Aldergrove church.

Elaine Hanley was baptized in Aldergrove, B.C. on Feb. 7, 2008 by David Jamieson. She is now a member of the Aldergrove church.

ALBERTA

Yolanda Jeanette Arriagada Espinoza was baptized in Lloydminster, Alta. on Oct. 18, 2008 by Robert Pohle. She is now a member of the Lloydminster church.

NOVA SCOTIA

Donna Scott was baptized on Jan. 27, 2009 in Halifax, N.S. by Dan Wilson after studying with Thelma Boutilier. Donna is now a member of the Halifax church.

Births

Alayna Rachelle Arbeau was born Dec. 21, 2008 to Lisa and Kelly Arbeau of Truro, N.S.

Kendra Capote was born Oct. 29, 2008 to Maria and Alex Capote of Victoria, B.C.

Sofia Aviles was born Aug. 23, 2008 to Yolanda and Angelo Espinoza of Lloydminster, Alta.

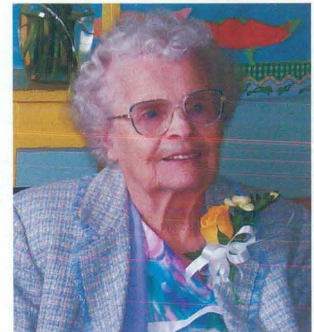
Wedding

Mary Ching Baylon Yanson and **James Nicholas Pilipchuk** were married Dec. 28, 2008 in Bonnyville, Alta.

and are making their home in Bonnyville.

Birthdays

Hilda Rooke of Mission, B.C. celebrated her 100th birthday on Apr. 29, 2008. Celebrations were held



in the Maple Ridge and Mission churches and in The Cedars where she resides. More than 100 relatives and friends attended her celebrations; she has six children, 19 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Hilda has spent many of her 100 years in service to the church. She served as Dorcas leader for some time, but is mostly known for her cooking—in a lumber camp, for Maranatha during the construction of the Nelson church and for camp-meetings at Hope. Still in good health, Hilda is looking forward to her 101st birthday and to attending campmeeting this summer.

Obituaries

Eva Boniface was born Oct. 8, 1915 in Ramsay Township, Ont. and died Jan. 14, 2009 in Almonte, Ont. Eva is predeceased by her husband James, daughter Trudy-Mae Hamilton, daughter-in-law Donna and sisters Linda and Alberta. Surviving: son Ross of Carleton Place, Ont.; daughter Elizabeth-Ann (Wolfram) Hackenberg; nine grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Bill Clemons was born June 12, 1935 in Elwood, Ind. and died June 5, 2008 in McDonald, Tenn. Bill worked as a pastor and conference departmental director for 38 years in several conferences including the Ontario conference. He also served as mission president for eight years in Libya, Jordan and Israel. Bill is predeceased by his son Bob. Surviving: wife Barbara; sons Mark of Tenn. and Gary of Tenn.; daughter Connie (Laird) Solomon of Oshawa, Ont.; and two grandchildren.

Anne June (Koziak) Gabrys was born June 23, 1920 and died Dec. 31, 2008 in Edmonton, Alta. Anne is predeceased by her husband John. Surviving: daughters Audrey and Delores (Larry); brother Jim Koziak; sisters Katherine Mitenko and Emily Rich; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Peter Franz Karl Hager was born on May 2, 1956 and died July 7, 2008. Surviving: wife Joan (Gascoyne); daughter Tamara; brothers Karl and Lenny; and sister Sue Chambers.

George Willis Hedgecock was born Nov. 9, 1946 in Scottsbluff, Nebr. and died Dec. 10, 2008 in Kears Lake, Alta. He is predeceased by his father Willis. Surviving: wife Diane; son Shanon (Mina) of Lacombe, Alta.; daughter Kristi (Adam) Patterson of Edmonton, Alta.; mother Glenna; sister Phyllis (Clem) Hobbs of Keene, Tex.; and two grandchildren.

Vivian (Emmerson) Hort was born Aug. 13, 1936 in Vermillion, Alta. and died Feb. 10, 2009 in Edmonton, Alta. Surviving: husband Benjamin; son Nicholas of Beaumont, Alta.; daughters Margaret (David) Russell of Oshawa, Ont. and Cheryl (Keith) Chant of Oshawa; sister Evelyn (Bill) Skalbeck of Chilliwack, B.C.; and one grandchild.

Colleen Charmaine (Kinghorn)

Mackie was born Feb. 19, 1951 in Rest Haven, B.C. and died Jan. 14, 2009 in Abbotsford, B.C. Colleen worked at Mountainview Summer Camp in B.C. for eight years as Food Services director. She is predeceased by her parents John and Rose Kinghorn and her brother Clare. Surviving: husband Stuart; sons Stephen and Jason; brother Wayne (Deanna) Kinghorn; sister Sharon (Bert) Trussell; and three grandchildren.

Margaret "Grace" (Lowenberg)

McConnell was born Dec. 15, 1922 in Springside, Sask. and died Jan. 12, 2009 in Abbotsford, B.C. Margaret is predeceased by her husband Ed. Surviving: son Vern (Karen) Liebreich of Kamloops, B.C.; daughters Judy (David) Woloschuk of Abbotsford and Valerie (Bruce) Hawick of Burnaby, B.C.; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Lillian Mae (Larrabee) Schafer

was born Sept. 5, 1931 in Solola, Guatemala and died Dec. 28, 2008 in Edmonton, Alta. Lillian was active in the music programs of her church and worked with several other church members to supply food hampers to needy families of

her community. Surviving: son Tim; daughter Corrine (Everett) Nielsen; and two grandchildren.

Franz Seidel was born May 25, 1964 in Lacombe, Alta. and died suddenly on Apr. 23, 2008 in a car accident in Salmon Arm, B.C. Franz served as head elder and personal ministries leader for his church in Silver Creek, B.C. He is predeceased by his father Ben and brother Gene. Surviving: mother Florence and brothers Scott (Janet) of Langley, B.C. and Tim (Fallon) of Salmon Arm.

Freda (Eckert) Shully was born Nov. 24, 1919 in Morden, Man. and died Oct. 20, 2008 in Penticton, B.C. Surviving: husband Steven; daughters Shirley (Harry) Sackett of Mission, B.C. and Lorraine Armstrong of Okanagan Falls, B.C.; brothers Eric (Elmeda) of Vernon, B.C. and Arnold (Rachel) of Edgewood, B.C.; sisters Martha Harmon of Enderby, B.C., Alma Hoppe, Olga (Hugo) Odenbach of Vernon and Elsie (Henry) Holland; and two grandchildren.

Clifford Stevenson was born Aug. 23, 1933 in Kingston, Ont. and died Nov. 27, 2008 in Oshawa, Ont. Clifford worked at College Woodwork on the Kingsway College campus for 23 years. He is predeceased by his brothers Howard and Allen and sisters Doreen, Grace and Irene. Surviving: wife Linda (Orr), son Jerry, daughters Cindy and Ann-Marie, sisters Lillian and Jean; and four grandchildren.

Patricia (Smith) Thornton was born Nov. 20, 1926 in Woodslee, Ont. and died Feb. 7, 2009 in Perth, Ont. Patricia worked at the Ontario conference. Patricia is predeceased by sisters Marion Dagleish and Lee Sullivan. Surviving: son Timothy of Lacombe, Alta; brother Dale (Donna) Smith of Windsor, Ont.; sisters Shirley Kantymire of Burnaby, B.C. Kathryn (Eldon) Hulett of Chillicothe, Mo., and Jean (Terry) McComb of Lumby, B.C.

■ Advertisements

Moving to Central Alberta? Check out this 1,100 square foot, ½ duplex with attached garage located in a quiet, seniors' residential area within walking distance of CUC. This five-year-old home features a gas fireplace, an open floor plan with laundry closet, 3/4 bath and master bedroom with ensuite on main floor. Two more bedrooms and full bath are located in finished basement. Asking price \$329,000 includes six appliances. For more information call 403/318-5679 or 403/348-7216. (06/09)

■ Advertising Policies

PROCESS:

- All advertising should be submitted with local conference approval.
- Payment must accompany your ad, or it will not be published.
- The Messenger assumes no responsibility for typographical errors, nor liability for the advertisements. Acceptance of ads does not constitute endorsement of the products or services by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

RATES:

Classified advertising — \$20 for 50 words or less; 35 cents for each additional word.

Display advertising (camera ready) — \$20 per column inch (b/w) \$25 (colour). For larger display ads, please contact the Messenger for a rate sheet.

Discounts — 10 percent discount for three or more consecutive insertions without copy changes.

Deadlines

July issue: **May 4**
 August issue: **June 1**
 September issue: **July 2**

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Blue Mountain Credit Union, near Walla Walla, seeks CEO.

Masters degree with 5+ years financial management experience preferred. Excellent leadership and communications skills are essential, along with lending, finance and computer expertise. Send resume, cover letter, salary requirements to: BMCU Board Chair, 520 S. College Avenue, College Place, WA 99324. (05/09)

Are you looking for a place in the country to grow your own food and help with haying? Wanted: missionary minded couple with trailer to help with 9.5 acre farm. Farm is two hours drive from Vernon, B.C. Phone 250/269-7256 if interested. (05/09)

Looking for country living? For sale: 9.5 acres of cultivated land beside highway in quiet community near Arrow Lake in the Kootenays, B.C. Power and phone. School, store, bank and outpost nearby. Beautiful scenery and wildlife. Contact 250/269-7256 or write Helen Kozak, R.R. 1, Edgewood, BC, V0G 1J0. (05/09)

Save 25% May 1-31, 2009! ABC Book of the Month: *Embrace the Impossible* by William Johnsson. Regularly \$17.99, Sale \$13.49. An inspiring story of giant steps of faith for God—and the impossible becoming reality. Available at your ABC, at www.AdventistBookCenter.com, or by calling 800/765-6955. (05/09)

For sale: 13.49 acres rural forest/bush, 210 ft x 3,000 ft., wild berries, stream, wildlife, hill. Available: hydro, phone, mail, school bus. Can help with building/development. Literature evangelism opportunities. Asking \$33,000. Contact Tim and Rose, Bonfield, Ont., 705/776-9529. (5/09)

On July 9, 2009, Martha Janot will reach her 100th birthday.

If you wish to send her greetings, you could do so via email using the address spollock8@sympatico.ca or by mail to Martha Janot c/o Siegrid Pollock, 361 Townline Road North, Courtrice ON, L1E 2K3. (05/09)

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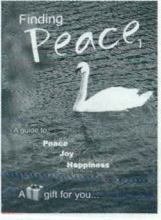
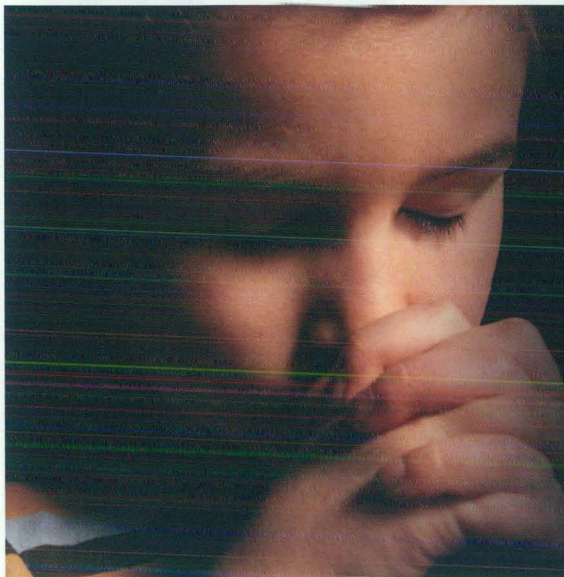
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Calling all Red River Valley Junior Academy alumni, former staff, friends and supporters. You are invited to join us in celebrating 85 years of Adventist education in Winnipeg. Our 85th anniversary alumni homecoming weekend will be held Aug. 28-30,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

Toxins are everywhere. The average food basket contains about 70 pesticide residues. You need to be informed of the dangers and the means to protect yourself from the health-destroying effects of toxins. Try a spring cleaning. Valuable detoxification information and doctor's testimonials of new product. Visit www.natural-pain-relief-guide.com/detox Phone 888/707-3663 (06/09)

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Visiting Niagara Falls, Canada—contact Niagara Fallsview Services to arrange accommodations, meetings venue, ground transportation, wheelchair accessible mini-vans, transfers to/from Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo airports, daily tours in Niagara and Toronto. Ideal business and ministry convention location. Looking for investment properties in Niagara region? We can help. niagarafallsview@aol.com (6/09)

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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. (06/09)

Are you prepared for the future? We can help.

Contact your conference Estate Planning & Trust Services department for assistance with Wills, Power of Attorney & Annuity documents.



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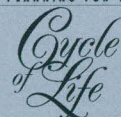
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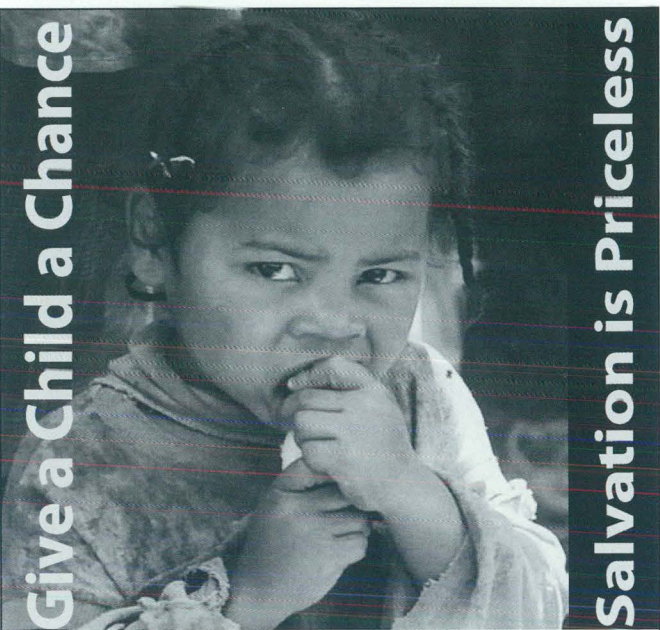


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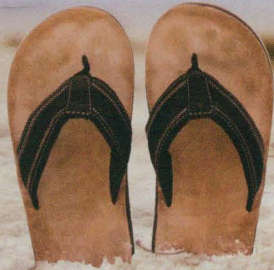
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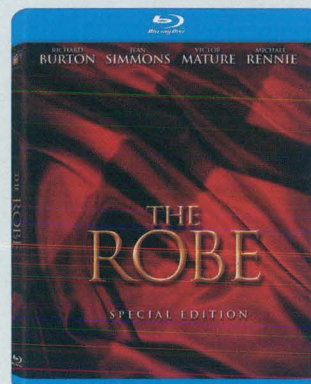
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THE ROBE

“And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God”



A FILM REVIEW

Considering myself to be a film aficionado, I was surprised that I had not heard of *The Robe*. I am quite familiar with landmark films and the American Film Institute's top 100 films of all time, but this one flew in under my radar to both surprise and impress me. As the first film to be shot in cinemascope (what we today call widescreen), it has an indelible spot in the history of entertainment. Yet beyond this achievement, it has another notable feature: an inspirational plot.

This story focusses on a centurion who witnessed the crucifixion of Christ. Mark 15:39 introduces this peripheral character whose conversion experience is fleshed out and explored in *The Robe*: “And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God” (KJV). It is a well-conceived story that focusses on Christ's effect on common folk. From the start of the film where Marcellus Gallio is introduced, the viewer is taken on a journey of discovery, penance, and redemption. One prominent aspect of *The Robe* is its development of the “behind-the-scenes” point of view. Marcellus is present at Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but the cameras stay back with him and his Roman colleagues. His servant, Demetrius, encounters Judas, and the revelation of his betrayal propels the storyline. Even at the foot of the cross, the camera focusses on Marcellus, his interaction with Christ and his ultimate possession of the robe Christ wore. The rest of the story delves into how he is transformed into the gospel-sharing apostle who eventually accompanies Peter through Palestine and, later, Rome. It truly inspires

one to think about the sacrifice made so many years ago, about those who witnessed it, and about how that event transformed even the most stalwart and stoic.

Whereas the story is inspirational and moving, the acting, however, is reflective of its period. Richard Burton holds his own as Marcellus, and Jean Simmons stands her ground nicely as Dianay; however, there are times when the lines are delivered in an exaggerated manner and are melodramatic, to say the least. This form of acting, though, doesn't detract from the story if it's viewed contextually and not placed on the same playing field as modern films like *The Passion of the Christ*. It is reflective of an earlier, more family-friendly age of filmmaking.

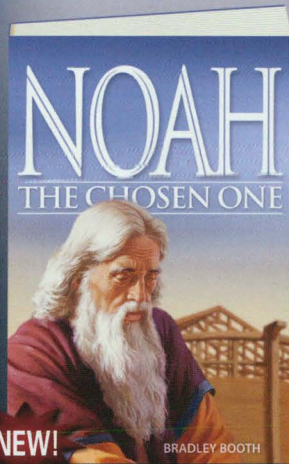
The cinematography is a joy to behold, as well. The restoration of this film, originally made in 1953, is noteworthy and is the subject of many trade websites. The fact that I viewed it on blu-ray in high-definition only amplified its grandeur. When I think of this film being made before the digital age of CGI effects and how all the sets needed to be created, I'm awestruck. It is a wondrous spectacle. The details and vivid colours only augment the scope of this film, placing it up there with the great epics like DeMille's *The Ten Commandments*.

The restored film is also available on standard DVD. If you've not seen this film and enjoy epics from the more innocent days of movie-making, I heartily recommend it. If you have this on video, I'd certainly recommend checking out the restoration. ■

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

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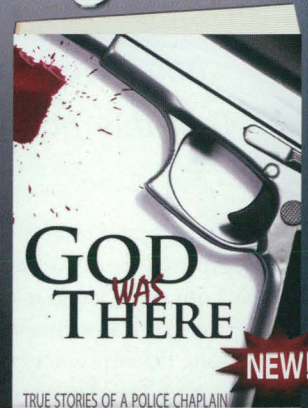
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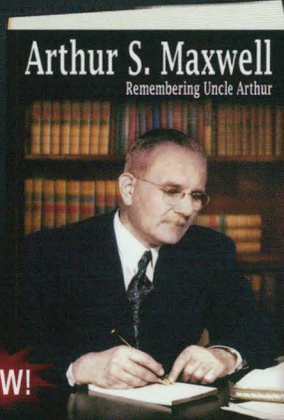
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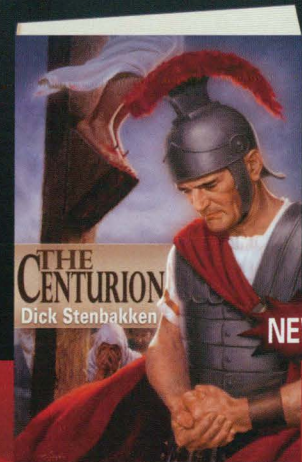
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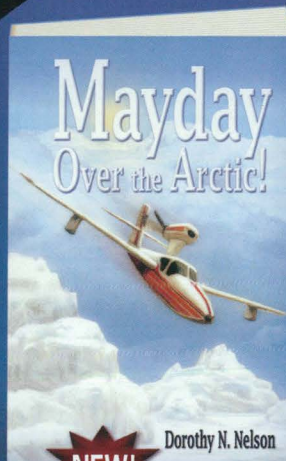
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