

Canadian Adventist

july/august 2009

# Messenger

## Single in a Couple's World

Towards a Nationwide Ministry for the Unmarried

ADMIT  
ONE

**PLUS:**

What's your motivation for mission? (p. 2);  
What's so great about blueberries? (p. 8)

PM40069337

# why we do what we do

“Triste. Muy triste.”

I could just barely hear Jhordy’s answer, but it thundered in my ears. He had agreed to tell me his story, and we’d hidden ourselves away in a quiet corner to talk. He spoke only Spanish and I spoke none, so I’d acquired a translator to help with the interview. The three of us sat together silently for a moment, Jhordy not looking at me but me unable to look away from him. I already knew he’d stolen a piece of my heart. I didn’t yet know how he would sharpen my motivation for mission.

Jhordy is 11 years old. For most of his life, he lived in the streets of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, stealing whatever food and money he could and sniffing the clefa (glue) to which he was addicted. Two years ago, he left the streets and came to CERENID, an ADRA Bolivia facility located in the mountains southwest of the city. Now, instead of being just one of the hundreds of forgotten and abused street children of Bolivia, he is part of a family and a valued member of this community.

I had travelled to Bolivia in partnership with A Better World and was at CERENID to view capital projects they had funded there. It wasn’t the renovated building or the garden produce that captured my attention, however; it was the boys who lived there—Jhordy in particular. The first time I ever saw him, he was leading a service in the little church that stands on the property. He was dressed smartly in a crisp navy suit with shiny gold buttons and freshly-polished shoes, and he was singing with gusto from the book of hymns held in his hands. He sported a wide grin. I felt a need to know him better.

Our group spent a week doing the work we were there to do, always accompanied by a group of curious boys with whom we laughed and played as often as we could. Jhordy had the biggest smile and wore it often. Amidst the crowd of boys at CERENID—all at various stages in their rehabilitation—Jhordy stood out as being friendly, approachable, helpful and happy. My frustration with our language barrier grew as the week wore on.

Finally, on the morning I was to leave CERENID, the pieces came together for me to conduct an interview with Jhordy. Putting proper journalistic technique aside, I cut through the small talk to the question I really wanted answered: “What was your life like before coming to CERENID?”

I didn’t expect the response I got. The ever-smiling Jhordy transformed before my eyes as my question obviously took him to a place he did not want to be. His smile wilted, and his big brown eyes swam with tears. As his face contorted and he began to cry, I caught his quiet words. “Triste. Muy triste.” I didn’t need a translator to understand.

I had spent the week watching a happy Jhordy without giving much thought to the unhappiness from which he’d come. His smile made me smile, his laugh made me laugh and his tears made me think. For some time, particularly since my travels in Rwanda on the fifteenth anniversary of the Tutsi genocide, I’d been convinced that every person needs to be cognizant of the reasons behind their actions. Everyone should know why they do what they do. I found fresh motivation in Jhordy’s smile.

—continued on page 20



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**Publisher/Editor** Crystal Holloway  
cholloway@sdacc.org

**Art Director** Joan Tanasychuk  
joant@sdacc.org

**Ad Manager** Lori MacDonald  
lmacdonald@sdacc.org

**Circulation Coordinator** Lori MacDonald  
messenger@sdacc.org

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**Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada**

1148 King Street East  
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8  
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

**President** Dan Jackson  
djackson@sdacc.org

**VP Administration** Nilton Amorim  
namorim@sdacc.org

**VP Finance** John Ramsay  
jramsay@sdacc.org

## Conferences

**Alberta** 37541 Hwy 2, Red Deer County, AB T4E 1B1, phone 403/342-5044

**British Columbia** Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4P5, phone 604/853-5451

**Manitoba/Saskatchewan** 1004 Victoria Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

**Maritime** 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E 1A6, phone 506/857/8722

**Newfoundland** 1041 Topsail Rd., Mount Pearl, NF A1N 5E9, phone 709/745-4051

**Ontario** 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8, phone 905/571-1022

**Quebec** 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4H 3M3, phone 450/651-5222

**Canadian University College** 5415 College Ave., Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5, phone 403/782-3381

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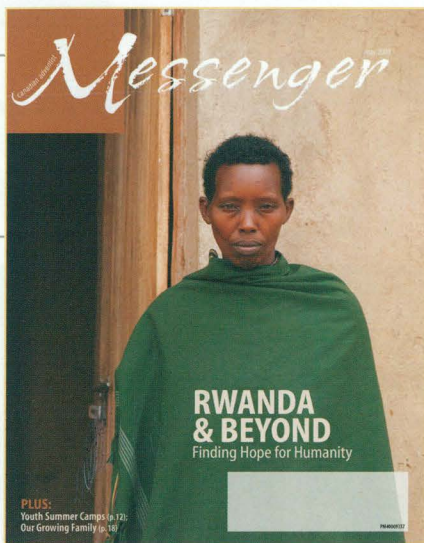
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# Your Words

“...My reaction in two words:  
Moving! Splendid! ...”

## RE: “Remembering Rwanda,” From the Editor, May 2009

Just pulled several magazines lying around my desk this Sabbath afternoon for a quick read. Started with your May issue—and with your editorial “Remembering Rwanda.” My reaction in two words: *Moving! Splendid!* God has truly blessed you with the gift of writing but also with the gift of empathy. A great combination!

—Roy Adams, associate editor, *Adventist Review* / *Adventist World*

I read “Remembering Rwanda.” I have also read Mr. Dallaire’s book, *Shake Hands with the Devil*. I can’t describe the feelings of horror in that read. The one thing I have in common with both sides is that I am a human as well and, by default, must be capable of being on either side determined only by my own choice. That is a serious responsibility.

I very much enjoy reading your editorials and commend you and the magazine for finding material that stimulates responses from many points of view. Some I agree with; some I don’t; but none are boring! All the best. Keep up the good work.

—J. Mason, via email

## RE: “Messenger Wins Big at ACP,” June 2009

Congratulations on the important

award received for the third year in a row! The current issue of the magazine is truly appealing... I’m very proud of your work and your success.

—Antonio Bueno, executive secretary, Ontario conference

## RE: “Joe Who? and You,” March 2009

I have often wondered why my brothers and sisters in Christ shy away from elections and politics. It seems to me that for a Church with such support of religious liberty and a healthy, Godly lifestyle that we would be more impassioned to make a difference in our country through politics—the most influential means possible in our great democracy—rather than stubbornly maintain a position of objectivity, or worse, indifference. Wishful thinking does very little in a time when our government’s stance on moral law, in regard to same-sex unions, marijuana legalization and abortion rights, is being questioned more than ever.

Though I am still unsure of the importance of Prime Minister Clark’s appearance on the cover of the March edition, I commend Mrs. Volk for taking that risk of including faith and politics in the same editorial. To go beyond merely calling ourselves Christians, her work reminds us to act upon our

beliefs and implement them into every facet of our daily lives, including the way we vote and share the good news of Jesus Christ with our fellow Canadians. Or have I inferred too much and missed her point entirely?

—D.M. Devnich, Chilliwack, B.C.

## RE: “God of All?” From the Editor, April 2009

I am writing to you to let you know what an excellent editorial you have in this month’s *Messenger*. It really hit home on a lot of issues. I have always enjoyed your editorials. You are doing a great job.

Thank you for your Christian insight.

—J. Wiens, via email

## THANK-YOU!!

Thank you so much for refocusing and refreshing my perspective of God... Thank you for taking a risk in running the story and for the display of courage in challenging us as a denomination and individuals to not put God in a box. Your editorial was an incredible response to the issue and one can only hope that our hearts would be soft enough to listen to the Spirit.

—Derek Richter, via email

E-mail comments to [cholloway@sdacc.org](mailto: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.

# Simple Susan?



Andrea Luxton

A few months ago an unknown name hit the news, not just in her home country of Scotland but throughout many areas of the world: Susan Boyle. At school she was nicknamed Simple Susan, a typical victim who attracts bullies. After leaving school with virtually no qualifications, she worked for six months as a trainee cook—her only formal job. She has never left her family home, and looked after her aging mother until her mother's death in 2007. She has never been married but has been an active volunteer in her local church. No wonder the crowd was less than impressed when Simple Susan got up on stage to perform on the show *Britain's Got Talent*. What good could come from a person who dressed, spoke and looked as though she had no class? Then she sang, and the judges, the audience and the world changed their opinion.

In an interview with *The Washington Post*, Susan commented, "Modern society is too quick to judge people on their appearances . . . There is not much you can do about it; it is the way they think; it is the way they are. But maybe this could teach them a lesson, or set an example."

Is the church any better? Or the Seventh-day Adventist Church in particular? Susan Boyle is certainly not our first example. Look at Christ. Jesus is choosing his disciples. He finds Philip and invites him to follow him. Philip is excited and with good missionary fervor

goes to find Nathanael, convinced that this is the promised Messiah. Nathanael's response is less than exuberant: "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" (John 1:46). Fortunately, and despite his words, Nathanael follows Philip's advice to "come and see," Nathanael becomes a follower and believer despite Jesus' roots.

Jesus himself seems to consciously flout social expectation in his choice of followers and friends. Look at his strange choice of disciples. The Jewish leadership would not have seen them as the leaders of a church. Then there is Zacchaeus. Despite the tax collector's notoriety, Jesus publicly announces he is going to his house to visit. What about Mary Magdalene and her dubious reputation? One of my favourite stories is Jesus' conversation at the well with the woman of Samaria. Here is an individual with three strikes against her: she is a woman, she is a Samaritan and she has lived a very questionable life. Yet she is not just worthy of Jesus' attention; she becomes a missionary to her town.

What is important to me in all these situations is not just that Jesus reaches out to individuals whom others may dismiss because of their social standing, race or reputation, while keeping a safe distance. There is no evidence at all that Jesus sees any of these individuals as beneath him. None are worthy of his scorn. He is not surprised when good comes from unexpected places. He nurtures what is good and even finds personal friends amongst those whom on first appearances others might class as rejects and sinners.

On the other hand, Jesus can use harsh words, and nowhere harsher than when he speaks to the Jewish leaders. How dare they, for example, "shut the door of the kingdom in people's faces" (Mt 23:13) and neglect "the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness" (Mt 23:23).

I have worked with young people

of different ages all my life. I have seen those with apparently great futures walk away from them. I have seen success in very unexpected places. I have seen deep discouragement when well-meaning church members judge, when what is needed is love and encouragement. I have seen the Susan Boyles who have dared to be vulnerable trampled on because the package doesn't seem right. I have also been privileged to see other Susan Boyles warmly embraced and their gifts encouraged. They have not been judged for who they are or what they have done. That is when lives are transformed.

It is difficult to look beyond our preconceptions. Society has tried to teach us not to judge on race, social status or handicap. Most of us have, at least on the surface, shown that we have learnt that lesson. The Susan Boyle story was so stunning because in the reality show context the surface pretense of acceptance was not there. The video caught the demeaning looks that we have learnt to hide in normal social interaction. It showed that a high degree of judgment can remain in our hearts despite our socially acceptable comments. And for a Christian, judgments can go even deeper. When we look at those who believe differently, act in ways we consider to be wrong, or speak without spiritual understanding, are we truly able to see what Christ sees—individuals with immeasurable potential and individuals worthy of our unconditional love? Or do we judge, whether openly or masked behind a smile?

May we never shut the door of the kingdom on anyone's face because of our preconceptions. May we never put the less weighty items of the law above the more important ones of justice, mercy and faithfulness. ■

*Andrea Luxton is president of Canadian University College.*



Josué wishes a regretless summer to all of his young friends

## Summer Fling

July, 2009

I'm about to go on a vacation to the lake with my family. I always have fun there hanging out with my friends, plus there are a few cute guys that live there all year 'round. And that's the problem—the guys. Last summer I did some things that I regret. What can I do this year to avoid having another summer fling?



### Josué Sánchez

Answer

You are already doing the right thing: planning in advance how you'll avoid making mistakes. I'm so proud of you!

Here are four tips for avoiding regretful hook-ups:

1. **Healthy Self-confidence:** Having a positive attitude about yourself will help you to expect respectful treatment from any relationship. And being respected means only being with a guy who will accept your boundaries about physical intimacy.
2. **Think:** Don't let his smooth words or gentle touch under the moonlight blur your mind. Be rational. Life is nothing like the movies. Do you really know this guy? Imagine that, instead of being at the beach at midnight, you two are in your living room . . . with your parents watching!
3. **Prayer:** You'll need lots of it. And I really mean that. But don't pray for your charm prince to appear this summer. (LOL!) Pray for a sound mind and self-control.
4. **Accountability Partner:** Do you have a level-headed friend? If not, now is the time to search for one. Tell her what your goal is, and give her permission to ask you difficult questions. Add her to your speed dial, and text or call her at the first sign of Cupid's sting.

Join the conversation on this topic at [www.TeenTalkPage.com](http://www.TeenTalkPage.com)

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## Josue

[www.JosueSanchez.com](http://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*, *Twitter* or *FlowWith.me* friends list!



# Creation Corner for Kids



## Musk Ox

“My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” John 10:29

Dressed in its warm full-length coat to withstand the cold of Arctic winters, the musk ox is well-suited to its home near the North Pole. So light and warm are the fibres of its coat that for centuries the strands have been gathered by native peoples and made into garments. Finer than cashmere and eight times warmer than sheep’s wool, the wool of the musk ox fetches a high price in expensive shops around the world.

The musk oxen’s main enemy is the wolf. With excellent sight and hearing, musk oxen are capable of reaching high speeds when an enemy is spotted at a distance. But when pressed, musk oxen have a strong defense. With calves and aging animals behind their tails, adults of the herd form a ring of protection around the inner group, making a wall of dangerous horns against the enemy.

### Think about it.

Has God left us alone to fight our enemy? Certainly not! Strengthened with the word of God in our minds, protected by an angel army at God’s bidding and the promise of Christ’s constant companionship through the Holy Spirit, with God we have nothing to fear. We are His prized possession, His beloved flock. As long as we choose to be with Him, nothing can pluck us from God’s hand.



### Do it.

Look up the following scriptures to learn more about the defenses that God has provided for us. Genesis 15:1; Ephesians 6:16; 1 Peter 1:5; Ezra 8:31; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Psalm 40:11. Learn more about domesticated muskoxen at [www.muskoxfarm.org/](http://www.muskoxfarm.org/).

# Blueberries

## A healthy mouthful!



*By the time you read this article, the grass will be green and possibly dying due to lack of rain. The many berries grown in the various regions of Canada will be ripe and ready for harvest. The Prairies are famous for their saskatoon berries. Newfoundland is a rich source of a variety of berries, including cranberries, bakeapple and partridgeberry. This article will examine the benefits of one of the tastiest and most healthful of all our berries, the blueberry.*

### Ways to Eat Blueberries

The easiest and fastest way to eat blueberries is to wash them and pop them into your mouth—a mouth-watering event. There are many other ways one can enjoy them. Blueberries find their way into muffins, scones, pies, topping on waffles, cheesecake, granola bars and a tremendous number of other things. Years ago, this author enjoyed a piece of fresh blueberry pie at an old local general store in a farming community in eastern Ontario and never forgot the feast! You can put fresh or frozen blueberries on your cereal in the morning; top a bowl of blueberries with ice cream, whipped cream or sorbet; or suck on them frozen on a hot summer day. What is your favourite way to enjoy blueberries? To enjoy them year round, you can freeze them yourself or buy them frozen. When in season, blueberries can be found in the fresh produce section of a grocery store. Lots of times, they can even be found in the off-season here in Canada, since they come to us from the south. So, when will be the next time you have blueberries?

### The Benefits of Blueberries

Blueberries are one of the best antioxidant fruits and vegetables. Antioxidants, studies have shown, decrease the risk of developing impairment of the brain. Dr. Daniel Amen, an author who has studied and written about strengthening your brain, says that when he goes to the grocery store, he typically buys 20-40 frozen packages of blueberries at a time. When the checkout clerk looks at him rather funny, he simply talks about their being a brain food.

In the last instalment of this column, you may remember, two different food guides were discussed in this column. According to both Canada's Food Guide and the Vegetarian Food Guide, blueberries count as a fruit serving. The size of the serving would be one half cup.

Blueberries are one of those fruits that are tasty, delicious and mouth-watering. The antioxidants in the blueberries serve to protect the brain and improve its functionality. Eating blueberries in a variety of ways is one way to eat healthfully and benefit your brain. Do you like blueberries? Are you willing to eat more blueberries? ■

### Blueberry Ice Cream

A recipe that teenagers go crazy over is blueberry ice cream.

- 8 oz. frozen blueberries
- 4 Tbsp. heavy cream
- just a touch of Stevia\*, a natural sweetener
- Mix ingredients in a blender and serve.

\*If you are not able to find Stevia, you could use a different sweetener to taste. Also, in place of the cream you could try soy milk, rice milk, or almond milk. There is also the possibility of making cashew milk. (Dr. Amen, Making a Good Brain Great, 2005)







# CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK AND ADRA CANADA

## Canadian Foodgrains Bank A Few Fast Facts

- ↳ Established in 1983
- ↳ 15 member agencies, representing 32 Christian denominations
- ↳ ADRA Canada joined CFGB in 1990
- ↳ Has shipped more than a million tones of food
- ↳ Programmed in 76 countries so far
- ↳ Receives \$25 million annually from CIDA
- ↳ Received record donations of \$12.4 million last year

**H**ow is the Canadian Foodgrains Bank connected to ADRA Canada? Do they work together, or are they completely separate organizations? Can I support them both at the same time?

ADRA Canada is one of fifteen church-based agencies that own the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). Through these agencies, almost all Christian denominations in Canada (thirty-two in total) are represented by CFGB. Each member agency has a separate account made up of incoming donations and can do hunger related programming with that account. Through CFGB, each agency can also access the 4:1 matching funds provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for most programs.

Let's break that down in a way that's easy to understand. Pam, a committed Adventist, wants to make a donation to help end hunger for a family in a developing country. She makes a donation to ADRA Canada and specifies that the gift is for the CFGB account. (Or she makes the donation to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and tells them to allocate her donation to ADRA Canada's account.) Once the money is in the account, Christina, who does programming for ADRA Canada, has access to it. In response to a request from Jannie of ADRA Mongolia, Christina helps develop a plan for a food security project in an area of Mongolia where there is chronic hunger. This plan is submitted to Vera at the CFGB office. Vera goes through the plan with Christina, tweaking it a bit where necessary, and then applies the 4:1 CIDA match (so that ADRA Canada's contribution of \$10,000 grows to \$50,000, for example). If needed, CFGB will also help with logistics planning, such as ordering and arranging delivery of the necessary food, seeds and transport.

Eventually, the program benefits Tungaa, her family and the rest of their community living in Mongolia. Pam is happy because her donation was put to good use through the effective partnership of CFGB, ADRA Canada and ADRA Mongolia.

I invite you to join Pam in supporting the work of ending hunger through ADRA Canada by donating to CFGB projects. Your help goes a long way toward ending hunger. ■

*Heather Plett is the Resource Director for the Canada Foodgrains Bank.*

Through its CFGB equity, ADRA Canada has supported projects in the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Iraq, Liberia, Mongolia, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia



Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of Canadian church-based agencies working to end hunger in developing countries by:

- increasing and deepening the involvement of Canadians in efforts to end hunger;
- supporting partnerships and activities to reduce hunger on both an immediate and sustainable basis;
- influencing changes in public policies necessary to end hunger.



Performing for students in Jamaica



Team pastor Chloe Rosengren with new friends at one of the many performances in Jamaica

# Acronaires bring smiles to

The Canadian University College Acronaires performed its year-end show for an audience of more than 1,300 hundred at the CUC Physical Education Centre. The gym was a sea of elementary students from schools in Lacombe and the surrounding area. Sitting with their legs crossed on the gym floor, the wide-eyed students watched as the Acronaires towered high above them, executing flawless butterflies and basket two-highs. A week later, the team stood in a well-lit studio ready to perform for thousands on Jamaica's premier morning talk show, TVJ Channel Eleven's *Smile Jamaica*.

On April 20, 2009, a day after graduation, the CUC Acronaires travelled to Kingston, Jamaica, to tour and raise money for a local counselling and resource centre. The Adventist Resource Centre (ARC), run by CUC alumnus Pastor Greg Baldeo and his wife Donette, provides educational training and assistance for the less fortunate who desire to improve their lifestyle and vocation. With seventeen performances scheduled in a span of five days, any thoughts of a touring holiday quickly dissipated. The tour not only was a chance to support ARC but also provided invaluable experience to the CUC students on the Acronaires team. In the eyes of Ron Schafer, Acronaires coach and chair of the PE Department, travelling with a mission in mind is educational. "I believe that trips to other countries are invaluable experiences because they teach our students that we are extremely fortunate in Canada. The experience of visiting people in less fortunate circumstances gives them the desire to support mission for the rest of their lives," Schafer remarks.

The *Smile Jamaica* TV appearances was another way to promote and gain support for the resource centre and was one of many memorable experiences

for the Acronaires. Enthusiastic and supportive crowds kept the team energized as they worked through three to four performances a day. The children at the schools they visited kept them focused and at times made them feel like stars with requests for autographs. But as always, the message remained the same: support for the resource centre, positive lifestyle choices, fitness for better health, and the importance of education. One moment that stood out for Richard Gray, first-year elementary education major and team co-captain, was the visit to a home for mentally and physically handicapped children. Interacting with the kids by giving them stuffed animals and working them through certain acrobatic moves greatly impacted many of the team members. "The single greatest moment was when we visited the school for mentally and physically challenged children. We spent time playing with them and putting them through some simple moves. It made us realize the real reason why we are on this team. Although we perform in front of thousands, our main focus is to express our praise to God through our acrobatics. Being with the kids made us realize that all of the cheers are meaningless compared to how we made those children feel that day," says Gray.

The trip was a success not only in terms of raising the profile for the Adventist Resource Centre but also in showing many of the students on the team the importance of mission. Gray remarks, "It was a great experience that allowed us to bond closer as a team. God brought the team together this year, and hopefully, we can have an even better year next year." ■

JR Ferrer is the communications director for Canadian University College.





Towards a

# National Adult Singles Ministry

*“A Christ-centred, safe, nurturing  
place where friends gather.”*

By Darlene Reimche

While working in the British Columbia conference office in 1979, Anna (Samograd) Singbeil caught a vision of ministry for the single adult. On October 21, 1979, Singbeil, along with Lillian Beaton-Sorenson, presented the first Adventist Singles Ministry Fall Retreat at Camp Hope. This was the beginning of an important ministry in the British Columbia conference that has continued through the years. This year, 2009, Adventist Singles is celebrating its thirtieth year of ministry in the province of British Columbia.

The ministry has been very active and strong some years, while in decline other years. Most years there have been three conference-wide events: a Canadian Thanksgiving Retreat in October, a Spring Singles Ministries Convention and nightly activity programs at campmeeting in July. Always, it has struggled with misconception and misunderstanding by other church members. Perceiving that the ministry was too often viewed as a denominational dating service, leadership of the ministry voted a few years ago to intentionally shift the focus towards fellowship and friendship. Our adopted mission statement describes it well: “A Christ-centred, safe, nurturing place where friends gather.”

In 2001, the British Columbia conference administration officially established Single Adult Ministries as a department of the conference and staffed the department with a director. Now, local churches are encouraged to appoint a Single Adult Ministries Coordinator. Both the shift in focus to a friendship ministry and the establishment of a department have been very positive and have done much to cement Single Adult Ministries among the other important ministries of the British Columbia conference.

One wonders: is there a need for this ministry across Canada? Statistics Canada figures for 2007 show a population total of 32,976,026 adults. Of those, 15,916,860 are married; 13,800,997 are single; 1,573,455 are widowed; and 1,684,714 are divorced. Unmarried adults (singles, widowed and divorced) total 17,059,166, constituting 51.73 percent of the population, while married adults constitute 48.26 percent of the population.

## What is the Adventist Church doing for this fastest growing people group?

The potential for outreach to this people group is huge! A “whitened field ready for harvest” aptly describes this fast-growing segment of society today. Our church is doing a good job of expanding the term “family,” moving from a traditional definition to one that includes singles, widows/widowers, single-parent families, extended families, expanded families, step-families and blended families. We are attempting to become a true family of God!

In many places, however, the unmarried church member is not feeling the inclusion. To reach out to singles in our communities, our church must be an accepting, loving, safe and nurturing place for the single adult. Too often, it is not.

Society in general is noticing the potential of the unmarried population. It is widely known that, in fact, today singles comprise the largest concentrated pool of sales prospects in the country. Singles are the biggest purchasers of sports cars, condominiums and fashions; the greatest frequenters of restaurants (often eight to 10 times a week); and are the target of most major movies, television advertisements, and health clubs. Singles go where singles are. Singles are spending more money, and singles are setting trends.

In a study that The Barna Group conducted on single adults in the United States, a study that was published in 2002 in the book *Single Adults*, it was found that more than 78 percent of all singles in the United States say that they are Christians and yet only one-third of them have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Would it be much different in Canada?

In 2009, the research group released more startling statistics. They report that 37 percent of the unchurched population in North America is made up of never-married single adults, most of whom previously attended a church.

Singles in these situations can most assuredly be considered a field ripe for the harvest (John 4:35-36). The singles population, possibly more than any other, is searching for answers to their

## Adventist Single Adult Ministries Information and Upcoming Events

North American Division Adventist Single Adult Ministries: [www.adventistsingleadultministries.org](http://www.adventistsingleadultministries.org)

Plusline (events): [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org)

Online Adventist Single Adult Community—“The Happenin’ Place”: [www.adventistSAM.com/forum](http://www.adventistSAM.com/forum)

A local church Singles Ministries Coordinator job description can be downloaded from [www.plusline.org/article.php?id=312](http://www.plusline.org/article.php?id=312)

British Columbia Conference Adventist Single Adult Ministries Events and Information: [www.bcsdasingles.com](http://www.bcsdasingles.com)

questions and for something to fulfill their lives.

### What does this say to us as a church?

If a single from the community came to your church today, what kind of welcome would he or she receive? Would single people be loved and accepted into God’s family by both married and single members alike? Would they see a Jesus who loves them? We, His church, must do all we can to ensure that we receive them with open arms and hearts. Is our church ready?

### What is Adventist Single Adult Ministries?

Adventist Single Adult Ministries is a Christ-inspired ministry where unmarried church members and friends experience unconditional love and acceptance by others who understand what it is like to be single in a couples’ world. It is many things to many people, but, at its core, the ministry is a safe place where one can be nurtured, heal from wounds of the past or recover from the loss of a spouse.

It also

- encourages and provides opportunity for singles to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.
- gives a positive identity for singles in the church, enabling them to be accepted and loved as a part of their church family.
- provides a safe place for Christian fellowship and friendship. One of the greatest needs of the single adult is to establish healthy friendships with other men and women. It is a

ministry where all singles are loved and accepted just as they are.

- offers opportunities for personal growth and healing from the losses in one’s life.
- is a place where singles have a warm, nurturing family and a place to bring their community single friends.

### And Now to You Personally ...

*To those whom God has given the gift of marriage:* Marriage is not something to be taken for granted. Cherish it, work at it, make your marriage last. Make it something precious.

But don’t expect all people to be married like you. Know that some people have been given a different gift than you have been given, the gift of singleness. In Matthew 19:11, after speaking about divorce, his disciples said to Jesus, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” Jesus responded, “All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given . . . He who is able to accept it, let him accept it” [emphasis supplied].

*To those who have lost a spouse to death:* We are so sorry. Whether it was an expected death or a sudden death, life as you knew it came to an end. Your married friends may have stood by you for a time, but gradually your paths and interests changed, and now you are alone to deal with your grief, to parent your children (if you have them) and to move on with a single life.

Our heavenly Father witnessed your pain, and He wept with you. He even spoke about you in the Bible in James 1:27, made provision for you, and instructed His church members to love and assist you, help you to heal and move on with your life.

*To our divorced friends:* We saw your pain. We saw it in your eyes, heard it in your voice, watched your bowed head and stooped shoulders. Your pain is like the death of a spouse that lingers on. There is no closure for you. Friends may have forsaken you and church members may have judged you. We are so sorry for that, and we apologize for our actions.

We were un-Christlike, for while Christ walked on this earth He understood His created beings, their needs and their desires. To the woman caught in the very act of adultery and cast at His feet He said, "Neither do I condemn thee. Go now and leave your life of sin" (John 8:11).

The Samaritan woman at Jacob's well was one of the greatest evangelists of her day (John 4). While she was living with the sixth man, who wasn't her husband, she brought a whole village to Jesus. Jesus knew her lifestyle; however, He accepted her just as she was, and your Church must learn from that. Forgive us when we miss that mark.

*And now to you, our never-married friends:* Perhaps you feel most traumatized of all because you don't really fit in

anywhere. Pressured to marry by society, pressured to marry by church members, pressured to marry by family members and, as a result, pressured from within because you want to be accepted. Don't let others do that to you. You are okay just the way you are. God loves you just as surely as He loves those who are married. You have great value and worth. Stand up for yourself. Don't let others put you down. Grow, learn, stand tall. You are a child of God!

Whatever marital status we have, we are children of the same heavenly Father and must treat one another as brothers and sisters, equals in God's eyes. He is coming soon; we don't have time to waste pining for something other than we have. Instead, reach out to other single adults. Get involved in Adventist Single Adult

Ministries. Get involved in your church family. You have been given great talents. You don't have more time than anyone else but you can be singly focussed on the mission God gave you, the reason He placed you here on this earth.

It is my prayer that we, the members of this Adventist Church, both single and married, will stretch out our hands to the single people in our communities, inviting them to come along with us to our promised heavenly home. "Behold, the fields are white and ready for harvest." ■

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*Darlene Reimche has worked with the B.C. Conference Adventist Singles Ministries as a leader and director for fifteen years. She also serves as Canadian Representative on the North American Division Adventist Single Adult Ministries Committee.*

## Steps To Follow In Beginning A Singles Ministry

**Step 1**—Spend a lot of time in prayer, asking that God will guide you in the direction He would want the ministry to go.

**Step 2**—Identify the needs of the singles in your church or district area. Are they never-been-marrieds, widows/widower or divorceds? Are they single mothers with children? Are they recently divorced?

Ask questions:

- Why should you start a single adult ministry in your church?
- Does a significant single adult population already attend your church or live in the community? Who will be your target audience: single church members or single people in your community?
- What are the pastoral and congregational attitudes about single adult ministry?
- What is your senior pastor's attitude toward singles?
- What is your congregation's general attitude about singleness? (They have one, even if they don't know it!)
- What resources are available to help you with single adult programs?

**Step 3**—Once you have the support of the leadership to begin a ministry or have been appointed by the nominating committee to lead an existing one, you will need to establish a single adults ministries committee to help you. Choose people who have the time, skill and passion to make the ministry successful.

**Step 4**—Write a mission statement—one sentence that says what your overall purpose is or what you stand for.

**Step 5**—Define your objectives. Put them in writing so that you can review them continually. These objectives may span several categories and should state clearly what you want to accomplish.

**Step 6**—Set your goals. Make them measurable. Set short-range, mid-range and long-range goals that will help you reach your objectives.

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

## General Conference

### A Historic New Broadcast: AWR Begins Airing to Laos

On July 16, Adventist World Radio (AWR) will begin airing programs in the Lao language to listeners in the country of Laos. "This is a historic occasion," says AWR president Ben Schoun, "as this will be the first Adventist media broadcast to the people of Laos in their own language."

Laos is a small country with population of about 6 million. Ethnic Lao, the principal lowland inhabitants and politically- and culturally-dominant group, make up the bulk of the Lao Loum population. Most people live in the valleys of the Mekong River and its tributaries. Vientiane prefecture, which includes Vientiane, the capital and largest city of the country, has about 700,000 residents.

Lao is a communist country with very stringent regulations on religious liberty. Public evangelism is restricted. There have been instances of the Laotian government attempting to make Christians renounce their faith and have several times closed down Christian churches. Often, the government officials are also known to detain clergy because of their religious activities.

In August 2008, the Adventist World Radio studio at Mission College in Thailand took up the challenge to produce Laotian radio programs to broadcast from the AWR shortwave station in Guam. With the help and guidance of Pastor Surachet Insom, AWR Thailand coordinator, Pastor



At Adventist World Radio's Studio in Thailand, students help produce programs to be broadcast to Laos from Guam.

Brian Wilson, of the Southeast Asia Union Mission translation center, took the initiative of working toward this goal with a few Laotians students studying at the college. Recently, the team found a key church member in Laos, Brother Boala, to produce these programs.

AWR will broadcast the Lao programs from Guam, which can be heard every Thursday and Saturday between 8:30 and 9 p.m. local time. Listeners can tune their shortwave radios to 11880 KHz on 25-meter band. In addition, AWR also plans to reach the hearts of approximately 700,000 people in Vientiane through FM radio programs broadcast from the Thai province of

Nongkai.

"We praise our Great God for His providence throughout the radio work," says AWR Asia/Pacific program director Anniston Matthews. "He loves every Laotian, and desires to reach out to all people in this country."

Matthews adds, "The studio needs your help by contributing stories, features, and music for producing quality radio programs. Everyone can contribute by sending your articles to AWR Thailand at awrthai@hotmail.com. For those who have musical talents and can produce ethnic Lao Christian music, you may email us your content." ■



## North American Division

### 80-Year-Old Radio Program Releases iPhone Application

The first dedicated iPhone application for a Christian inspirational program has been released for Voice of Prophecy, a radio program founded in 1929 and now the second-oldest gospel radio broadcast still on the air.

The VOP Radio application has an easy-to-use user interface that offers two formats. Users can listen to recent broadcasts in a streaming format 24/7, or they may select from a list of specific programs and listen on-demand. The application runs on both the iPhone and on the second-generation iPod Touch. It can be downloaded from the iTunes store or at the Voice of Prophecy website, [www.VOP.com](http://www.VOP.com).

The Voice of Prophecy already offers

Bible studies formatted for cell phones.

Voice of Prophecy speaker Fred Kinsey says, "I'm really excited about using all kinds of new technology to make the gospel available to people anytime, anywhere. It's still the same tried and true message, but the method of delivery is constantly being updated."

Voice of Prophecy is heard on hundreds of radio stations around the world, and now it is available to millions of iPhone and iPod owners whenever they wish.

The application was developed by Kyle Borg, president and co-founder of BiggyTV, who also created the platforms for The Adventist Channel for online video distribution, and for SDALink, an online social networking site for the

Seventh-day Adventist global church.

More information about Voice of Prophecy may be found at [www.vop.com](http://www.vop.com).

Founded by Seventh-day Adventist pastor H.M.S. Richards, Sr. in October 1929 as America's Great Depression was beginning, Voice of Prophecy pioneered the use of radio to deliver the message of the gospel. Eighty years later, it continues to use contemporary technology to touch the lives of many around the world. The Voice of Prophecy radio program, Bible school, and evangelistic ministry has its international headquarters at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, California. ■

## SDA Church in Canada



Lori Wiens  
MacDonald

### Messenger Staff Member Wins National Poetry Award

Lori Wiens MacDonald of Courtice, Ontario has received the award of merit for poetry in a national writing competition for her poem "In My Father's Field" printed by the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* in their January 2008 issue.

A busy mom of two, MacDonald works as an advertising/circulation manager and secretary for the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* which is the national publication for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. She has a Masters of English from the University of Alberta and is a former associate professor of English at Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alberta.

"In My Father's Field" reflects on MacDonald's experiences and images sown during her childhood living on a small farm in Saskatchewan. This is her first foray into publishing her poetry which she says is an integral part of her life and her Christian experience. MacDonald's poem is a finalist in the Poetry category in The Word Guild Canadian Christian Writing Awards.

The winners for the writing contest were celebrated on June 17 at a black-tie Awards Gala at World Vision's head-

quarters in Mississauga, Ontario, to which the public was invited. The Gala is the premier event honouring the work of Canadian writers who are Christian. It was be hosted by Herbie Kuhn, popular speaker and in-house announcer for the Toronto Raptors basketball team.

The contest received a record number of 237 entries from writers in eight provinces.

The 30 award categories include non-fiction books, novels, articles, columns, poems and song lyrics.

"I feel very privileged and excited to be given this award," MacDonald said. "Writing is an important aspect of my life and to have this poem so honoured is wonderful as it represents a formative image in my life and my spiritual experience."

The Word Guild, the organization that sponsors the awards, consists of more than 340 writers and editors across Canada who write from a Christian perspective and publish work in a variety of genres.

The Word Guild also sponsors Canada's largest Christian writers' conference called Write! Canada. After the Gala, 250 writers, editors, agents and publishers met in Guelph, Ontario for professional development, networking and marketing opportunities. ■

## British Columbia

### Meeting Men's Needs in Ministry

Men's Ministry is alive and well at the Penticton Seventh-day Adventist church. Beginning with five or six men, the group now has 10-12 meeting regularly every Tuesday evening, with attendance so far peaking at 15. Since the inception of the ministry two years ago, the men have been exploring different topics dealing with relationships, spirituality and special issues facing men.

Greg Wellman, pastor of the Penticton church, says the group provides an atmosphere for friendship, prayer, study, and encouragement. Together the men

have gone through different video programs such as "Wild at Heart" and "The Five Love Languages." They have also looked at programs by Jim Hohnberger and Gene Getz, such as the "Men of Power" series and "The Measure of a Man."

As not all those in the group are members of the Seventh-day Adventist church, the interdenominational mix allows them to see issues from different perspectives. In fact Kevin Burke, the leader of the group, became an Adventist because of this interaction. But all, regardless of church affiliation, find the

group provides a safe atmosphere where men can discuss male struggles and male topics.

Some have commented, "This is church for us, where we can be more real and open." Others say, "It is good to have a group that lifts us up. There are too many things that draw us away from Christ. This group reminds us what our purpose is, and the high values we should be looking for."

As the group is continuing to grow, Pastor Wellman is wondering if it should branch off into two smaller groups. ■

## Alberta

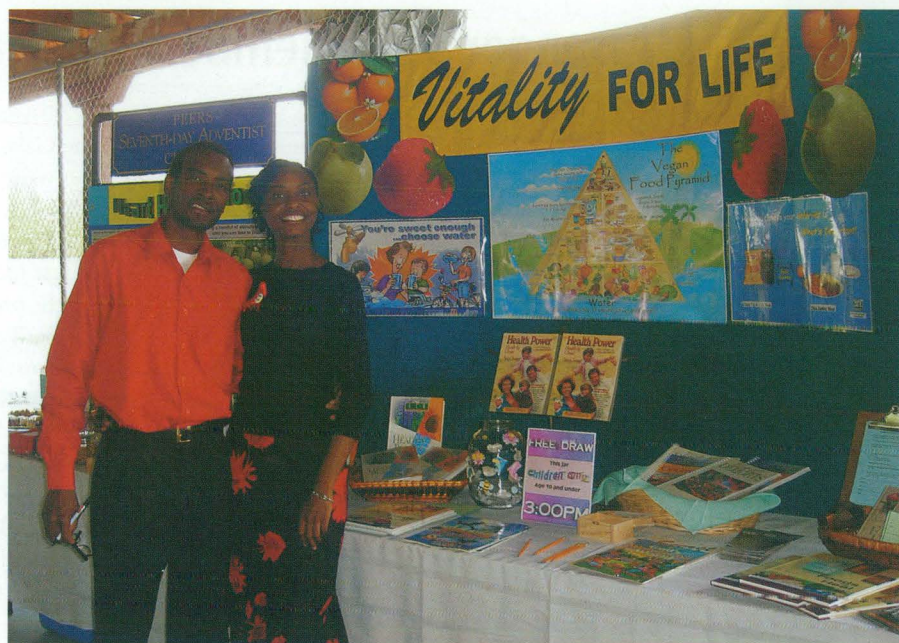
### Yellowhead County Barbecue

The Peers Seventh-day Adventist Company was pleased to host a display booth at the Yellowhead County Family Barbecue and Trade Show on June 13, an event held at the McLeod Valley Recreation Grounds.

Our church showcased a healthy lifestyle. We had many people stop by the booth to sample the Quinoa Salad and the Walnut Spread—just two foods that are great for heart health. We had a great crowd at the booth with lots of interest in the food sampling.

We also gave out two door prizes. Sarah Leach of the Yellowhead County won the cookbook and health DVD while Lindsay Kuilboer won the prize for children 10 years and under: two activity/story books.

The Family Barbecue was a great event for our church to participate in to be visible in the community and connect with our neighbours. We met many



Bible workers Egbert and Keishauni George at the Peers company's booth

wonderful people and our bible workers, Egbert and Keishauni George, met several people interested in bible study. ■

—Dolores Fletcher, member

# Manitoba-Saskatchewan



## Health Ministries in the Stress of Things

Today's pressure cooker of life has all the ingredients—informational and decisional overload, constant rapid change and techno-stress—to open the door for an effective, consistent health ministry in Moose Jaw. During the last weekend in March the Moose Jaw community was nourished with a hearty helping of health ministry training and experience. On that Sabbath our health ministries director, Carol Henry, and executive secretary, Colin Akre, as well as guests from out of town, joined the Moose Jaw church to participate in a Health Ministries Training Seminar by stress fitness coach, international speaker and author Cameron Johnston. Balancing the talk with the practice, the weekend also included a “Cooling Down the Stress Soup” seminar offered to the community through Silver Hills Lifestyle Center and the church.

Johnston, who is also director of Silver Hills On-The-Road, is a burnout survivor who has inspired tens of thousands of individuals across Canada and the US to “live it up” without being “washed up.” Since 1995, through his powerful and fun books, seminars and workshops, employees and members of hundreds of companies and organizations have mastered the stress heartiness tools needed to thrive and succeed in our fast-paced, 24/7 world.

For the health training, Cameron brought out the importance of using Christ's method of reaching people, bringing the personal touch and healing before giving the invitation to follow

Christ. Johnston challenged the members to look to find where God is already at work around you, and join Him in his work. This applies to health ministry as well. The church must find the felt-needs in the community and reach those needs. He encouraged all to think outside the box and even gave some good suggestions as to how to get help with funding and advertising. We were amazed to realize the potential we have as we start to tap into the resources we have available through our denomination.

“Stress is basically just living life. We want stress... we just need to know how to deal with it,” is part of the message that Johnston was able to share with the 50 guests from the community and 14 church members who came to find out how to handle stress during that weekend in March. The participants took a stress test, and then Johnston offered eight ways to “cool down the stress soup” and warned about the seven stages leading to burnout. Mixed in were stories, testimonies and lots of humor. One of the participants shared how she had been saved by Johnston's stress seminar 10 years ago at a time when she had been going through great stress. The guests ranged from farmers to nurses, teachers and guidance counselors to college students—a very professional group, all of whom know what it means to be stressed. People enjoyed his humor and down to earth advice on overcoming stress. “Cameron's obvious extensive knowledge lends wonderfully to his personalized style,”

was one comment. It was well received, and many came asking when the next one would be.

So how does a stress seminar lead someone into the kingdom of God? Well, it is just the first step in getting to know people in the community. Success will be found in building a trust and friendship with members of the community. We have contact information to invite the attendees to the next programs, which include a guest speaker talking on Creation, and the Neil Nedley Depression Recovery program. These, and other events in planning, will be hosted throughout the year leading up to an evangelistic series in the October. Our goal is that 2009 will be the first year in a continuing cycle of events. These will build friendships, offer healing, establish trust and extend hope in Christ. The challenge will be to improve and expand each following year, growing until the Lord's return.

With the stress seminar behind, we look forward to the next program to get out in the community and have a great time. It does take planning and work but the rewards were worth the great turnout we had. I want to encourage any church that does not have a cyclical plan of evangelism to think seriously about it, and even see if Cameron can help you out in your plans, so long as he does not get so busy he cannot come back to Moose Jaw. ■

—Bradley LaLonde, member

# Maritimes

## Zealand's "Thirteenth Sabbath" Mission Offering Projects



(l-r) Johnny Furrow, Jordan Bennett, Zoe Brewer, Theresa Young and Brittany Brewer present cheque to church treasurer Marion Allen.

At the beginning of the first quarter of 2009, members of the junior Sabbath school class of the Zealand church decided that they wanted to raise money for a special "thirteenth Sabbath" offering to support missions in the Philippines to help them build better schools.

They had three months to raise money and decided to do a special fundraising project for each month. They enlisted the help of the adult Sabbath school class and other church members; soon everyone became involved, either donating time, money or services.

January's project-of-the-month was a bake sale—good for \$318.90. February's project was a rock-a-thon. The children got their own sponsors and ensured that a fun time was had by all. More importantly, \$1,096.45 was raised. March was the final project; the church members really cooperated with

the juniors and hosted a community luncheon, raising an additional \$400.00 for the fund.

In addition to these exciting projects, each Sabbath school class collected their own special offerings each week. These added \$272.38 to the effort. In all, through their hard work and the offering collected on the designated day, the Zealand SDA church raised \$2,185.73 for the good of the work in the Philippines.

In honour of their hard work, the junior class hosted a Philippine themed dinner following the presentation of the funds to the church. Members were given Philippine recipes to prepare, and guests were invited. The foods were new to everyone and the cultural experience was an exciting way to celebrate the Philippine mission project. ■

—continued from page 2

As a church member, as a church employee, I frequently fear that that we've grown this organization to the point where we mostly serve ourselves, that, like the proverbial spinning wheel, we're working feverishly but getting nowhere. How refreshing, how reassuring, to be reminded that the organization is at its best when it looks beyond itself to touch individuals, to restore the lives of His forgotten and abused children, to construct smiles from foundations of sadness. ■

*Crystal*

Crystal D. Holloway, editor  
cholloway@sdacc.org

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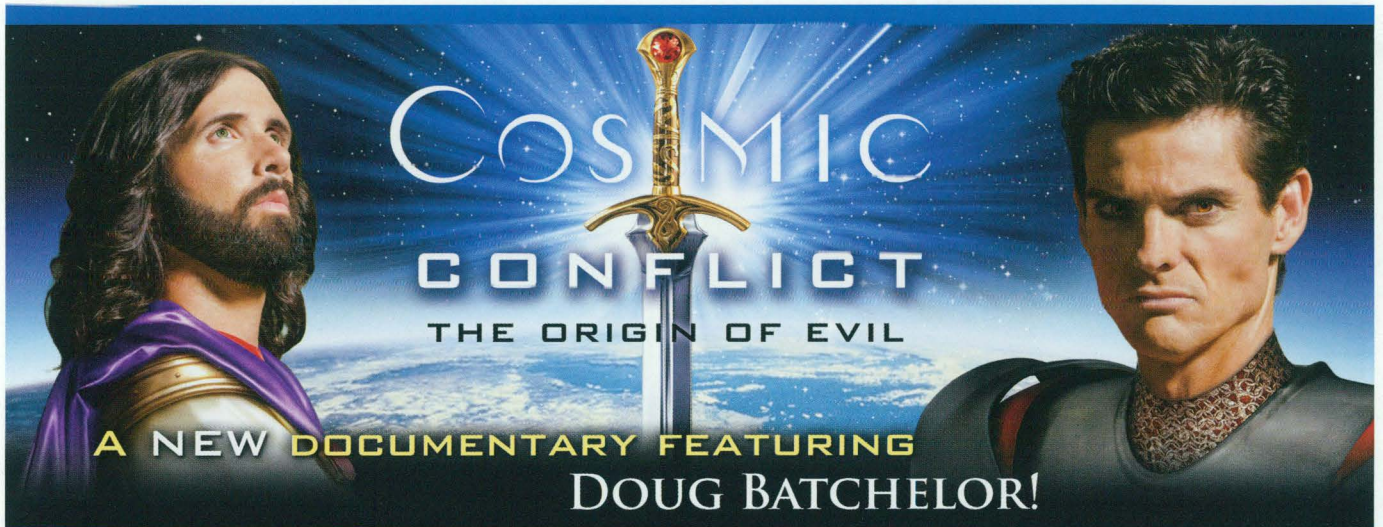
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■ Announcements

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](http://www.sdacc.org/messenger).
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- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to [www.sdacc.org/messenger](http://www.sdacc.org/messenger), click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

■ Announcements

**Cancellation:** Due to a very low registration response, the Red River Valley Junior Academy Alumni Committee has regrettably postponed the "Alumni Homecoming Weekend" scheduled for August 28-30, 2009. We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused and look forward to planning another event in the future. We encourage all Alumni and past teachers to join the "RRVJA Alumni" online Facebook group.

**Come former pastors and church members** and let's celebrate together the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Niagara Falls church. The celebration is planned for Sabbath, September 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Marilyn Kowalski at 905/732-6586. (08/09)

**100th Anniversary:** Remembering, Rejoicing, Renewing—College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of CUC is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Weekend events will include special worship services, reunion of former pastors and members and events to mark the milestones of its history. Come celebrate on the weekend of October 16 and 17, 2009. (09/09)

■ Baptisms

ALBERTA

**Austin Albers** was baptized in Lacombe, Alta. on Mar. 21, 2009 by Ron Henderson. He is now a member of the Lacombe Community Church.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Vaeriu Brojban, Arlene Geniebla, Gene Geniebla, Katrina Geniebla, Donna Paul and Zoran Prostran** were baptized on April 5, 2009 in Surrey, B.C. by George Ali. They were baptized as a result of the "New Beginnings" seminar by Robert Blais. They are now members of the Surrey church.

**Keri Hall** and her nephew **Colin Hall** were baptized in Cranbrook, B.C. on Mar. 28, 2009 by Ian Cotton. Both are now members of the Cranbrook Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Faye Taylor and Gerhard Hannebohm** joined the church by profession of faith on April 18, 2009. They are now members of the Creston Seventh-day Adventist Church.

■ Births

**Landi Hanna Hawes** was born Feb. 6, 2009 to Charissa (Frape) and Regan Hawes of Lacombe, Alta.

**Jade Christabelle Rogers** was born Feb. 4, 2009 in Sabah, Malaysia to Jaqualyn and Cameron Rogers of Chilliwack, B.C.

■ Anniversaries

**Bill and Julie Pfanmuller** of Abbotsford, B.C. celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Apr.



17, 2009 along with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Leonard and Marion Pye** of Lethbridge, N.L. celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sept. 14, 2008. A reception was held at a



**Anne (Bilan) Fedak** was born July 10, 1914 in Lorie, Sask. and died Mar. 17, 2009 in Humboldt, Sask. Anne is predeceased by her husband Mike. Surviving: sons Alvan (Eleanor) of Quill Lake, Sask. and Darrell (Colleen) of Watson, Sask.; daughters Marian (Alfred Visco) Fedak of Palos Verdes, Calif. and Grace (Elvin Saruk) Fedak of Strathmore, Alta.; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

local firehall for family and friends from the community, followed by a dinner for close family members. The Pyes of nine children: Mona (Harold) Hellam of Kemptville, Ont., Donald (Pat) of Chatham, Ont., Clarence (Jean) of Lethbridge, Rayfield of Oshawa, Neil (Trish) of Ponoka, Alta., David (Kay) of Musgravetown, N.L., Bessie of Calgary, Alta., Evan (Glenda) of Chetwynd, B.C. and Lyndon (Sandra) of Calgary. They have 17 grandchildren and step-grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Langford Morley Ross Giffin** was born Oct. 14, 1916 in Kent County, Ont. and died Feb. 17, 2009 in Chilliwack, B.C. He is predeceased by his son, David. Surviving: son Mark Giffin of Chilliwack, B.C.; daughters Sharon (George) Marrow of Ottawa, Ont., Anne (Larry) Pinkey of 100 Mile House, B.C. and Carol Ann (Ben) Laflamme of Chilliwack, B.C. and a foster daughter Maureen Giffin of Missouri.

**John W. Hrenyk** was born Nov. 9, 1920 in Samburg, Sask. and died Mar. 28, 2009 in Saskatoon, Sask. John is predeceased by his sisters Mary, Velma, Sophie and Sadie. Surviving: wife Lillian; sons Allen of Rocklin, Calif. and Vernon (Wendy) of Medicine Hat, Alta.; daughter Grace Dunkirk of Cudworth, Sask.; brothers Joseph (Eve) of Watson, Sask. and Daniel (Barbara) of Toronto, Ont.; sisters Annie Stoyanowski of Vernon, B.C., Kay Rusk of Lacombe, Alta., Martha (John) Filipchuk of Toronto and Esther (Clifton) Smith of Simpsonville, Ky.; and five grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

**Lydia Elizabeth Adames** was born Feb. 9, 1926 in Duval, Sask. and died Apr. 9, 2009 in Penticton, B.C. Lydia taught for many years and, after retirement, knitted many children's sweaters for ADRA. She is predeceased by her husband, Fred. Surviving: daughters Mary Ann (Brent) Voss of Penticton and Oralee (Rod Stretten) Adames of Tisdale, Sask.; brother Ted Daubert of North Vancouver, B.C.; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Michelle (Van Essen) Baker** was born Apr. 17, 1953 in Vernon, B.C. and died on Feb. 7, 2009 in Lacombe, Alta. Michelle volunteered at the College Heights Christian School and worked as the bookkeeper/accountant there. She is predeceased by her father Frederick Van Essen. Surviving: husband Jim; daughter Tiffany (Ryan) Reeves of Edmonton, Alta.; mother Florence Van Essen; and sisters Angelique (Dave) Powell of Salmon Arm, B.C., Lisa (Stan) Sanders of Smithers, B.C. and Robyn (Les) Wettstein of Abbotsford, B.C.

**Lenora (Kunz) Jaeger** was born Dec. 22, 1910 in Rhame, N.D. and died Mar. 14, 2009 in The Pas, Man. She is predeceased by her husband Jonathan. Surviving: sons James (Doris) of Cawston, B.C. and Jonathan (Faye) of Nipawin, Sask.; daughters Lorrie (Alfred) Hiatt of The Pas and Mona Nickle of Steinbach, Man.; 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

**Irma Victoria (Shaber) Clarke** was born Dec. 23, 1927 in Rockyford, Alta. and died Mar. 23, 2009 in Stettler, Alta. Surviving: husband Allen; stepsons Daniel (Dianna) of Calgary, Alta., Charles of Edmonton, Alta. and Harold (Linda) of Leduc, Alta.; stepdaughters Henrietta (Bob Watson) Clarke of Mexico and Margaret Clindon of Camrose, Alta.; brothers Ralph Schaber and Lyle Schaber; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Norman Wilford White** was born July 8, 1914 in Victoria, B.C. and died Mar. 31, 2009 in Chilliwack, B.C. Surviving: wife Amy, daughter Leona Taylor of Richland, Wash., and two grandchildren.

## 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.

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**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

October issue: **Aug. 3**  
 November issue: **Sept. 1**  
 December issue: **Oct. 1**

## Tributes

**William (Bill) J.F. Webber** was born April 2, 1931 in St. John's, Nfld and passed to his rest June 7, 2009 in Keswick, Ont. Bill was an Ironworker and dedicated 45 years of service to Ironworkers Local 721 in Toronto, working on many projects such as the CN Tower, Ontario Hydro-Bruce Station and Ontario Hydro-Pickering Station. He was also a member of College Park Church in Oshawa and actively involved with outreach ministry programs around the Durham region until a debilitating illness affected his life. He also faithfully supported ADRA Canada.

He will be greatly missed by his beloved wife Judy (Critchley) Webber of Oshawa, Ont., loving daughters Sheila Webber-Kettle, Barbara (Webber) Nakamura and Cindy Webber. He is also survived by many brothers-and-sisters in law, nieces, nephews, 2 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter, his sisters Bertha Cormier, Thelma (Danny) Webber-Sinnott and brother Mel (Carol) Webber.



**Pastor Max and Goldie Mercer at their 60th wedding anniversary celebration, September 2006**

**Walter Maxwell Mercer** was born June 6, 1921 on Bell Island, Nfld. On April 26, 1940 he was baptized into the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church. In September 12, 1946 he married Goldie Critchley and to their union were born three daughters. In June 1952, Mercer graduated from Atlantic Union College and answered the call of his Lord to pastoral ministry. From then until his retirement in June 1986 Pastor Mercer served in the Maritime, Ontario, Manitoba-Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland conferences as a local church pastor and director of various departments of the Church. He had a passion for sharing God's love, especially with those who knew Him not. Well into his retirement he continued to lead out in Ingathering, Five Day Stop Smoking Clinics and Discover Bible Schools. He was an avid walker and always up to the challenge of a game of horseshoes. Failing to recover from injuries he sustained in a multi-vehicle accident on May 2, 2008, he went to sleep in Jesus on August 22, 2008 to await the call of the Life-Giver. Following a private interment, a praise memorial service was held on Sabbath August 30, 2008 at the Heritage Green Seventh-day Adventist Church in Stoney Creek, Ont. Pastor Mercer is survived by his dear wife, Goldie, Stoney Creek, Ont.; 3 daughters: Sharon (Carl) Okimi, Smithville, Ont., Carol (Mel) Webber, Queensville, Ont., and Maxine (Curt) Fischer, Battle Ground, Wash.; 9 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, his kid brother Gordon, 2 sisters-in-law, many nieces and nephews and a host of friends. A note of interest: the family of Pastor Mercer has made a donation of books from his personal library to the Ontario conference. Please contact them for how you might access this valuable material. Anyone interested in sermon materials and evangelistic meeting outlines and slides should contact Sharon at sharonokimi@atwork.ca.

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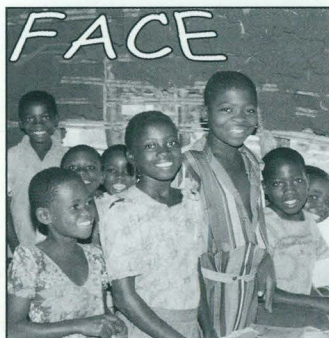


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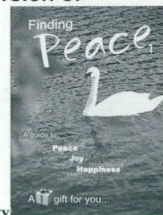
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**Andrews University is seeking a qualified candidate** for a full-time faculty position in the Department of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences. Duties will include teaching undergraduate and graduate clinical laboratory science courses, advising and mentoring students and collaborating with faculty. Qualified applicants must hold certification as a Medical Technologist (ASCP) and/or Clinical Laboratory Scientist (NCA) and have experience or specialty certification in Hematology. Candidates with a Master's degree or higher are preferred. The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Send resumé to Richard Show, Department of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences, Andrews University, 100 N. Old US31, Berrien Springs, MI, 49104. Send inquiries to [rshow@andrews.edu](mailto:rshow@andrews.edu). (07/09)

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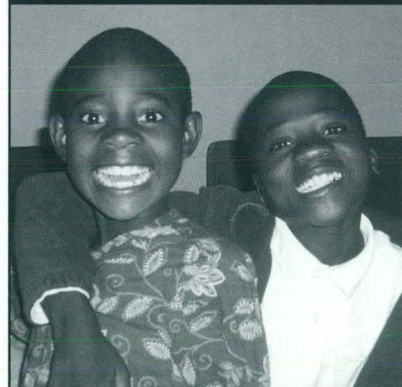
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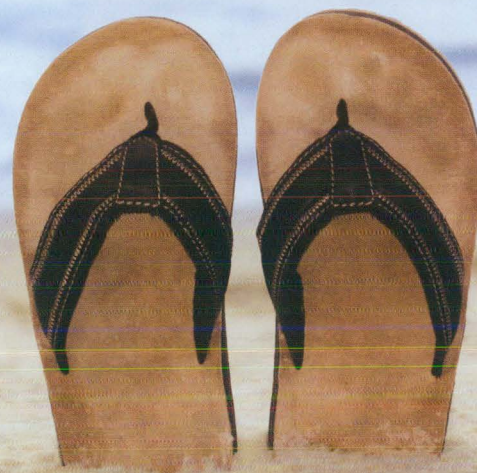
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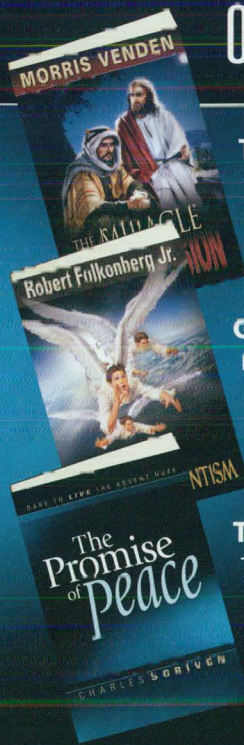
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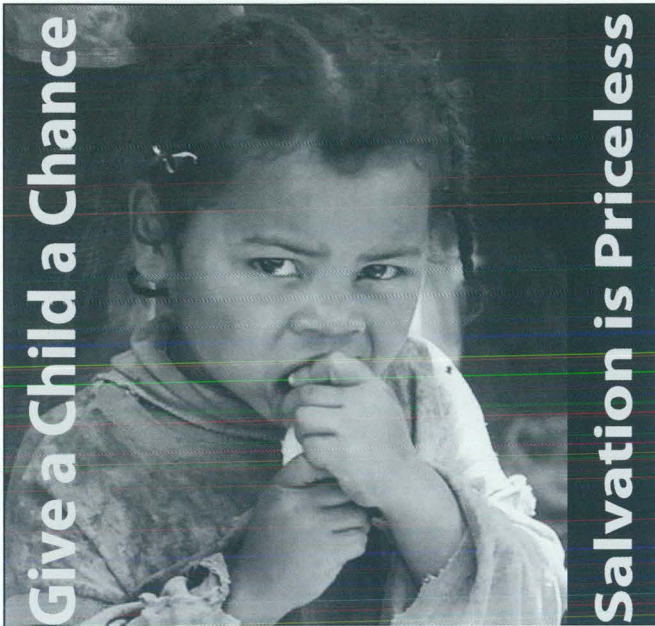
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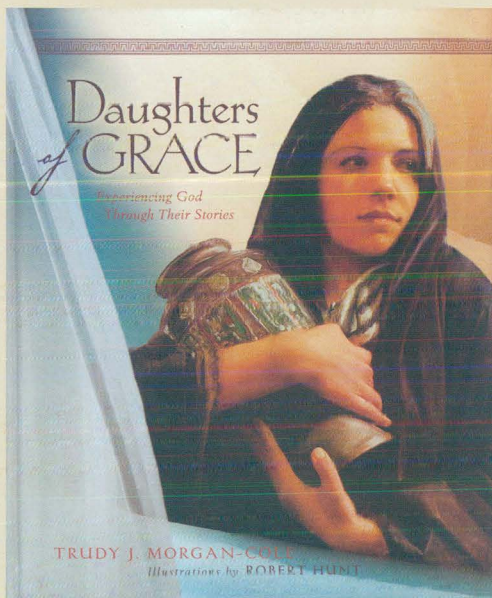
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# Daughters of Grace



I've only recently come across a new disease; it's been coined the "Princess Mentality Syndrome." Although it has not been excessively documented, it seems to be quite prevalent in our North American culture. I recall a discussion with a friend about the negative effects of stereotypical helpless princesses awaiting their masculine hero to whisk them from their humdrum existence and spoil them happily ever after. The syndrome seems to have blown out of proportion since then, seizing hold of a generation of girls raised on glamorous images of gems, crowns, primping and ballroom dancing until the wee-hours of the morning.

This entitlement mentality has done a disservice to the women's rights movement, taking equal rights to a new low; however, Trudy J. Morgan-Cole's new book, *Daughters of Grace*, counters the idea of "princess" privilege to focus on God-inspired lives of biblical women.

This book is a compilation of essays that were written for Morgan-Cole's column *What a Woman!* featured in the *Women of Spirit* magazine. It is an impressive collection, to say the least. Upon discovering its release, I immediately walked over to the ABC and purchased a copy. I was instantly drawn into its pages by the essay on Eve and was equally

intrigued by the rest of the collection. Ashamedly, I discovered that my awareness of female biblical heroes was limited to Ruth, Esther and a few other "minor" women. This book helped me to re-examine these women's stories and the inspiring lessons their lives and experiences added to God's Holy Word.

*Daughters* goes beyond the retelling of these women's stories; it promotes valuable lessons, draws comparisons to modern women and elaborates on the significant contributions women made in an extremely patriarchal society. The essays expound on the situations in which many biblical women found themselves, as well as on how God's direction, so very subtle at times, raised them to new levels of spirituality. Some of the women featured in the book are mentioned but briefly in the Bible, some even without a name. Still, they exhibit hope, faith and tenacity to encourage both women and men in our modern society. I was moved by many tales, notably the expositions on Naomi, the Slave Girl, Esther and the Widow of Nain.

Beyond the charismatic writing style, *Daughters* boasts other features. The fact that it's a compilation of short essays allows the reader to choose from a variety of topics; one doesn't need to read the profiles in any given order to receive a blessing. It is suitable for a devotional, as it has relevant and current application for just about everyone. Composed by Robert Hunt, the stunningly realistic artwork of each woman is yet another reason to open this book. Each image adds another thousand words and a new dimension to the written tributes.

The "Princess Mentality Syndrome" prevails in our culture, and it is time we cured it. Thankfully, with the assistance of *Daughters of Grace*, my daughter may grow with the examples of Lydia, Deborah, Martha and Bathsheba instead of the prevalent Disney stereotypes of privileged and pampered princesses. Hopefully, she and other young women will replace the materialistic princess mentality with a heavenly princess mentality—an awareness that they are daughters of the King of Kings. Truly, then, they will join with the *Daughters of Grace*. ■

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



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