

Messenger

Ministerial Convention 2009



PLUS: Gospel Outreach in India (p.9); High-Tech Evangelism for a Digital Denomination (p. 10)

Get Your Head in the Game

It was one of those warm summer evenings that refuse to cool off when the sun goes down. I told my kids they could play outside for a while before bedtime. About a half hour, I warned. No more than that, no matter what.

Out the door they went, basketball in hand, with a plan to create a new game. From what I heard of their conversation, Maddie's idea was that she should shoot for the hoop until she missed a shot, then Kyle would take over and do the same. Kyle seemed to want more of a my turn-your turn setup but would be okay with Maddie's idea as long as he could go first!

About 15 minutes later I realized, as I listened from the kitchen, that they were still bickering about what the rules of their game should be. They hadn't played yet! Neither had so much as attempted a shot! Though I tried to remain detached I couldn't resist a little prodding: "Time's half gone," I called. "Better get playing."

Ten more minutes passed. Lots of arguing; no baskets. "You guys aren't going to get any playing done if you don't start your game."

Four and a half minutes later as he heard me approach the door to call them inside, I heard Kyle say, "Okay, okay. Let's just play. Hurry and shoot; mom's coming!"

But it was too late. They jointly protested, "We just started our game! Can't we have a little bit longer?" But time was up. The chance was gone. They had spent the entire time disagreeing over the rules of the game instead of putting their differences aside and really having fun.

Now, I may not be the brightest bulb in the box, but I know an object lesson when I see one, and this one lit up my brain like lightning in a black-out. Suddenly I saw the Church as a group of kids during playtime. Instead of playing the game, we're all sitting around arguing about the rules. You see what I'm saying, don't you?

Our Heavenly Parent has warned us repeatedly that we don't have much time left before He calls us home, but here we sit refusing to participate unless everybody plays by our rules. The stories abound. In one congregation, many members will not attend Sabbath school on weeks when a certain teacher is leading the discussion. Elsewhere, a wealthy member refuses to donate to church renovations unless particular trim is installed. Do these sound familiar? The specifics change, but the attitude is the same and rears its ugly head in every church, every school and every entity across the country.

Across this nation, the liberal versus conservative fight threatens the Church more than any issue from outside our doors, and we have only ourselves to blame. We perpetuate that war and all the little battles that go with it, often to the exclusion of all else. Arguing our correctness and bashing the other team has become sport, while mission—the reason we're in the field in the first place—seems forgotten. We're called to do service for mankind but have been sidelined by incessant bickering over rules. I think it's time to move the ball; it's almost time to go home. ■

Crystal

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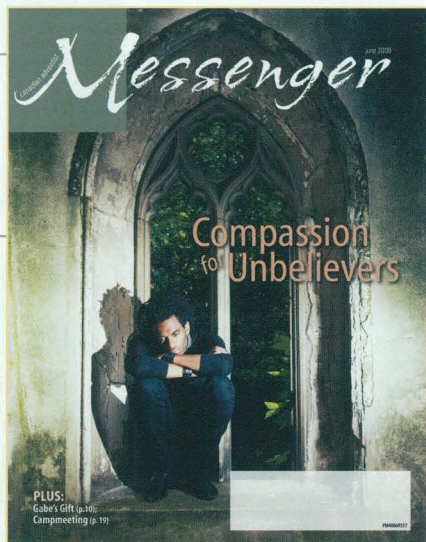
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**RE: "Compassion for Unbelievers,"
June 2009**

I am glad that your column's topic on free choice coincided with Douglas Devinich's article on compassion for sinners. As much as I do appreciate what Dr. Devinich had to say, I've become a little jaded by continual messages over the years about someone leaving the faith because the rest of us weren't good enough. If I have done something to personally offend someone, I need to apologize. If I have not offended, I do not feel it is right to take on any guilt. We have to remember that the Lord worked out His perfect message, the gospel, through imperfect people. There are gossips, control freaks and freeloaders in every church in every denomination in North America, and sexual abuse has also crossed many church lines. However, the faults of man will, of course, be no excuse for those who reject Christ in the end. Those who sincerely want the truth will find it. Those who don't have the spiritual discernment to separate the messenger from the message will have to fall over this stumbling block to get to heaven. Not all will.

—L. Miller, Airdrie, Alta.

**RE: "Proper Motivation," editorial,
June 2009**

I read your article and the *Macleans* interview with psychologist Gene

Your Words

“ I pray that the true gospel of Jesus will turn hatred into love, envy into approval ... ”

Heyman. I read his article in *Macleans*, and my memory is a little fuzzy about it now, but what I can recall is that he made the claim that addictions are *not* a disease but rather a matter of choice. As an experienced ex-smoker, I can attest to exactly what he says. Nobody ever induced me to smoke or to take that next cigarette—only me. Until it became a habit, a habit that is stronger than opium or heroin to break because it is so socially acceptable. It only becomes a disease when one has damaged their body so much that one develops a disease like cancer or heart disease. I smoked for 16 years, and it took me another two years to muster up the conviction to break that habit. I used the five day plan (modified a bit to suit me), then I prayed to the Lord to take me and make me whole. That was 35 years ago, and, with that prayer, my life changed. I am just about 71 yrs old and still enjoying life immensely.

—C. Wallace, via email

**RE: "Remembering Rwanda" &
"Rwanda and Beyond," May 2009**

The two articles in the May 2009 *Messenger* on Rwanda caught my attention. The events following April 6, 1994 are a scar on our global conscience. Seventh-day Adventists still need to ask: Why did the gospel as taught by Seventh-day Adventists and other Christians fail in a time of national crisis? What did we do wrong in our

teaching and nurturing?

Rwanda is a land of contrasts. Fertile and beautiful. Hutus and Tutsis living side by side, intermarrying during good times. Then torn apart by senseless hatred.

Amidst the carnage, individuals with spirit-filled courage stayed by to help. Carl Wilkens was a pillar of strength and courage to scores of helpless people. I remember talking with Carl by phone during the height of the genocide and sharing with him the desire of the General Conference that he leave the country. Carl's strong convictions and love for the people he was helping made him respectfully decline the directive to leave. He stands as an example of the sort of people described in Ellen White's statement, "The greatest want of the world is the want of men. Men who will not be bought or sold. . . . men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole." I pray that Carl's selfless act of courage and his Christ-like love will motivate a new generation of Rwandan Seventh-day Adventists to act in the same manner.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rwanda today numbers close to 450,000 in a small country with a population of 9.6 million. Much healing has gone on. I pray that the true gospel of Jesus will turn hatred into love, envy into approval, and hopelessness into the expectancy of the hope of Jesus soon return.

—Gerry D. Karst, vice president, General Conference

E-mail comments to steevesc@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.

The "Truth" About *Born to Live*

It happens to us only a few times in our life. That is, we come across that unique person who becomes a friend for life. Outside of our spouse and family, we form the closest bonds with these people who become a part of who we are because they are always there for us.

When I was fourteen, I met her and it began—a life-long friendship that ended with her passing in May. She was Lynn, the daughter of Elder and Mrs. Anthony Kaytor. Elder Kaytor's blessed ministry led him into youth leadership, the building of the Branson hospital and the president's chair in Manitoba-Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. But everywhere he went and in all that he did, Lynn was an ever-present part. A daughter, a counsellor and one who, at times, gave straight talk even to her father.

And Lynn was her mother's daughter as well. Friend, counsellor and fellow-shipper, she shared an intense bond of love with her mother. So close was their relationship that Mrs. Kaytor eventually wrote a biography of Lynn entitled *Born to Live*. The book chronicled her life from the outset, when her condition threatened her very being and where her repeated visits with surgeons and specialists consumed her days and her nights. As I read the book, I also found the story of the magnificent love and care of two parents for their child. That care never stopped until the day that Lynn died, a few months ago.



I had always threatened Lynn that one day I would write the real story of her life and entitle the book "The Truth About Born to Live." It was to be an exposé of the adventures of a woman in a wheelchair. You see, Lynn lived her life with a condition known as spina bifida. She never walked and never enjoyed many of the activities we take for granted every day. And though I will never write my book, I want to use this brief column to give a testimony about my friend.

Throughout 46 years of friendship, I saw a woman of grace and Christian loveliness who greeted all with cheer and openness. Even when individuals patronized her because of her condition,

she reacted with care. And while she might have had every reason to live in a world of despair, she was always ready to give an encouraging word to others. While she had very well-defined ideas and was passionate about them, she always extended dignity to others who disagreed.

I, and others along with me, kidnapped Lynn; we pushed, pulled and dragged her to the top of a mountain in her wheelchair and we even bounced with her on a trampoline. She was a friend who looked beyond her own circumstances and demonstrated to others what it is to be a real Christian. Her life, though not at all free from constant challenges, was an example of winsome Christian consistency.

During the final years of her life, I would phone Lynn from time to time. The voice at the other end was always warm and welcoming. We spent much time laughing and reviewing our friendship. You see, the real truth about *Born to Live* is that she was a true princess of the King. All who really knew her know that to be true. She could never be defined by her theology or her diet but rather by the fact that she demonstrated what it means to be a true follower of Jesus. I loved her as a friend and was blessed by her friendship.

See you in the morning, Lynn. ■

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



Josue Sanchez is a waffle.

Understanding Women

September, 2009

I have a very short question: will I ever understand women?

Josué Sánchez

Answer

Do you want a short answer too? No, you won't. Sorry, man.

If you ever do figure them out, please let the whole world know, because there are billions of men out there asking themselves the same question! Now, to make things more interesting, let me add this: that's the exact same question that the other 50% of the world's population is asking too!

Why? That's another easy answer. God created men and women to be different. Very different.

In a nutshell, our brains are wired differently. One way we see it is that men tend to compartmentalize things while women connect things. It's like waffles and spaghetti. Waffles have little boxes, a lot like us men who keep one box for studies, another for sports, another for finances, one more for love, etc. And we don't mix them. Contrariwise, spaghetti is all mixed and interconnected. That's women. Everything is connected and ...well ...twisted! Like sometimes when they say they are "fine," it really means that they are not and wish you didn't have to ask them because you knew they weren't doing ok. Other times, if they tell us about a problem, we tend to give them a solution as soon as they pause for breath. But no! They really just need you to listen ...

I know that this looks confusing (and it is!), but the good thing about it is that it forces men and women to really pay attention to one another. We can't make them think like us, and vice versa. But, we can do our best to "speak each other's language."

The key is to be unselfish. There you go.

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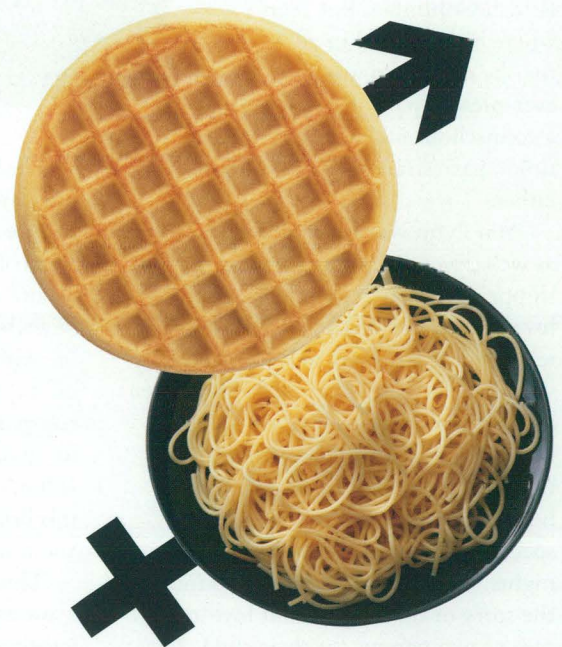
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Josue

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*, *Twitter* or *FlowWith.me* friends list!



Creation Corner for Kids

“When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers . . . what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us?” Psalm 8: 3, 4 (NIV)

Stars

Have you ever heard of light pollution? I hadn't until I read about a park that has been named a "dark sky preserve." It seems that light pollution happens in the skies over cities and towns because of street lights. The "sky glow" from artificial lights affects wildlife.

Migrating birds can become confused in brightly lit areas. Many are killed each year by flying into lighted communications towers. Lights can disrupt the life cycle and feeding schedule of nocturnal animals, too. In studies, female turtles didn't come to the beach to lay their eggs, salamanders didn't come out to feed at the normal time, and fireflies did not look for mates when artificial lights were put in their habitats.

Think about it.

God put the stars in the sky to remind us of His greatness. Each star is a sun. Our sun is just one of many in our galaxy. There are many galaxies in our universe, and many universes in God's creation. God made all of what we see and more. Is there anything too difficult for such a big God? But our man-made "sky glow" makes all this glory difficult to see. What's dimming your vision of God's greatness?

Do it.

Plan for a night of star-gazing and praise to our Creator God. (You can see a map of Canada's dark sky preserves at http://calgary.rasc.ca/dark_sky_preserves.htm.) Look up these verses and see what the Bible teaches about stars: Job 38:7, Psalm 147:4, Daniel 12:3, Revelation 1:20

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

Partnering in Mozambique

“A rich person is not the one who has the most but the one who needs the least.”

It's early June 2009, and I'm standing in the small village of Mecuase in northern Mozambique, a country located on the Southeast coast of Africa. I'm here to monitor COCAMO community based projects. COCAMO (Cooperation Canada Mozambique) is a coalition of Canadian partners that include ADRA Canada, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D), and Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Social Justice Fund.

The village of Mecuase is surrounded by majestic rock outcrops that rise more than 1219 metres above the otherwise flat, lush landscape. Mango trees, cashew nut trees, coconut trees, and three metre tall elephant grass spans as far as the eye can see. Thirty kilometres from the nearest town of Ribaua, the two thousand or so people who live here enjoy a simple life, supplying their needs by gathering off the land. No plastic, no metal, no modern accessories. Life is simple; houses are small mud huts with grass-thatched roofs. The sense of community is very strong. Children bunch together in a tight group, laughing, jostling for position, inquisitive and excited to have visitors. Women dressed in colourful capalanas gather behind the children; quiet, yet curious and expectant. The men congregate to one side, attentive and eager to meet the guests from Canada.

COCAMO formed in 1988 when a group of Canadian organizations involved in overseas development agreed that it would be a good thing to work together, pooling resources, sharing experience and knowledge, in



The village of Mecuase community members meet the guests from Canada.

order to deliver effective assistance to northern Mozambique, which was involved in a brutal civil war at the time.

Using a grassroots approach, COCAMO established two credit unions, known as “caixas,” which presently have close to 4,000 female members. The ease of establishing an account and the opportunity to get a low interest loan made it possible for low income women to save and borrow money to establish or expand their own businesses such as hairdressing, fabric store, various aspects of farming, embroidery, and restaurants.

COCAMO works closely with a local community based organization called Salama, to build Salama's capacity so it can effectively deliver basic health education to rural communities. Salama uses plays, community gatherings, radio, and trained volunteer community members to cover such topics as family planning, HIV/AIDS awareness and nutrition, among others. Salama also trains volunteers to provide Home Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS, a challenging feat in a place where taboos are strong and health care is limited.

Threaded through all of COCAMO's work is the theme of gender balance. I

attended the seventh of eight training sessions attended mostly by women and a few men, from communities across northern Mozambique. They had come to study and learn about the role of gender in families, villages, and society; the rights of women and the law, gender budgeting, and communication. By creating balance between the roles of men and women, COCAMO is enabling a stronger social network for the future of

Mozambique. Women will have a greater voice; men will share the challenges with their wives; families will face the challenges of life together.

As I experience the excitement, laughter, warmth, and appreciation bubbling from the villagers of Mecuase, I see their wealth. They are simple yet content; remote yet close to each other; poor in goods yet abundantly rich in their natural surroundings, culture, and community.

During the long and violent civil war (1977-1992), more than 900,000 people died in fighting and from starvation, five million civilians were displaced, and landmines created many amputees—a legacy from the war that continues to plague the country. While respecting the culture and history of the people of northern Mozambique, COCAMO has played an integral part in improving living conditions. The opportunities created are making a real difference in the lives of the men and women of northern Mozambique. ADRA Canada is glad to be part of the work COCAMO is doing. ■

Nick Trent is the Program Coordinator for ADRA Canada.



God and Gospel Outreach in India



Was it the sights, sounds and smells of India, or was it the incredible resilience and determination of the people that most impressed me on a recent visit there? In February 2009, I was privileged to accompany a Gospel Outreach US regional director to North Bengal State for the purpose of meeting with, teaching, and encouraging Gospel Outreach (GO) workers. These workers are trained nationals who spread the gospel message to the people in their own and surrounding villages through the use of Bible studies, evangelistic meetings, literacy classes and health education. It was thrilling to see Gospel Outreach in action.

I will not forget witnessing 45 precious people being baptized in a water hole in the Sunderbans south of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta). These people had requested baptism after having Bible studies with a GO worker. The sincerity and devotion to God exhibited by these new Seventh-day Adventists was an inspiring, faith building experience. Through the generosity of the Vernon, B.C. Seventh-day Adventist Church family, we were able to purchase and distribute 560 bibles in four different languages to GO workers to use in their literacy classes. We also presented 30 audio Bibles to GO workers for Bible studies and worship.

In Kolkata, we visited the Hide Road slum area, which was home to about 150 men, women and children. Through the untiring work of a GO worker, Solomon, and funds from donors like you, we dedicated a lamb shelter for these people. They needed and appreciated that place of worship, but as we were leaving, some of the men approached us and told us that their greatest need was water. They had no water! So for US\$80, we were able to meet a basic need: water. Two weeks later, before

I left Delhi, I received word that the well had been dug and these incredibly poor people had water. How amazing is that?

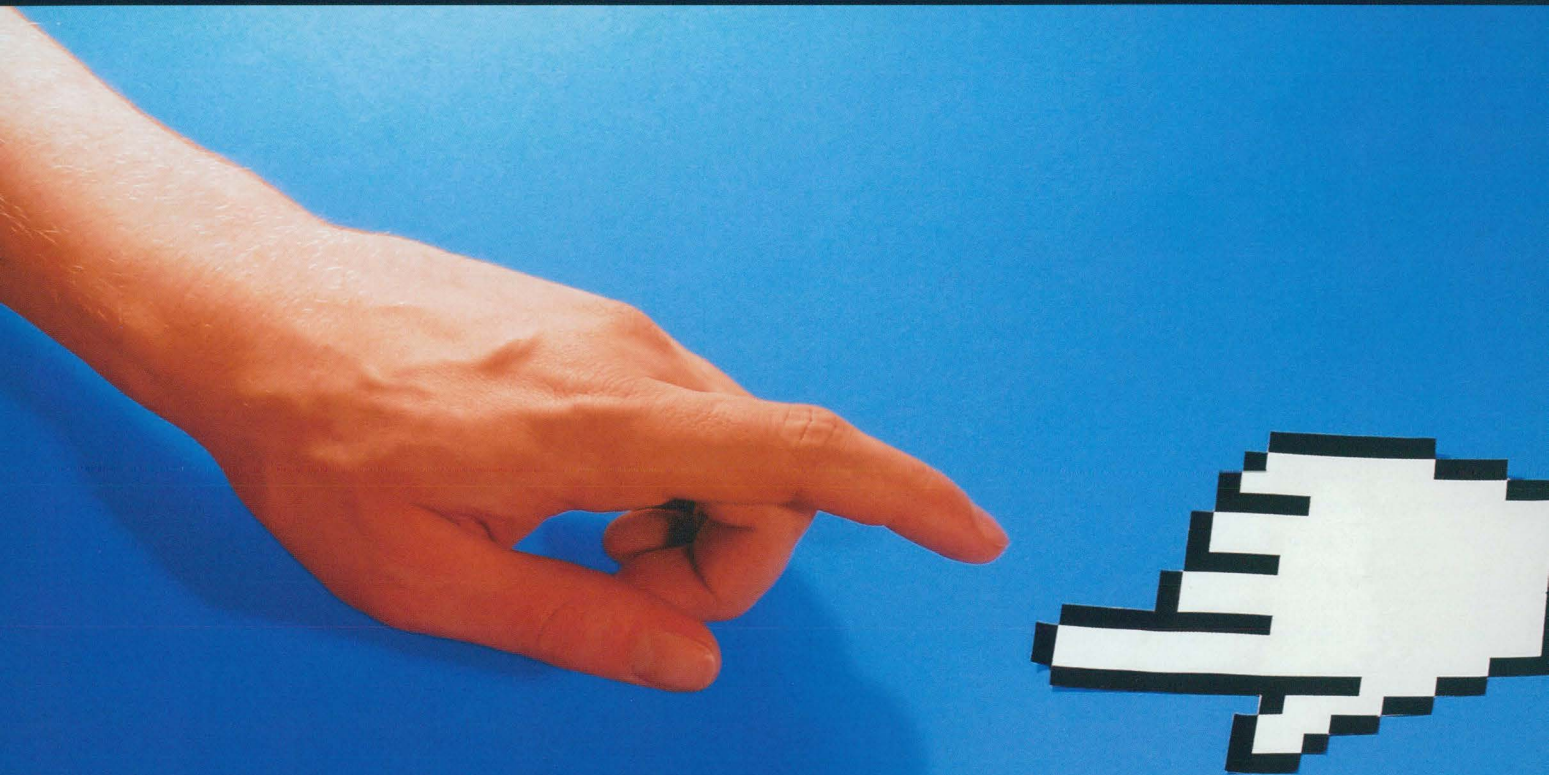
In Patna we were part of a team who instructed a group of Muslim converts to Christianity called El Hanif. The converts have an unprecedented opportunity to witness to fellow Muslims at their mosques—but at a great price, perhaps even their lives. A Muslim man was killed last year because he had converted to Christianity. It was very interesting and eye opening to share the Bible with converts who are willing to risk their lives for their faith. Through donations from you, GO was able to hire eight El Hanif as GO workers to carry the gospel message to their Muslim neighbours.

As incredibly diverse as India is, and as resilient and determined the people are, the overall thought I came home with is that God is working through the GO workers to reach people for the kingdom, and God is using our resources to make this possible. What a privilege we have to partner with GO and God so that these people can get a glimpse of heaven in face of adversity!

Recently, GO Canada began to focus their efforts in Africa to ensure the monies donated are stretched as far as possible, but with that decision comes the challenge that the cost per worker in Africa is significantly higher than in other countries. As a faith-based ministry, Gospel Outreach is only able to continue this work through your faithful giving. We live in unprecedented times, and we are late in the earth's history. Pray for and give to GO Canada so we can go home. ■

Debbie Hartwig is the partnership and communication director for Gospel Outreach Canada.

High-Tech Evangelism



*Reach out and 'touch' someone
today—either physically or digitally.*

When I was 12 years old, my dad bought our family an awesome computer! It was the fastest computer Costco sold. The Compaq 386 ran at a speed of 16MHz and had a 40Mb hard drive. The salesperson at Costco told my dad that he would never be able to fill such a huge drive. I will never forget that day; it was so exciting to be going home with a new computer, perhaps less so for my dad, though, since it cost him \$3,500.

That was the beginning of technology for me. Today, almost 20 years later, many things have changed in the digital world. We've gone from megabytes to gigabytes to terabytes overnight. But, every year at Christmas, watching the hustle and bustle of crazy shoppers, I still think about that Compaq 386 and how, on Christmas morning, many people will unwrap their presents with great excitement only to have the novelty wear off a few months later. The present that was once so precious will end up as techno trash. A newer version of the latest gadget will arrive with more megapixels or longer battery life or more memory. In time, your Christmas gift will mostly be forgotten, but technology itself is not going away any time soon.

Matthew 24:14 indicates that the primary task of the Church is to preach the Word of God to the whole world. In this effort, technology can be a great tool. As we move further into the 21 century, more sophisticated technology and communications media has created a global community in which almost any person, anywhere and at any time, can communicate with any other person. I believe God is leading us to use the unique opportunities and technologies we have before us to lead people to Jesus.

More than 240 million people in North America using the internet on a daily basis. That is a mega-evangelistic tool we could be using for God. And many people are willing to watch a video or listen to a sermon over the internet in their own homes who would not be willing to attend a public evangelistic meeting or even a church service. Add to this the fact that there has been a huge cost reduction in video and media equipment in recent years, and you might believe, as I do, that offering evangelistic material on the internet is something that we as a Church can not afford *not* to do.

Recently I have been involved in many discussions and projects that involve increasing the use of technology in the church. And that is great, but the discussion about how technology can be used to enhance the ministries and mission of the church needs to go beyond the walls of the sanctuary.

Here are two important ways to utilize the internet

as an evangelistic outreach tool for your church:

An informational church website—We live in the internet age; People use the internet for everything! A 2008 survey by Gartner.com lists the top six reasons people use the internet:

1. E-mail
2. Gather information
3. Online banking
4. Sharing photos, videos, and files
5. Geographic navigation services
6. Shopping online

Note that the second biggest reason people use the internet is to gather information—including information about churches in their area. For those people, if you don't have a church website, you don't exist.

You don't have to spend a lot of money or win the website of the year award to successfully set up a church website. Did you know that the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is providing a *free* website to every church in Bermuda, Canada and the United States. For more information visit Adventist Church Connect website at <http://www.adventistchurchconnect.com>.

Develop and maintain a current email list—Email is the single biggest people use the internet. And of all the ways to use technology in the church, email is the fastest and least expensive. People want to stay connected, an email from the pastor to his/her congregation is a great way for the church and friends of the church to stay informed and up to date.

Keep your e-mails brief. Nobody has time (or will take the time) to read more than a few paragraphs. I work hard on keeping a current email list of my congregation and friends of the church and send out a quick email about once a week to highlight upcoming events or just say hello. Many times I share the next Sabbath's information (the sermon title and topic, special musical guests, etc.) with some words encouraging them to attend.

Technology is definitely important, mostly because it makes so many things easier. But don't get hung up on the technology; get hung up on the people! They are the focus and the purpose for using technology. Reach out and 'touch' someone today—either physically or digitally. ■

Troy McQueen is the communications specialist for the British Columbia conference and the pastor of the Kelowna church.

One of our local pastors talked to me recently about his excitement over the large group of Canadian University College students who engage in ministries in the community. One group is actively involved in prison ministries. Another group is involved in native ministries. Others help run one of the churches in a nearby town. They also run a strong witnessing program in that same town, often by sitting and meeting people in Tim Horton's or Subway. Still more are involved in soup kitchens or with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. These are not just students preparing for ministry; our students from *all* disciplines are out there making a difference. This past year, and again this upcoming school year, our Campus Ministries team is lead by a Biology major. Music majors, Psychology students, Business Management students, Education students—all work side by side, not because they have to, but because they dare to dream about making a difference. As I write this, we have a team working with ADRA Canada in Brazil helping construct water cisterns. Six student missionaries are also preparing to head out for a one-year commitment. Seven are returning from a year abroad. Dare to dream ...

Dare to Dream



You can
make a
difference.



This year we have had some active sports teams. We play in the local leagues, but we always start our games with public prayer—something we as a Christian university college are free to do. Our student athletes have not just been dreaming of success on the field, however; they, too, have engaged in the local communities, particularly the native community, offering coaching and sports training to youth there. Our Acronaires team has travelled to schools and run a home show for more than 1,000 children in the local area, encouraging them towards healthy lifestyles and good choices. All these students dare to dream that, as athletes and Christians, they can make a difference.

Three years ago we started a chamber orchestra. Now we have an orchestra that is so excellent that they consistently play to capacity audiences. In March, our choir, the Choral Union, was invited to sing with the Vancouver Sinfonia. I sat in the audience and heard comments of regular concert attendees, such as “Wow, that concert was a once in a lifetime experience.” Some of the choir toured in Europe this summer. I heard a comment back from a musician in England: “That was the best choir I have ever heard.” Why? They are musically talented and passionate about their craft and the message of their music. Our students dare to dream that, as musicians and Christians, they can make a difference.

Of course, Canadian University College is also about academic success. Our students dare to dream that they can achieve excellence, be successful in graduate schools, land quality jobs, but do so as Christians—and they do. Perhaps one of the greatest evidences of the success of our graduates is when they want to help fulfill the dreams of other students. The Legends Scholarship is a full tuition scholarship given by five graduates of CUC, all of whom have continued to very successful careers, mostly in the

by Andrea Luxton

medical field. They started by giving \$100 each in their final year of education at CUC towards a scholarship. Each year it has grown and is now the largest scholarship we give at awards night each year. Dare to dream . . .

At Canadian University College, we dare to dream. We dream for the success of our students, for how they will positively impact the church of the present and the future. We dream of how we can expand our programs to reach more students and focus even more intentionally on service. We dream of how our campus will look in another 10 years. We dream and we pray. The exciting reality is that we are seeing our prayers answered—we see our dreams being realized

every day. And so we continue to dare to dream.

Last year, donations to Canadian University College were more than 20% higher than the year before, which was 20% higher than the year before that. We were approximately \$2,500 short of one million dollars. That is exciting! It is evidence that many of you are daring to dream with us. This allows our dreams and prayers to be fulfilled, and it means the dreams of our students can also be fulfilled. Please continue to dare to dream with all of us at Canadian University College. ■

Andrea Luxton is the president of Canadian University College.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE SDACC MINISTERIAL CONVENTION

For a week in June, the campus of Canadian University College became a resort and convention centre hosting more than 300 hundred pastors and their families for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada's (SDACC) ministerial convention. The behind-the-scenes operation involved almost 90 people in various capacities: housing, food services, transportation, seminar locations, recreation, and customer service.

Key to our success in hosting was the clear and meaningful interface with the SDACC and their convention producer, Oliver Lofton-Brook. Through teleconferences and on-site meetings, Lofton-Brook and our CUC team (Bryan Lee, vice president for Marketing and Enrolment; Nicole Bartolay, Marketing and Enrolment office manager; and David Jeffrey, assistant professor of Business and convention director) came up with a clear mutual understanding of the expectations and scope of the event.

Housing was seen as perhaps the biggest challenge of the event. With more than 300 guests, we recognized that local hotels would also have to be used in addition to our own facilities. CUC was able to house 200 guests (pastors, spouses, families) in Lakeview Hall, and 70 more guests were housed in a local hotel. The remaining 50 or so stayed with family, friends, or in their local homes. With their team of students, Lakeview Hall deans Dwayne Straub and Shannen Blabey ran a tight and efficient "hotel" that would rival the best five-star resort.

Usually a secondary thought at most conventions, the meals became a high point of this event as the food service team worked hard in the kitchen to feed such a large group. The team's efficiency in managing

the food preparation and the altered layout of the serving area insured everything flowed beautifully. A highlight of the dining week was the Olympic banquet on the Monday of the convention. The dining hall was decorated in Olympic banners, flags and snowflakes setting the atmosphere for the Vancouver 2010 games.

With such a large number of guests, transportation had to be precise. Managed through a master spreadsheet, travel details were carefully ordered insuring that incoming and outgoing passengers were able to transition to and from CUC and the Edmonton International Airport. A combination of rented coaches, CUC's 15- and 24-passenger busses and minivans became the fleet that serviced the pastors. Regular shuttle trips from the campus and the local hotel were made throughout the day.

Key to the entire event were the campus volunteers. Recognizable by their red shirts with "Speak , for thy SERVANT hears" emblazoned on the back, they met incoming guests at the airport, helped with registration, provided directions, and helped set up technology for seminars.

After months of preparation, CUC's hosting of the SDACC ministerial convention was an unmitigated success. An empty summer campus was flooded with pastors—some alumni and old friends and many who had never been on our campus. At the end of the week, connections were renewed with old friends and new friendships formed.

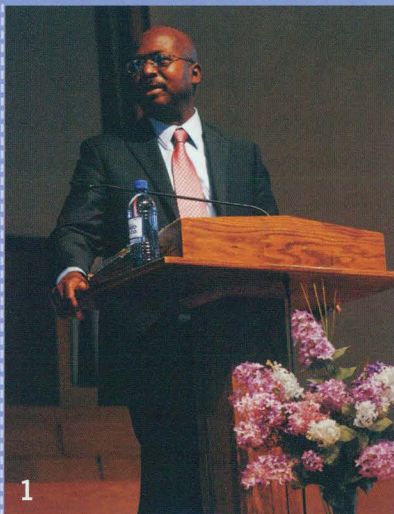
A mammoth task. A willing team. Success. Come back any time!

David Jeffrey is an assistant professor of Business, assistant to the president and CUC/ SDACC convention director.

(For more on the SDACC ministerial convention, see our cover story on page 14.)

SDACC MINISTERIAL CONVENTION 2009

by Crystal D. Steeves

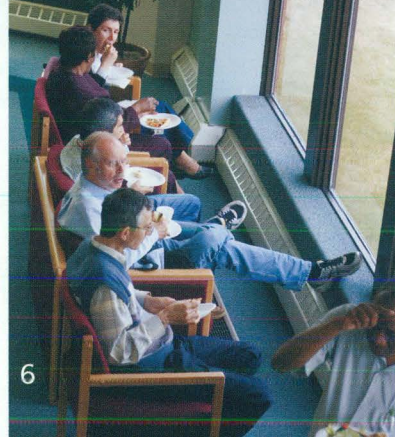


TRANSITION, FORMATION AND CHALLENGE

SDACC Convenes Ministerial convention

- > “Good preaching, loving pastoring, and convincing evangelization are the greatest needs of Adventism today,” says George Knight, professor and well-known Adventist author. “The pastor’s job can be the best job and the most important in the church, but it is at present the most underdeveloped.”

1. Roy Adams, associate editor of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*, opened the convention with a dynamic keynote address, "Service in a World Gone Wild."
2. Gary Krause, director of Adventist Mission presented both a keynote address and a Monday afternoon seminar.
3. Approximately 300 pastors attended the convention hosted by CUC and the SDACC.
4. There were two daily plenary sessions held in the College Heights church which graciously welcomed us to their facility.
5. Just a few of the convention attendees who drank in the spiritual and practical lessons given by the many presenters.

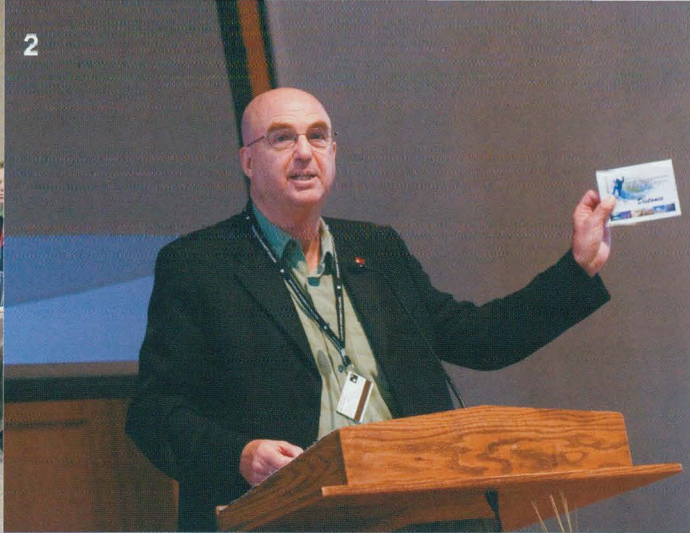


Knight's comments, springing from an interview conducted in 1992 which was subsequently published in his book *The Fat Lady and the Kingdom* five years later, still ring true 15 years later. Many members, pastors and administrators have begun to question, for many reasons, the role that the local pastor will play in the Church as we move into the future. As this issue of the *Messenger* rolls off the press, another denominationally-affiliated magazine, *Adventist Today*, dares to raise the issue of the pastoral job description in an article called "The End of Ministry as We Know It." In it author Loren Seibold asserts, "The NAD [North American Division] church that your children or grandchildren will go to when they grow up . . . is going to be pastored differently than their church today is."

It is against this backdrop of questioning and change for our ministers that the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) convened *Ministry in the 21st Century: Transition, Formation and Challenge*, a convention for all current pastors across the country. "We want our pastors here in Canada to know that we value them and want to encourage them as they work so hard on behalf of God and their fellow man," says Dan Jackson, president of the SDACC. "It is the intention of the administration here to provide our front line workers, our pastors, with every tool and resource that we possibly can give."

On June 21-25, nearly 300 pastors from every region in the nation gathered at Canadian University College to participate in this important convention and receive some of those tools. For the many in the group who graduated from CUC, this was a happy return to familiar territory. For others, however, this was a first visit to our Canadian school, and they found it a facility of which the country should be proud. CUC's faculty and staff worked tirelessly both prior to and during the convention (see page 13) and

6. Enjoying the company of peers in the comfort of Lakeview Hall was just one of the many good points of the event.



1. Ern Brake was one of the very important seminar presenters, speaking extensively on understanding the postmodern mindset.
2. Oliver Lofton-Brook, director of Special Projects at the SDACC, was the chief coordinator of the convention
3. Stephen Currow of Nowbold College presented a keynote address and some interesting seminars highlighting evangelism and mission.
4. In the many seminars that were held, attendees were able to ask questions and delve deeply into the lessons presented.
5. One of the highlights of the events was the Olympic banquet which highlighted the Church's efforts to serve and evangelize as Vancouver hosts the world in 2010.



hosted the event like seasoned professionals. Their team, headed by David Jeffrey, assistant professor of Business, worked with the SDACC's Oliver Lofton-Brook to coordinate logistical issues, freeing the ministerial guests' to focus on the presentations.

And there was no shortage on which to focus. From the Sunday evening opening remarks by Roy Adams, associate editor of the *Adventist Review* (and former *Messenger* editor) straight through to the farewell challenge issued by President Jackson on Thursday morning, the schedule was packed to overflowing with excellent plenary sessions and informative and practical workshops. With more than 20 presenters to learn from in just three and a half days, there was scarcely time for attendees to catch their breath before rushing off to enjoy another session, but as pastors they were used to that pace!

One theme running through the presentations

was the need to reach a new generation of people, the postmoderns, with methods and means unlike any that have been employed by the Church before. With seminars titled “Understanding the Postmodern Mindset,” “Modeling Authenticity in a Pretentious Church” and “Evangelism, Ellen White and the Liberal/Conservative Debate” to name just a few, convention guests were all but compelled to consider the Church in light of our current cultural shift.

Aside from all things postmodern, there was much to learn about pastoral ministry. For instance, matters related to team building were thoughtfully considered at the many seminars held by Doug Matacio, professor of Religious Studies; turning difficult people into delightful ones—a necessary skill for any minister—was one topic addressed by Ewart Brown, life coach and motivational speaker; the importance of Adventist education was emphasized by representatives from both the NAD and the SDACC. Even the *Messenger* was on hand to answer questions about the Church’s national magazine and to encourage all pastors to participate more fully in its production by contributing news and feature articles. With these and other seminars to feast upon, there were professional resources aplenty!

One of the most important features of the convention was the display and information



booths set up in the mezzanine level of Lakeview Hall dormitory. Many exhibitors were in attendance to answer questions from our ministers and to do their best to keep them informed on matters significant to their life and work. The SDACC’s Health Benefits and Retirement departments were on hand to inform everyone about important changes to both of those plans. “Being here and having the opportunity to talk with such a large group of Church employees is important to our department,” said Marilyn Pazitka, director of Retirement. “Instead of sending 300 emails or letters, we can give these folks the necessary information and also have the pleasure of interacting with them personally.”

Though the schedule of presentations was very full, attendees still found time to form and renew personal connections with each other as well. Drawing participation from every conference in Canada, perhaps the convention’s strongest and most important feature was bringing everyone together in a spirit of agreement and camaraderie. Whether it was on the baseball diamond or the dormitory lobby, fellow pastors were coming together in friendship—sometimes for sheer pleasure and the joy of fellowship, other times to share encouragement and wisdom gleaned from hard experience so that their peers in similar circumstances might be strengthened.

“All in all, we’re quite pleased with the convention we put together,” says Oliver Lofton-Brook, director of Special Projects at the SDACC who coordinated the event. “We just hope and pray that our pastors were also pleased with it and that it gave them something to carry forward into the important work they do each day, that it inspired them and taught them and encouraged them in their calling.” ■



1. It wasn't all meetings and seminars! Some pastors found time in the schedule to fellowship and have fun on the ball diamond and elsewhere.
2. Gathered around the piano for practise, the men's chorus was just one of the many ways to offer up praise during the event.
3. Sunshine and good friendship—what more could one ask from a convention?

IT WAS DINNER TIME, AND A SPECIAL MEAL WAS BEING SERVED. A guest was marvelling over the different colors of roasted vegetables. Even the potatoes were different shades of white and were mixed with some small purple ones. This is the time of year that there are lots of fresh fruits and vegetables available in Canada. This is a great time of year to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables. The colours are amazing, and so is the variety. Which colour of fruits and vegetables do you like? Eating these delicious colours is one way to get lots of vitamins and

can be found in sources of fat and tend to be stored in the body.

Minerals are divided into two groups; the groups are macro- and micro-minerals. Some of the macro-minerals are calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, and sulfur. Some of the micro-minerals are chromium, cobalt, copper, fluorine, iodine, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium and zinc. Each nutrient is needed for a different function. An example is iron, which is needed to carry oxygen to the cells in the body. When one has a low iron, there is fatigue;

Roasted vegetables are an amazing dish and another way to consume those important vitamins and minerals. To make this, take a variety of vegetables such as potatoes (even the small ones), sweet potatoes, parsnip and carrots, and cut them into pieces that are about two and a half centimetres square. To this mixture add olive oil (1-2 tablespoons) and fresh or dried rosemary. Put this mixture in the oven at 175° C (350° F) and bake for half an hour. While this is baking, cut up onion rings, pepper (red and orange) strips and sliced

WHAT IS YOUR COLOR?

minerals. This article will look at the different types of vitamins and minerals and two great ways to consume them—through fruit smoothies and roasted vegetables.

Vitamins can be divided into two groups: water soluble and fat soluble. The water soluble vitamins are all the B vitamins (like thiamine, niacin, riboflavin, and B12) and vitamin C. Because they are water soluble, these vitamins may be lost in cooking and also when food is left sitting in water. If one takes an excess of these vitamins in pill form, he or she will excrete the extra vitamins from the body. The fat soluble vitamins are vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamin K, and vitamin E. These

it becomes harder to climb stairs and do a lot of exercise.

A fruit smoothie is a delicious way to consume a variety of fruits. There is an endless possibility of combinations of fruits that can be combined to produce a cool refreshing smoothie. Most times, this author will start by putting juice into the blender and will add frozen fruit until there is a delicious mixture blended together. Some combinations are orange juice with strawberries and bananas; soymilk with peaches and mangoes; and pineapple juice with oranges, lemon, and strawberries. It just takes a little creativity and imagination to create a mouth watering combination of fruits.

mushrooms. Combine the two mixtures after the first mixture has baked for half an hour. Bake all together for another half of an hour.

There are many ways to get the vitamins and minerals that are required by the body, but eating fruits and vegetables is the best way. How is your diet? Do you get enough vitamins and minerals? Are you getting the nutrients that you need to live a productive healthy life? How could you begin to eat more fruits and vegetables? ■

Audrey Tait is a dietitian with the College of Dietitians of Ontario and the College of Dietitians of Alberta.

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Ontario

Filipino-Canadian Church members have a Heart

On Sunday June 7, 2009, the Becel Ride for Heart took place in Toronto with more than 13,000 cyclists and in-line skaters participating. More than \$3 million was raised to support medical advances and health education programs to save lives. Sponsored by the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada, this event has occurred annually for the last 21 years; the Filipino-Canadian SDA Church in Toronto has participated for the last four years.

Members and friends of the church participated both as cyclists and volunteers. While the weather forecast called for rain that day, the rain held off, and the cyclists braved 25 km and 50 km of Toronto's two major arteries and busiest highways, the Don Valley Parkway and

the Gardiner Expressway, in an effort to spread the health message of having a healthy heart.

"When the Lord commissioned us to 'go,' it meant that we have to proclaim something really important, and joining big events such as this is one of the ways that we can let the community know who we are and what we believe in as Seventh-day Adventist Christians. We volunteer and ride not only for the heart but for physical, social, emotional, mental and spiritual needs," says Sammy Adriatico who coordinated the event for the church.

Volunteers included families, friends and the church's Orion Pathfinder Club who helped in various roles from directing traffic to distributing packed lunches for

the cyclists as they arrived. Kaye Lawrence-Haye, program coordinator for the Foundation was pleased with FilCan's participation: "I have heard only very good things about the traffic control troop of young people; I heard that they handled the role extremely well . . . The food distribution team did extremely well, too, so kudos to your team! Keep doing what you do!"

Joining this event has also inspired some non-Adventist participants to become part of the church family. Let's continue to evangelize in our local neighbourhoods so they can see the light of Jesus through us. ■

— Pearlle Cada, member
(and cyclist!)



First Family Life Day

On June 27, 2009, North West Brampton Company held its first Family Life Day, with a special focus on Building Christ-Centered Families for Eternity. The North West company is committed to keeping families together, and, as a result of the program, some families that were “on the rocks” have strengthened their relationship with God and committed to rebuilding and cherishing their family lives.

The program featured four afternoon seminars: *Improving Intimacy in Your Relationship*, for couples, was led by Ruth and Elvis Gyebi; *Being Single and Happy*, for all singles, was led by Daniel Saugh; *How to Handle Peer Pressure*, for teens, was led by Maxine Rivers; and *Choosing Role Models*, for children, was led by Sandy Grant. Everyone benefitted from these seminars and was able to take away a message for life.

Following the seminars, there was a recommittal service, officiated by Ledford



Morris. During the ceremony, the couples were formally dressed, the brides in white and the grooms in suits. Pastor Morris addressed the couples and prayed for them. The couples exchanged vows and renewed their marital commitment. Garth Geddes and Stacia Samuels-Nesbeth presented beautiful music during the signing of the marriage recommittal certificates. Slices of wedding cakes

and other refreshments were provided.

The North-West company is dedicated to preserving the marriages in its congregation and to decreasing the rate of divorce among members of the Adventist faith. Congratulations to all the couples who renewed their vows. We thank the Family Life department for this initiative. ■

—Judy Williams, member

Ontario Conference Elects Mansfield Edwards as President



Dr. Mansfield Edwards is the new president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario. He was unexpectedly voted as president at the 32nd constituency meeting of the Ontario Conference on July 5, 2009.

The vote was taken late on the closing day of the two-day constituency meeting, held at the International Centre, Mississauga, Ontario, after hours of deliberation and uncertainty.

Shortly after the meeting began on Sunday morning, the name of the incumbent, Derrick Nichols, was nominated to serve a fourth term as president. Before the vote was called, however, a delegate referred the report to the nominating committee for further consideration. The committee did not return with a report until close to the end of the scheduled time, necessitating an extended meeting.

After a short break, the report was finally given, and Dr. Mansfield Edwards

was nominated as president. The vote reflected the delegates confidence in him by a margin of 3-1, and Edwards was declared to be the new president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario, succeeding Pastor Derrick Nichols.

As Pastor Daniel Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, turned to thank Pastor Nichols for his service as president, the entire delegation rose to its feet and burst into spontaneous applause. Nichols, in hallmark humility, immediately acknowledged the surprise vote for Edwards as “good for Ontario”.

Nichols remarked how happy he was for the time he served as president and, to enthusiastic applause, thanked the constituency for its support and prayers. He quickly moved on to warmly congratulate Edwards and promised him his 110% support.

To answer the unstated question

regarding his future, he said. "I went to college to study for the ministry. I did not go to study to be president. I went to do ministry, and ministry I will do."

The delegates, still standing, continued clapping, demonstrating their appreciation for his leadership over three terms and, perhaps, his humility and strength in chairing the meeting even after learning that he was no longer the nominee for president.

Pastor Mansfield Edwards arrived at the constituency meeting on Sunday prepared to say the closing prayer, as he had been requested to do. Instead, he stood as president of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. After expressing his surprise at being selected and his gratitude for the confidence of the delegation, he moved into his new role as president.

"What we have done here today," he said, "will influence the direction of God's work in this conference for the next four years." He graciously thanked his predecessor, Pastor Derrick Nichols, for his outstanding contribution and pledged himself to build on the work of all those who had preceded him. He was quick to recognize that each administration is called to serve and prepare the way for another.

"We must not forget that we have been elected to serve four years, and



Newly elected officers for the Ontario conference. L-R: Dan Linrud, Mansfield Edwards, Ulysees Guarin.

after that we too will be in the past," he said. Edwards has been the senior pastor of the thousand-member Apple Creek Adventist Church in North York.

Concluding, he reminded the delegation of the seriousness of the age and urged each delegate to commitment to God and to effective ministry.

The constituency also chose to elect a new executive secretary, and the delegation accepted the nomination of

Daniel Linrud, pastor of Living Word Fellowship in Hamilton. Linrud replaces Pastor Antonio Bueno, who served one term in the position.

The re-election of Mr. Ulysses Guarin as treasurer completed the election of the officers of the church in Ontario. ■

—Halsey Peat,
communication director

THE DELEGATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ALSO ELECTED THE FOLLOWING PERSONS TO SERVE AS DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS:

ADRA Representative for Ontario/Community Services/Adult and Youth Sabbath School	Theodore Sargeant
Children Ministries/Health Ministries	Maria McLean
Communications/Public Affairs & Religious Liberty	Halsey Peat
Education Superintendent	Janice Maitland
Associate Education Superintendent	Frances Schander
Information Technology	Raveen Pal
Ministerial Association/Evangelism	Errol Lawrence
Personal Ministries	Eustace Williams
Transportation/Property Management/Risk Management Services	Birthe Chan
Associate Treasurer	Virene Joseph
Trust Services/Kingsway Pioneer Home	Alvin Ram
Women Ministries/Family Ministries	Donna Jackson
Youth Ministries/AMiCUS	Cyril Millett
Associate Youth Ministries/Adventurers/Pathfinders	Edwin Martin
Associate Youth Ministries/Camp Ministries/Men Ministries	Glenn DeSilva

British Columbia



PEACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ADVENTURE RACE 2009

It is six o'clock in the morning, and a dozen or so Gore-Tex-clad people are tinkering with up-turned bicycles at the back of a huge service trailer that is parked in the grassy ditch beside #97 about five miles west of Chetwynd.

The second annual Adventure Race has arrived. Pastor Erroll Palipane has hair almost as thin as principal Darren Shankel's; the stress of organizing 21 teams of three to be here, to be here on time, to be here prepared for hours of body-and-equipment jarring abuse has left its mark on these two intrepid organizers. The race will be fired off by the mayor of Chetwynd at 9:30, and the last-minute details of testing radios, confirming that marshals understand their roles and know how to get to their

positions, ("Did you bring your bear spray? You say you have no water bottle?") and pressuring up flat quad tires is keeping the tension high.

The race is longer this year and new features have been added—like the 300-foot deep canyon with the fast-flowing stream at the bottom. Through this canyon the roles are reversed. Bicycles ride and the riders carry. Racers stagger to the rim at North Point check point, gasp in a few breaths of clean oxygen (Some of them fall at our feet moaning, "Who talked me into this crazy race. Never again will I...") and resolutely mount their machines for the next hour of riding that will take them through some of the roughest trail on the route past grizzly bear tracks that can hold

both feet of most riders with toenail space to spare. They complete the race with a six-mile canoe paddle on relatively benign Moberly Lake—all for the sake of posing for thirty seconds with the coveted wooden trophy in their sweaty hands.

Racers came to Chetwynd for this event from all the surrounding communities, from Kelowna, and one lean-and-determined fellow in the geriatric team flew in from Arizona to prove that at 65 he can still do it. The question we must answer: why do we do it? It was grueling even for the marshals keeping the bears off the trails for the day and checking off the racers as they went by. We marshals went home ready for a shower and a sleep.

The answer is clear, if not simple. Adventure Race 2009 created another opportunity to engage the people of our community. And the community was engaged. Community support from full TV, radio, and news paper coverage to the racing teams, food donations, and other sponsorships was hearty and complete. This in view of the fact that the International chain saw carving event was winding up on the same day.

Adventure Race is a window through which the community can observe Peace Christian School and the Chetwynd SDA Church. It is a non-threatening opportunity to become acquainted with our neighbors and rub weary shoulders as we grin with grimy faces.

Located in Chetwynd, an industrial, agricultural, toursty little town situated just where the Pine River spills from the Northern Rockies into the plateau country of northeastern British Columbia, our school enrolled 80 students from kindergarten through grade 10 last year and turned away others because we just

couldn't find space to seat them. In keeping with our mission, about 60% of our students do not come from Seventh-day Adventist homes. None of them pay tuition.

Our mission (a mission supported by the Chetwynd church) sees us growing in the immediate future to accommodate the many other potential students in the area. It is an outreach effort to those who do not yet know the message we have been given to share. To do this we need to construct an entirely new facility. The church

owns the property now and much of the ground work has been done. (How we acquired the property and the access to the property is a miracle story for another time.)

Is the school showing spiritual results? The answer is yes. Young people are attending church. Young people are being baptized. Young people join us for mission trips. Parents are starting to take notice.

Thank you for noticing. ■

—Merlin Nichols, member

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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 lmacdonald@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

5th annual Men of Hope Men's Retreat—Camp Hope, Oct. 16–18, 2009. Special guest is David Asscherick, evangelist and director of Arise Soul Winning Training Centre in Sonora, Calif. This year's theme is "Strong in the Lord and His Mighty Power" (Eph. 6:10). Contact Marie Pipher for information and registration at 604/853-5451.

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)

Missing Members—The Tantallon church is looking for the following members: D'Lynn Andrews, Linda Brown, Karen Glen, Craig Longard, Kelly Williams, Chris Wrathall and Walter Wrathall. If you have any information about these members, please contact the church clerk at Tantallon SDA church, 12494 Peggy's Cove Road, Tantallon, NS, B3Z 2M7.

■ Births

Leeann Estey was born May 2, 2009 to Bonnie and Bill Estey of Bridgewater, N.S.

Jurina Hser was born Feb. 6, 2009 to Rutha and Khu Hser of Regina, Sask.

Levi Walter Kartik was born Mar. 17, 2009 to Melanie (Pohl) and David Kartik of Burnaby, B.C.

Luke Noah Leason was born June 27, 2009 to Melissa (Leavitt) and Michael Leason of Regina, Sask.

Alina Nicolenco was born May 26, 2009 to Christina (Wenkeler) and Ruslan Nicolenco of Abbotsford, B.C.

Cainan Christopher Rioux was born May 12, 2009 to Krista and James Rioux of Blockhouse, N.S.

Jade Christabelle Rogers was born Feb. 4, 2009 to Jackie (Mahap) and Cameron Rogers of Chilliwack, B.C.

Martin Frederik Sokolies was born Jan. 26, 2009 to Sheryl (Soderblom) and Rex Sokolies of Winnipeg, Man.

Bennet Scott Thorsteinson was born Jan. 30, 2009 to Carolyn and Eric Thorsteinson of Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Bella West was born Feb. 11, 2009 to Jennifer and Scott West of Cambridge, N.S.

■ Weddings

Sharon Caldwell and Evans Monyoncho were married May 4, 2009 in Charlottetown, P.E.I. and are making their home in Stratford, P.E.I.

Pam Evans and Scott Alexander were married Feb. 8, 2009 in Cranbrook, B.C. where they are also making their home. Pam is the daughter of Jim and Janice Evans of Cranbrook and Scott is the son of Terry and Bonnie Alexander of St. John's, N.L.

Malgorzata Koscielak and Andrzej Wroblewski were married June 14, 2009 in Winnipeg, Man. and are making their home there as well.

Jacqueline McGivery and Bruce Russell were married June 7, 2009 in Fredericton, N.B. and are making their home in Oromocto, N.B. Jacqueline is the daughter of Ann (Hansen) McGivery of Fredericton and Bruce is the son of Heather Russell of Scotland.

Heather Woolard and Jason Chiakowsky were married Mar. 22, 2009 in Maui, Hawaii and are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif.

■ Anniversaries



Reuben and Francis Matiko celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2009. They have two sons and four grandchildren.



Fred and Geraldine Krym of Rosser, Man. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21, 2009 with family and friends.



Art and Dorothy Spenst of Abbotsford, B.C. celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 16, 2009. They celebrated the event twice: once in Maui in February with family and on the date by riding the Peak-to-Peak gondola at Whistler, B.C. The Spensts have two children: Del (Jenna) of Lacombe, Alta. and Donna (Dan) Wells of Abbotsford. They have four grandsons and four great-grandsons.

■ Obituaries

Alexander "Popeye" Dobroskay was born on Apr. 9, 1919 in Altican, Sask. and died April 19, 2009 in Saskatoon, Sask. Alex served his church as Sabbath School superin-

tendent and deacon. He also organized Missionary Volunteer programs for the Sunnyside Nursing home. He is predeceased by his seven sisters and three brothers. Surviving: wife Anna, son Gilbert of Saskatoon, daughter Therese Lindburg of Dundurn, Sask. and brother Mike (Barbara) of Saskatoon; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mary (Guttormson) Fortney was born Nov. 29, 1934 in Naicam, Sask. and died Mar. 8, 2009 in Winnipegosis, Man. Mary served as a literature evangelist in Manitoba from 1971 to 1984. She is predeceased by her brothers Allan, Einar, Stanley, Ingval, John and Gordon and her sister Verna Goodwin. Surviving: husband Steve; son Denis (Denice) of Edmonton, Alta.; daughters Brenda (Ira) Mayne of Yakima, Wash., Louise (Jeff) Winter of Lafayette, Ore. and Ruth (Chuck) Martin of Columbia, Md.; sisters Elsie Philip of Prince George, B.C., Irene Clark of Naicam, Myrtle (Marcel) of Red Deer, Alta., Ruby Antipovich of Winnipegosis, Olive Unger of Prince George and Jean (Mike) Fushetey of Grand Prairie, Alta.; and seven grandchildren.

Albert Grabo was born Nov. 25, 1916 in Beiseker, Alta. and died Apr. 29, 2009 in Summerside, P.E.I. Albert served his church as a literature evangelist and as publishing director for the Maritime and Alberta conferences. Surviving: wife L. Marguerite; son Garland (Jeanette) of Sicamous, B.C.; daughters Corienne (Paul) Kramer of Washington Crossing, Pa. and Treva (Edwin) Sharpe of Kinkora, P.E.I.; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Dianne Grosso was born Oct. 17, 1963 in Edmonton, Alta. and died Apr. 22, 2009 in Saskatoon, Sask. Dianne was predeceased by her father Sam. Surviving: husband Randy Krupka, son Calvin Grosso of Saskatoon; daughter Brianna Grosso of Saskatoon; mother Grace Klatt Grosso and sister Alisa (Mel Skalicky) Grosso Latoski of Saskatoon.

John Charles Jamieson was born April 20, 1916 in St. John's, N.L. and died Mar. 26, 2009 in St. John's. Surviving: daughter Elizabeth Rudd of Oshawa, Ont. and daughter-in-law Ursula; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Elvin Littman was born Aug. 29, 1924 in Leduc, Alta. and died Dec. 27, 2008 in Vegreville, Alta. Elvin was predeceased by his wife Hanna. Surviving: wife Mildred; sons Jerry (Ardella) of Calgary, Alta. and Dale

of Edmonton, Alta.; step-sons Lorne (Iris) Saruk of Strathmore, Alta and Elvin (Grace Sedak) Saruk of Strathmore, Alta.; daughters Lorraine (Larry) Frape of Wanham, Alta. and Marilyn (Ed) Witteman of Calgary; step-daughter Lydia Saruk of Two Hills, Alta.; brother Ewalt (Elfreda) Littman of Warburg, Alta.; sisters Delfie Koehn of Lacombe, Alta. and Ruth (Irvin) Zotzman of Warburg; 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Melvin McCarty was born Mar. 13, 1917 in Stettler, Alta. and died May 20, 2009 in McBride, B.C. Melvin served his church as school board chairman, building committee chairman for the Robson Valley Junior Academy and the McBride church, and head deacon and Sabbath school teacher. He is predeceased by his wife Audrey (Anderson), his brother Russell and sisters Delia, Wilma, Zella and Florence. Surviving: daughters Eunice Wentz and Elsie (Glen) Stanley both of McBride, Marj (Norman) Rooke of Duncan, B.C. and Esther (Les) Saylor of Ponoka, Alta.; sister Doris Wettstein; 14 grandchildren and 28 great-children.

Joseph McCreary was born Oct. 28, 1909 in Arden, Man. and died Feb. 27, 2009 in Rose Lu Lac, Man. He is predeceased by his brothers Arthur, Jack, David, Carl and Ben. Surviving: sisters-in-law Alma Reimche McCreary of Lacombe, Alta. and Alma of Waterhen, Man.

William Melnychenko was born Mar. 10, 1919 in Winnipeg, Man. and died June 25, 2009 in Langley, B.C. William served his church as head deacon, Sabbath School superintendent, Sabbath School teacher and assisted his wife with the Dorcas Society. He is predeceased by his daughter Connie. Surviving: wife Anne; sons Brian and Randy (Barbara) of Langley and Perry (Debra) of Portland, Ore.; brothers Roy (Mary) of Winnipeg and John Miller of Los Angeles, Calif.; sister Lillian (Gus) Wasiuta of Winnipeg; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Jean Marily (Nesbitt) Pyke was born June 10, 1932 in Carleton Place, Ont. and died June 19, 2009 in Carleton Place. Surviving: husband Milton, daughters Barbara (Brad) Scott of Kanata, Ont. and Marilyn (Kevin) MacDonald of Mississauga, Ont.; and two grandchildren.

Melita Jean Ramsay was born Feb. 14, 1915 in Halifax, N.S. and died Nov. 12, 2008 in Peterborough, Ont. Melita served the churches of Toronto East and Stoney Creek as

organist and pianist more than 50 years. Surviving: son Alex (Juanita) of Ont. and daughter Renee (Henry) Perry of Maine.

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Deadlines

April issue:	Feb. 2
May issue:	Mar. 2
June issue:	Apr. 1

■ Tributes



Chantelle Skoretz and Dr. Scott Walker were married April 18, 2009 in a beautiful garden wedding in Palm Springs, Calif. and are making their home in Redlands, Calif. Chantelle is the daughter of Eugene and Gwen (Pfanmuller) Skoretz of

Langley, B.C. and Scott is the son of Shirley Walker of Loma Linda, Calif.

Lyn Kaytor was born April 28, 1946 and passed away May 18, 2009. Lyn was born handicapped and was given a very short life expectancy. However, when she was five years old she got her first wheelchair and spent the rest of her life in a wheelchair. She handled her disabilities well. She loved people and touched many lives with her cheerful, happy disposition and her lovely smile. She is sadly missed by her parents Tony and Evelyn Kaytor who thank God for sparing her life for 63 years. Also missing her are aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

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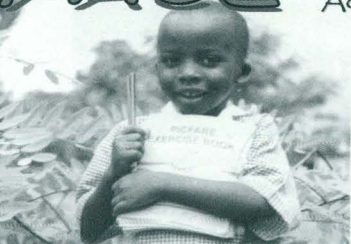
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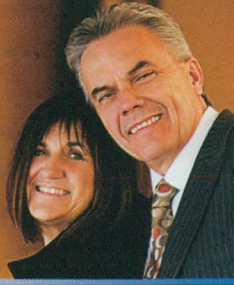
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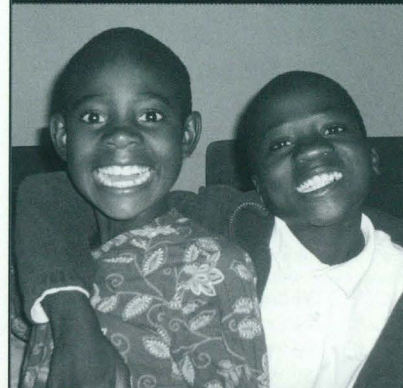
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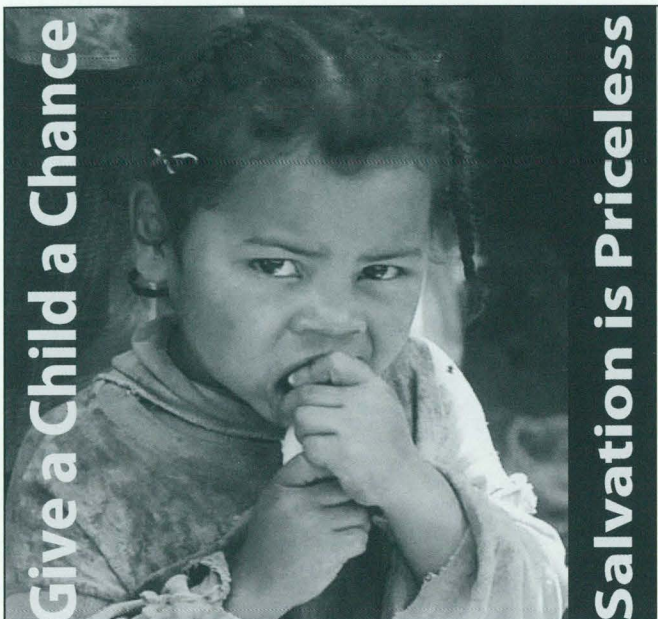
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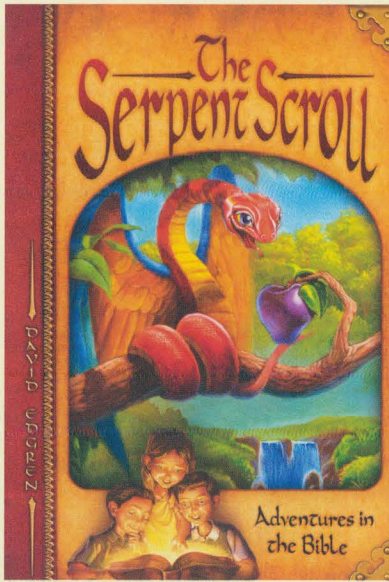
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The Serpent Scroll

Spooky Bookends

Have you ever been sucked into a book so engaging that it seemed almost real to you? Well, metaphors aside, that is the literal premise of this story. Eleven-year-old Paul receives a Bible for his birthday; maybe not the most appealing gift for an adolescent. He puts it aside to better scrutinize his more intriguing gifts but comes back to it and discovers in Genesis the word “serpent” in red ink. He is drawn to it and touches it, causing a fantastic reaction where he and his two younger siblings are “sucked” into the Bible. By speaking the elements of various Bible stories, those components manifest themselves as an interactive holographic-style show. The kids are aware of the characters and their choices/consequences, yet those characters are oblivious to the observers. The narrative takes the young adventurers through different stories of the Bible, thematically highlighting on those involving serpents: starting with the Garden of Eden and ending with the dragon in Revelation.

This book was introduced to me and my family by my brother-in-law and his lot while camping this past August. It served wonderfully as a worship book for our four children, and upon returning home, I quickly went to the ABC and picked up a copy. Designed for children, it serves as a quick read for adults. Its narrative is engaging and broken into small, three- to four-page chapters, each designed as a cliffhanger to draw the reader further along. The dialogue between the characters is reflective of adolescents, edited to demonstrate just a bit of rivalry/teasing, but focussing on the interactive discussions of discovery through the Bible stories. At the end

of each chapter are three thought-provoking questions that serve as triggers for deeper exploration of the themes and ideas behind the protagonists’ experiences. My children tended to respond with standard answers but, with guidance, started to dig deeper into the symbolism and thematic elements of the Bible. At the back of the book is an appendix that explains the purpose of a concordance and offers some important words that young folk can explore by themselves in their own Bibles.

One key highlight of this book is when Paul and his siblings discover that God notices them in the Garden of Eden and a wonderful discourse ensues. It warmed my heart to reflect upon the idea of God talking with children; “Suffer the little children to come unto Me . . .” (Mark 10:14). This chapter wonderfully sums up, at a child’s level, the idea of holy communion with our Maker, and this is the main reason for reading the Bible.” Imagining God laughing with the troop really created a delightful image of a God who is interested in all events and interactions, no matter how inconsequential they may seem.

The Serpent Scroll, upon first glance, would have been a pass for me; I’m thankful that wasn’t the case. I quite enjoyed its simplistic, interactive and imaginative approach to Bible stories and now look forward to the second book in the series: *The Lamb Scroll*. I highly recommend this work for both the young and young-at-heart. ■

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

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