

canadian adventist

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Messenger

Smooth Sailing

for Adventist
Education in Canada

plus: Blessed Be the Thais (p.12);
The Devilish Christian (p.6)

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Seeking Whom He May Devour

Dave Salmoni is a lion tamer. Well, actually he is a scientist who specializes in large predators and has abundant experience working with lions. His latest project, a film called *Into the Pride* for Animal Planet, had him living in a tent among 'problem lions' in Namibia. It seems that he had earlier been part of a team that relocated these lions from their natural habitat to a privately owned reserve in an effort to prevent their slaughter by nearby villagers who were having their cattle destroyed and their safety threatened. The owner of the reserve, one year after having his land populated by these big cats, became concerned about their increasing level of aggressiveness. Worried that they would kill his staff, he called on Salmoni to find a solution to the problem.

The story in a recent issue of *Macleans* caught my eye, not only because I've had a fascination with lions since I had a close-up view of a pride killing and devouring a zebra in Kenya a few years ago but also because I think that when someone who has battled ferocious predators with his bare hands has something to say, it is smart to listen. As it turns out, Salmoni had a lot to say that is worthwhile—not only to those who might be planning to track big game but also to us who simply want to be successful in the Christian life.

In the *Macleans*'s article, Salmoni talked a bit about the kinds of preparations he made for living amongst the lions. He watched a lot of video of lion attacks, noting patterns, thinking about the ways in which they would most likely come at him. He got practical tips to accompany his zoological education. (He found out that there is a skin flap just inside a lion's lips where you can put your finger and stop them from biting! I hope I never have to use that information.) Then he hit the gym—hard!—to particularly develop those muscle groups that would be most useful in the situations he was likely to get into. I was impressed that all of these have applications for one's spiritual life, for confrontations with our own "roaring lion" adversary.

Of further interest to me, however, was a point that Salmoni made about the specifics of his physical conditioning: he noted that his exercise regimen had him practising "compound movement"—making three or four different movements simultaneously or in rapid succession. Hmmm . . . It seemed to me that this, perhaps even more than the previous points, was especially pertinent to the Christian life. Too often we get hold of one aspect of the spiritual life—prayer, perhaps, or evangelism or a healthy diet—and pursue that passion as if it is the path to our salvation. We would do well to recognize more often that resisting temptation and deepening our relationship with the One who would save us requires compound movement. Of course prayer is important, and so is sharing our faith, respecting our bodies as a holy temple and the myriad of other good principles that are imparted to us through scripture and our Sabbath morning sermons. But the single-minded pursuit of any one of these important things will never result in our ultimate deliverance. We need to establish and practice a multifaceted defence strategy led by God. We need to incorporate compound movement into our spiritual walk . . .

. . . and keep it in mind when lions stalk us. ■

Crystal

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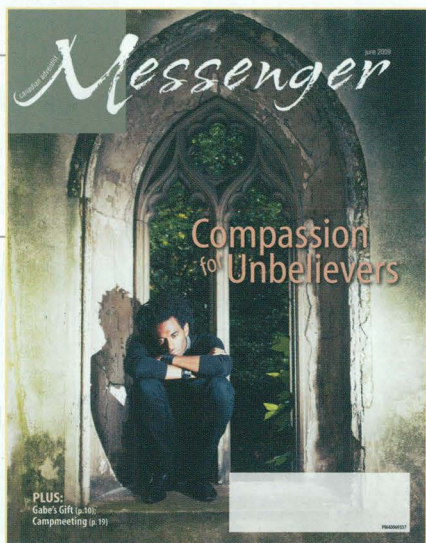
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Your Words

“I don’t always agree with what is in the magazine, but I dearly love the discussions that it encourages.”

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

Congratulations on the *Messenger’s* excellent recognition from the ACP and on your being elected to the ACP Board of Directors. Way to go!

— M. Moore, via email

RE: miscellaneous

1. The *Messenger* is getting people to talk, period.
2. The *Messenger* is getting people to talk about issues.
3. The readership has changed and, I believe, has increased. The question people ask me now is, “how do I get on the mailing list?”
4. Your transparency in editorials is refreshing. Why are we so afraid to be honest?
5. People have something to think about when they read it.

6. People have something to do when they read it.
7. God is using the *Messenger* to stir the pot and wake people up.

Remember Abraham Lincoln’s statement: “You can please some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but you can’t please all of the people all of the time.”

I don’t always agree with what is in the magazine, but I dearly love the discussions that it encourages. Keep it up.

— A. Daviss, via email

Some time ago a friend gave me a copy of the *Messenger*, and I was delighted to read your “from the editor” column. Over the past couple of years, I’ve had

the pleasure of perusing several *Messengers*. They provide a delightful glimpse into what is happening in Adventist circles in Canada.

The *Messenger* makes a circuitous journey to my door. Its first stop is the home of friends in Victoria, B.C. who, after reading it, pass it on to a mutual friend in Vancouver, Wash., and then it finally it comes to Portland, Ore. where I eagerly devour its contents.

I commend you on creating a magazine that is visually pleasing and intellectually stimulating. I always turn to your column first; I appreciate your honesty and candour. Keep up the good work!

— K. Tetz, professor, Walla Walla University

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.



Keep ‘em Comin’!!

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

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

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



Slumdog Millionaire

Poverty and Entertainment

I can't help but be impressed that the movie *Slumdog Millionaire* has won eight Academy Awards. The film depicts a contestant, Jamal, who has only one question left to answer on an Indian version of the game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* The movie consists of flashbacks revealing the miraculous coincidences that enable Jamal to answer all the questions correctly up to that point. The action-packed plot traces Jamal's childhood of survival as an orphan along with his brother, Salim, and Latika, a fellow orphan Jamal grows to genuinely love and is continually determined to rescue from gangsters. The story ultimately culminates in freedom, reunion and love. But there is a more prominent, pervading theme that, understandably, does not end happily: poverty. Its brutal realities—violence, crime, oppression, child exploitation and prostitution—are portrayed as Jamal grows up in the slums of Mumbai.

The city of Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India, is home to Bollywood and about 14 million people, and if you include the suburbs, the population is closer to 19 million. The city itself, located on India's west coast, ranks second among the world's most populated cities. Even though, according to the 2001 census, over half the population lived in slums, poverty on the subcontinent is not limited to city slums.

The issue of poverty in India, however, is bigger than Mumbai and certainly much bigger than what any one movie can capture. "India lives in its villages"—an axiom underlined by the fact that over 70 percent of the country's population lives in rural areas. India's undoubted economic strides have not brought about the desired improvement in the lives of the poor, most of whom live in the villages. The story of rural India also needs to be told, with over 300 million characters who live in poverty with less than a dollar a day in income for a family of four, and whose social status in their communities is relegated to that below the holy cow. The story must include the village elites who frequently prey on the helpless, often in collusion with those who are supposed to help and protect them.

These numbers (both urban and rural) are far too large for most of us to adequately comprehend. A few of us have walked through the slums of Mumbai or Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) or visited in the homes of the thousands of villages of, for example, the state of Uttar Pradesh¹ and have met the reality. Even then, coming to understand and appreciate what is happening is no easy task. I lived in India for many years without really "seeing" it. My epiphany came when reading Dominique Lapierre's 1985 novel, *City of Joy*. As I crossed India in a second-class rail carriage with

the paperback for company, I suddenly realized that although the book is a fiction novel, I recognized places and events, and I began to comprehend something of the horror and dignity of India's poor.

If this reality is too far removed from the average Canadian, I wondered how a film that focuses on poverty issues could be successful in the entertainment industry.

Slumdog director, Danny Boyle, is not the only entertainer to highlight poverty issues in popular media. The following are a few recent productions that underline very serious issues of poverty, relief and development:

- The 2003 film *Beyond Borders* follows the problematic romance between two fictional characters: a busy American socialite and a rogue doctor. The film features an impassioned speech on behalf of starving children in Ethiopia, war-torn Cambodia and the horrors of the war in Chechnya. This is the movie that inspired its lead actress, Angelina Jolie, to become interested and active in third world aid and relief work causes. She was ultimately named a UN goodwill ambassador.
- Problems facing Africans as a result of violence have been examined in *ER*, the popular emergency room drama. In May 2006, *ER* stars help

—continued on page 24

¹ Uttar Pradesh (UP) is the most populous state in India, with an estimated population of about 170 million as of 2000. One-sixth of the world's population lives in India, and one-sixth of India's population lives in UP. Only three other countries of the world, China, the United States and Indonesia, have populations larger than that of UP.

THE Devilish Christian

No, I am not saying that God and the Devil get together and work out a strategy of collaboration. Neither am I saying the Devil and Jesus take a stroll together and have a conversation. However, what I am saying is that we, as Christians, can move between the two pure streams of good and evil faster and more easily than we think. Sometimes we think our feelings are from God when in reality our feelings are devilish. We need the Spirit of God not only in our salvation decision but also in our everyday living decisions.

Is it possible for me, a Christian, to continuously be a pure stream reflecting God's character? Three illustrations from the Bible reveal that even when I am walking in the Spirit, I can transition to being influenced by a different spirit quicker than I thought possible.

When James and John, who loved Jesus, saw that the people of a Samaritan village refused to show hospitality to Jesus, they asked Jesus for permission to call fire down from heaven. Jesus said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of." It was not His spirit—He had come to save lives, not destroy them—it was the Devil's spirit (Luke 9:51–56).

When Jesus shared with His disciples that suffering and death awaited Him in Jerusalem, Peter responded with a passionate "not so." Jesus said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!" (Matt. 16:23). Wow! I am sure Peter was totally surprised to realize that he had been used by Satan to tempt his Lord.

The third text that reveals insight on our topic is Galatians 3:3: "Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?" It is possible for me to have made a commitment to Jesus, to accept salvation based on faith and then to shift over and endeavour to mature in character on my own, excluding God from the picture.

God the Father and Jesus (in His humanity) have predictable streams of purity that are expressed in words and actions and are consistent with their character. God does not draw on the devil's stream of evil for His cause. The Devil has a predictable stream of evil; however, at times he deceptively appears to promote what is good or true under a pretense of God's character.

An example of this is found in Luke's account of where a young girl with a spirit of divination stated day after day, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation" (Acts 16:16–18). Most pastors would be pleased to hear such words. However, there was something coming through that did not please Paul. Maybe it was her reputation, the way she said it, or her interruption while he spoke. Whatever it was, Paul commanded the unclean spirit to come out of her. So it is possible for the devil to speak godlike words for his own purposes.

The Bible reveals that Christians committed to walking in the Spirit can cross a line and be controlled by a different spirit. In Romans 7:22–25, Paul speaks of two laws struggling in his life and his need for victory from Jesus to walk in harmony with God. This is a very important conclusion as well as a very important revelation. It is important for me not only to know that I love Jesus as my Saviour and Lord but also to constantly test my expressions and actions by His standard. Matthew 22:37–40 reveals His standard to be supreme love for God and the golden rule toward others.

When am I a devilish Christian? There are at least three moments when I, a committed Seventh-day Adventist Christian, am vulnerable to acting like the devil:

When I am in a position of power. There is something about being in authority that tempts us to lord it over, make someone do it, do it the way I see it and leave

out the golden rule in our expressions or actions. An example of how good and evil can simultaneously influence an individual is found in Daniel 3:28, 29. King Nebuchadnezzar praises God, recognizing that no other power could have delivered the three Hebrew boys from the fiery furnace, especially in the context of their unwavering faithfulness to their convictions. Then, just after saying that, the king makes a decree to punish severely anyone who speaks against their God—offenders were to be killed and their houses to be made a dunghill. This non-Christian king blended true praise with devilish coercion—something that a professed Christian, if not careful, can slip into doing too.

A Christian example might be the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1–5, a couple who came under the conviction of the Spirit to sell property to help support the needs of the church. However, when they had the money in their hands, they decided to lie about the amount they were giving and hold back some for themselves.

When I am *not* in a position of power. Those in authority make decisions you don't like, at times, and you are upset. Sometimes we, as members, really give it to the local church leader, pastor or conference administrator, expressing ourselves like the devil. I have seen the eyes of the devil in members telling me off because they don't approve of a conference decision. The right of descent must be protected, and no one is beyond making a mistake, but the golden rule still applies. We have the right to disagree, but let's do so in the spirit of Christ.

When we approach others with a sense of elitism. Some people speak to their spouses, children, employees, friends and service providers from a mindset of, "I am a Seventh-day Adventist Christian; we have truth for the end times, so how I feel right now must be from Him." We express how we feel without much forethought, when it is possible for these feelings or thoughts to be devilish. As a result, we may emotionally hurt, coerce, build barriers and leave scars for life.

When someone has wronged us. We are upset and hurt, and we can feel that we now have the right to get even, to hurt or take revenge. How easy it is to allow our feelings to burst out in words and acts that reflect the character of the devil rather than Jesus and His golden rule.

When I have truth. To be fully persuaded of our beliefs from the Bible is a beautiful thing, but this conviction is to be a witness to others out of a heart of love and responsibility, not a spirit of superiority. We are to treat people with dignity and respect because they are

on their spiritual journey and may not have as yet accepted the truth we have found; they must be allowed the time to grow to that conviction.

When I "know" my way is best. We think, "My lifestyle is the best because it is backed up by the Bible, the spirit of prophecy and my many years living for the Lord." Through our comments we sometimes impose our way of eating, drinking or living on others rather than let our lives be a humble witness. We must allow others the freedom to work out their own choices under the two great principles of love for God and the golden rule and not present our way or thinking as the only option.

I am thankful that I belong to a church that supports me in my effort to live in harmony with my convictions while being a responsible member of a church family. I have a lot of freedom to live according to my convictions in light of the Bible and general knowledge and have the right to express my thoughts into the pool of group thought. But how easy it is to become devilish and force my convictions on others as the best and only way.

Here are a few conclusions:

1. I need to acknowledge that it is possible for a Seventh-day Adventist Christian to move from a Spirit-led life to a devilish life faster than I think and still feel they are doing right.
2. In my growth as a Christian I need to accept not only salvation by faith in Jesus but also maturity in character by faith in Jesus. I am not only to *begin* in the Spirit; I am to run the race and complete the course in the Spirit.
3. Jesus would want me to always evaluate my expressions and actions by the two principles behind the Ten Commandments: supreme love for God and loving my neighbour as myself. May God help all of us to be Christ-like. ■

Ken Corkum is the president of the Maritime conference.





Fall, a Time of Change

Autumn is a time of change. Students return to school, the leaves change colours and the last of the harvest is ripe. Fall is also a time to prepare for the winter. Food for humans and animals will continue to be harvested across the nation. Early this month, Thanksgiving will be upon us; it's a time to thankfully remember the plentiful harvest. October is the month that most of the apples are harvested. This article will look at the uses of apples, benefits of apples, and apple crisp.

Uses of Apples

There are many different uses for apples. They can be found in pies, crisp, granola bars, strudel and many other foods. One can drink apple juice fresh from the press, make it into hot apple cider (hot apple juice with some cinnamon), add it to other juices as a base and freeze it into popsicles. Apple sauce can be eaten fresh, canned, mixed with other fruits, put on top of pancakes or waffles and used in place of oil in a recipe (cup for cup). Apples can be eaten fresh, baked or put into recipes. The uses of apples are endless!

Benefits of Apples

The old saying goes "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Think about the history of our nation—the cold winters with no fresh fruit. Unless there was a lot of canned goods, apples kept in a cold cellar may have been the only source of fruit in the early settlers' lives. An apple a day may very well have been the way to keep the doctor away. A medium apple with the skin on has 21 grams of carbohydrate, only a trace of fat, a trace of protein, 3 ½ grams of dietary fat, 10 milligrams

of calcium, 159 milligrams of potassium, and 8 milligrams of vitamin C (Health and Welfare Canada, 1988). An apple or one half cup of apple juice provides one serving of fruit according to Canada's Food Guide and the Vegetarian Food Guide.

Apple Crisp

Apple crisp is a great food item. It can be eaten for breakfast with milk (cow's milk, soy milk, rice milk, cashew milk or almond milk) on it. It can be eaten for dessert with whipped cream (or alternative) on top of it. And apple crisp is easy to make! Put 5 cups of peeled apples in a greased pan (use extra virgin olive oil). Mix 1½ cups of white flour (may use 1½ cups of whole wheat pastry flour), 1½ cups of rolled oats, ½ cup of sugar (may try using fructose), 1 tsp of cinnamon, ½ tsp salt (optional) and ½ cup of olive oil (extra virgin). Sprinkle the mixture over the top of the apples. Cook for 30 to 40 minutes at 350°F. This recipe may be used to make crisps with other fruits (the cinnamon may need to be omitted).

Yes, the Fall is a time of change, with Thanksgiving just around the corner. Apples are an important part of the harvest. Apples are a very versatile food with many different uses. Nutritionally, they contain carbohydrates, fibre and potassium. Apple crisp is one way to include apples in your diet. Do you like apples? Are you willing to eat more of them to increase the number of servings of fruit that you consume in a day? ■

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

Creation Corner for Kids

“But be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” Ephesians 5: 18, 19.

Cordon Bleu Waxbill



A friend phoned one day and asked if she could give our daughter her cordon bleu waxbill—a small African, finch-like bird. She explained that she was moving out of the province and couldn't take the bird with her. Although I don't really like the idea of keeping a bird in a cage, because I knew Emily would love to have it, I said, “okay.”

The little blue bird seemed shy and fearful at first. But, before too long, he settled in and began to sing his beautiful song. He sings to himself early in the morning from his perch in his little cage. He doesn't seem to need a mate to sing to. He just enjoys singing and envelopes himself in happy songs.

Think about it.

Most likely our little blue bird sings cheerful songs because of instinct. Too bad joy doesn't come so naturally for us! But we can choose to be happy. In fact, the Bible tells us that Christians ought to be happy, thankful people no matter what is happening to us or around us. Filling our minds with spiritual songs, thankfulness and praise to our Creator makes it difficult for wicked and worldly thoughts to get in. Thanking God in all circumstances and choosing to keep our thoughts on spiritual things is also important if we want to have the mind of Christ.

Do it.

What does it mean to “have the mind of Christ?” Prayerfully read 1 Corinthians 2:9-16. Ask God to grant you the mind of Christ. Want to know more about the beautiful cordon bleu waxbill? Check out www.finchinfo.com.



HIDING FROM THE LORD



CUC group that went to El Salvador. Teddy Bagassien, middle (wearing a red shirt).

THE NIGHT OF JULY 25, 2009 WAS VERY SPECIAL FOR ME.

It was the last presentation of the series of meetings I was preaching. Seven of us CUC students, led by Professor Bruce Boyd, spent three weeks in July conducting evangelistic meetings in El Salvador with ShareHim Ministries. The meeting that night was very different from the others. It was farewell. We started with a small concert and several baptisms. Among the people getting baptized was a young man who had attended every single presentation.

This young man had never been to an Adventist church before, but he had been attending all of my sermons. The more this young man listened, the more restless he became. His parents were fervent Catholics and did not approve of him attending the meetings, but he felt something calling him. Some evenings he would come up during the altar call but not fill out a decision card. But he continued to feel convicted, and again he would come up during appeals, always hesitantly.

During one of the appeals, he quickly

left the building and waited outside so he wouldn't be there for the call. Even outside he could still hear the sermon, and it continued to stir his heart. As the call continued, Pastor Urrutia, the pastor of the church where I preached, prayed for surrender and openness towards the Holy Spirit. As the congregation sang, the pastor and I walked outside to greet and mingle with the people. The young man could not contain it anymore and began to share his story with us. He admitted that he had tried to leave before the altar call so he would not have to confront his feelings, but still felt drawn. Even from outside the church he felt the presence of the Lord in him and was filled with peace. He wanted to be baptized, and he asked for our prayers as he talked to his family about his decision.

The following day he was baptized and became a Christian. None of us are unreachable; we may hide from God, but His arms are never too short. God's Word brings healing and comfort to the broken soul. He is the water of life that brings life into the wilderness of our hearts. As Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "Whoever drinks of the water

that I shall give him will never thirst," because this water, explains Jesus, will become, in the one who accepts it, "a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." That evening in El Salvador, that water became a fountain in the heart of that young man.

I came back from that trip impressed to have that same spirit in my ministry here at CUC. My experience in El Salvador and my classes at CUC help me to realize how important it is to share the gospel. It is because of these experiences that I am able to lead out in Prison Ministries at CUC. When I bring new students to the prison, I see how nervous they are—just like I was during my first visit. But once they meet these men and women and see that they not only want us to come but also expect us and wait for us, it changes their lives. I'm excited about this year. I'm excited about all the new students arriving on campus and being introduced to ministry. Their lives, like mine, will change forever. ■

Teddy Bagassien is a second-year Religious Studies major and Prison Ministries leader at Canadian University College.



Josué is amazed at God's forgiveness policy

Cheating on God

October, 2009

I'm not planning on staying lesbian forever. I actually want to marry a man and have a family in the future, but at this moment I'm just experimenting and having fun—nothing really serious. Will God forgive me in the future when I'm done with it?

Josué Sánchez

Answer

"Honey, can you pass me the salt, please? Oh, by the way, I've been sleeping with your best friend for a while now, but we are about to break up soon. So nothing to worry about. On another note, do you mind picking up my church dress from the dry cleaner already? It's been there for six days!"

Ok, think. Would you stick around if your spouse cheated on you bluntly and still had the guts to come with various demands? People divorce for way more innocent scenarios than this one.

You are God's. He "married" you when you accepted Him. His wedding ring is the scar in his hands. It doesn't go off. This is no joke or shallow stuff. This is serious.

The concern with your attitude is not experimenting with your sexuality (that's a whole different issue per se), but cheating on God deliberately and expecting that He remains muted about it, only to talk when He's asked to forgive you.

But God is crazy. He will forgive you—if you ask Him.

It doesn't make sense, but He will. That's why the Bible says that the gospel is pure foolishness. He died for you knowing that you were going to deliberately cheat on Him (Peter's denial, anyone?).

Imagine the emotional pain. That's what killed Him—not the physical wounds. So before you continue on with your experimentation, answer these questions: Is it really worth it? Is it worth the pain? Is it worth the broken heart? Can you look at Jesus' eyes? What do you see?

He will forgive you, my friend. He'll do it now. But please—please—sin no more.

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

TeenTalk Online

www.TeenTalkPage.com



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

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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!





BLESSED BE THE THAIS ... YOU CAN BE, TOO.

Suddenly, out of my jetlagged sleep, a noise that sounded like a cross between a dying frog and a savage bird shocked me into alertness. When a quick glance around the room failed to inform me as to the source of the noise, I ran into the next room and woke up the secretary; together, we inspected every inch of the room, half expecting to find a wounded cat or other terrorized animal. When the search did not reveal anything, we nervously crawled back into bed. Days later we realized that the sound was coming from the dozens of geckos that made their home in my apartment. This is just one of the exciting happenings that occurred this summer.

When I made the decision to teach in Thailand for the summer of 2009, I honestly had no idea what was about to happen. I did not know the town where I would be teaching, or what to expect. I did not even know how to teach, or

what lesson plans entailed. But looking back now, I can easily say that making the decision to come was one of the best decisions of my life. Being in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand, has greatly expanded my view of cultures and given me a greater appreciation for what I have. Most importantly, it has allowed me to experience, in a very first-hand manner, being a hand for Christ in a foreign land.

Thailand, a primarily Buddhist country, has approximately 12,000 Adventists (according to the General Conference). Because it is a mainly non-English speaking country, teaching English is one of the primary tools for evangelism. Through noninvasive measures, such as teaching English through the Seventh-day Adventist church, it is hoped that Adventism will spread. It is because of this that the majority of the summer was spent teaching English at the Ubon SDA Mission School, providing English workshops at various public schools and teaching weekly English classes with the local Adventist church at the neighboring military camp and orphanage.

The work was physically and emotionally draining at times; I had to keep up with energetic children, teach English without having a grasp of the Thai language, and be a positive witness for Christ while not seeing immediate results. Yet, through the trials, positive light was seen.

The Ubon SDA Mission School has been open for many years. It has seen times of high enrollment. However, through various situations, enrollment decreased. One of the major goals of the school is to increase enrollment and recruit more missionary teachers. In May of this year, when a new missionary leader, Carla Andersen, moved to Thailand, enrollment was at a low of about 40 students. This summer has seen a slow increase through major advertising, passing out information

packets and word of mouth. Seeing student after student register and getting an opportunity to learn English and about Christ more than repays all of the effort invested in recruiting more students.


The school is run totally by volunteer teachers and missionaries. There is currently a shortage of foreign teachers—the main reason why Thai people attend the school. (Foreign teachers are prized for their grasp of the English language and accents.) Without a constant recruitment of foreign teachers, it will be very difficult to keep the school open. If you're interested in having a fantastic experience in Thailand, please answer God's call in Matthew 9:37–38. (For more information on this exciting opportunity, please contact Kim Pergerson at kpergerson@yahoo.com.)

Although I am no longer in Thailand, I am still experiencing the effects of working there for a summer. I miss the culture, the people and even the teaching. The experience has also changed the way I look at life, a change I cannot quite yet understand. Although a cliché statement, this was definitely a life-changing summer.

Christ calls us all to continue His work. It does not need to be overseas or under the explicit term of “missionary.” However, there is something special that happens when one dedicates a part of one's life especially for His work. May you continue Christ's work wherever you might be. ■

Alyssa Zima lives in Brookings, Oregon, and will graduate from Pacific Union College this coming June.





Reaching the Next One Billion

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

It is often said that "all roads lead to Rome," and in fact, they once did. The network of roads the Romans built was one of the greatest engineering accomplishments of their time. The Roman road system spanned more than 400,000 kilometres, including more than 80,000 kilometres of paved roads.

Although the Roman road system was originally built for the speedy movement and accessibility of the Roman troops throughout the empire, it was also used for many other purposes. The roads provided an opportunity for trade. They made travel and communication possible, allowing the gospel to spread.

Rome's impressive and enduring transportation network was of such an extent that it stands as a historical example of a connective technology linking together a globalized empire thus transforming education, communication and evangelism.

Just as the Roman road system in New Testament times enabled the rapid spread of the gospel, so also the Internet has become an effective worldwide channel for evangelism. Let's look at Matthew 24:14 and explore how God is using the Internet as an evangelistic tool to spread the gospel. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come." Traditionally, preaching the gospel to the "whole world" has been viewed as one person in front of another person, face to face, or one person in front of a group. But, we are fast approaching a technological phenomenon where preaching the gospel to the whole world will soon become a digital reality.

Statistics tell us that there are currently 1.6 billion active Internet users across the world, and with the increasing use of mobile Internet devices like the iPhone and Blackberry, that number may easily grow to 3.5 billion over the next two to three years. Millions are looking for answers about God and a spiritual connection. Since the Internet is a "pull" medium—unlike literature and radio, which are linear "push" mediums—the Internet is their front-line source for information.

The Internet generation of today may never step foot into a church building or Bible presentation but is willing to seek out answers in the quiet hours at home or during a lunch break

at work. Walter Wilson, in his book *The Internet Church* explains, "Questions about God can be asked in complete privacy on the internet. The internet displays no culture, no race, no gender, and no age. It provides a seeker with the ability to navigate his or her way to the foot of Calvary's Cross. You can explore the internet in search of answers without having to reveal who you are."

The internet sees no country borders. Your church website can be viewed by someone living in Vancouver, B.C., and Hong Kong, China, both at the same time. God is doing something incredible. As Christians, we must not be afraid of the internet or see it as just a technology of networked computers. We must see the internet as an evangelistic tool that God is using to tell the world about Jesus. We must recognize that we live in the digital communication age and learn to use the internet as an effective worldwide channel for evangelism as never before.

In 2006, while I was pastoring in Aldergrove, B.C., I had to inquire about a certain software program that would help in the administration of the computer training classes we were offering to the community. I sent an email to an unknown person who was located in Australia, and after several emails back and forth, I explained who I was and gave him the website address to our church.

After a few more days, I received an exciting response. He said, "I checked out your website and watched a video of one of your sermons. It touched my life in a very powerful way. You see, my wife is a Buddhist and I am a Christian. She doesn't want me attending church. I want you to know that I will be providing you with 10 licenses of our program for your computer lab free of charge and I will be making your church website my online virtual church from now on."

From the Roman highways to the information highway, God has been using technology to spread the gospel. ■

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

Canadian Adventist Teachers' Cruise

"Called to



British Columbia teachers Rhoda Fuller, Lisa Brucks, Kim Harrington, Linda Berezowski and Clarissa Long about to board the ship that would house the SDACC department of education's Teacher's Convention.

Convention 2009

“Serve”

They came from the east and the west, from the Maritimes to British Columbia; they came by plane and by car, 375 of them. August 17, 2009, was an historic day for Canadian Adventist teachers and their families, for on this day they converged on Miami to board the cruise ship *Carnival Imagination* for the first Canadian Adventist Teachers' Cruise Convention that would take them to Key West, Florida, and Cozumel, Mexico.

The convention theme, “Called to Serve,” captures the notion that Adventist teachers view teaching as a ministry, not just a profession. This is their special calling from God, and like pastoral ministry, it has a redemptive purpose in mind; ultimately, Adventist teachers are interested in having their students develop a personal relationship with Jesus. The focus of the cruise convention is to remind teachers of what Adventist teaching is all about, and to equip and inspire them to become more effective soul shapers in the classroom.

After a busy registration and a hearty dinner, the convention began with a plenary session held in the Xanadu, the spacious and luxuriously furnished auditorium that would become our main gathering place for worship and general sessions. As the noise of laughter and small talk subsided, Dennis Marshall, Director of Education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, extended a warm welcome to all and introduced the program for the evening. Elder Dan Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, and Larry Blackmer, vice-president of Education for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, also extended greetings and congratulations.

The main program began with the Ontario Conference teachers leading out in a rousing praise and worship time, which culminated with Paula Marshall teaching our theme song, “Called to Serve,”

to the attendees. The keynote address was delivered by Dick Duerksen, master storyteller and assistant to the president of Maranatha Volunteers International. Dick emphasized that Seventh-day Adventist education is about transforming the lives of our students, and this is fostered through four important relationships: our relationship with God (which defines all other relationships), our relationship with our family, our relationship with parents, and our relationship with our students. He challenged us to make our presence and service more known to the communities we serve.

Each session of the three subsequent convention days began with teachers from different conferences leading out in a praise and worship time. The devotional speaker was Pastor Daniel Saugh, senior pastor for the Meadowvale Seventh-day Adventist Church and an alumnus of Crawford Adventist Academy (Toronto) and Canadian University College (Alberta). Working with the theme, “Called to Serve,” Pastor Saugh took us every morning on a spiritual journey that left us rejuvenated and motivated to embrace the challenge of youth evangelism through the ministry of teaching.

The two general sessions emphasized two important aspects of “Called to Serve.” The first general session speaker was Pastor Shane Anderson, senior pastor of the campus church at Shenandoah Valley Academy and the Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School



1

in New Market, Virginia, and author of the recently published book *How to Kill Adventist Education: (And How to Give It a Fighting Chance!)*. He intrigued and inspired us with his topic “The Marketing Myth: Why Adventist Schools Need to Be Dangerous.” In essence, he articulated how Adventist schools should be a positive force for good, attracting school enrollment from church and community because of a dynamic, faith-based program.

The second general session was presented by Elissa Kido, project director of CognitiveGenesis (CG)¹, and Robert Cruise, research director of CognitiveGenesis, who gave us a comprehensive report on the third-year results of CG testing in Canada. This report showed that our children are above the national norms in all subject areas, but also indicated that our children are achieving below their ability in some subject areas. The report gave us the statistical evidence of our strengths and the challenges we are confronted with as a school system. As school leaders and educators, we need to look analytically at the CG report and implement measures to ensure that we deliver quality education at all levels and in all areas while at the same time delivering a high spiritual agenda.

In addition to the general sessions, 20 break-out sessions were presented by eight top-notch educators (including those mentioned above) covering a wide range of subject areas. Other presenters were Kim Sutton, known nationally and internationally as a staff development consultant for mathematics; Keith Leavitt, education professor from Canadian University College; L. Roo McKenzie, head principal of Loma Linda Academy in California; Larry Blackmer, vice-president of Education for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists; and Debra Fryson, associate director of Education for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

Keeping the old adage “All work and no play make Jack a dull boy” in mind, the cruise convention offered a healthy balance between learning, relaxing and

exploring. Much of the learning took place while at sea, but once the ship docked, teachers were free to explore and discover their new environments. Some teachers went shopping for exotic souvenirs and clothing; some went on organized tours, like visiting the Mayan Ruins of Tulum; some went snorkelling to discover exotic fish; others went in glass-bottom submarines to explore the coral reefs and other wonders of the ocean floor; and still others were content with relaxing on the beach or wading in the waters of the blue Caribbean sea.

The special commitment service held on Thursday evening brought the convention to a fitting conclusion. Dr. Marshall began the session by expressing appreciation to the individuals and organizations who worked collaboratively for a successful cruise convention. He thanked the participating conferences and the two boarding academies (Kingsway College and Parkview Adventist Academy) for their invaluable support; the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists for donating the convention bags; the Royal Bank of Canada for the name tag pouches; and Canadian University College, ADRA Canada and ABC for their gifts.

A special feature of the commitment service was the acknowledgment of teachers who faithfully taught in Seventh-day Adventist schools for 25+ years. Each teacher received a specially appointed “gold” Olympic-style medal symbolizing the golden status of their service. Altogether, 43 teachers were honoured with their mark of distinction by President Dan Jackson. This was a very touching moment for the honourees as they received their gold medal with colleagues and family members showing their appreciation with generous applause. One person described the scene as “Awesome!”

Elder Dan Jackson gave a moving commitment talk. He reminded teachers of the important role they play in shaping the lives of children and helping them establish a personal relationship with Jesus. “Thank

1. Educators and administrators from across the country unite for a commitment service on the final evening of the cruise. Larry Blackmer of the NAD offered a prayer of dedication on behalf of all.

2. Brandy Perkins and Betty Bayer of the department of education worked busily during registration to get attendees organized and comfortable.

3. (L-R) Sue Leysac of Oshawa, Ont., Linda Berezowski of Chetwynd, B.C. and Isaac Zayachkowski of Red Deer, Alta. participate in a break-out session.

4. Would you believe these people are learning math? Kim Sutton of Creative Mathematics led workshops on innovative approaches to teaching this challenging subject.

5. The group of educators and presenters who came together for this important time of fun and learning.



you for your commitment and Christian leadership,” he said. “We are called by God to plant ourselves in the place of human needs.” Dan challenged teachers to become all that they can become so that the children they teach can become champions for Jesus. Following Dan’s address was the commitment prayer offered by Larry Blackmer as teachers held hands together signifying their unity and commitment to faithful service.

As the convention came to a close, teachers began expressing their appreciation for the opportunity to experience the cruise convention. Here is a sampling of the comments: “I have waited 22 years for this recognition, and it makes me feel good to know that my church believes in me.” “This is the best thing that has happened to me in all my years of teaching and all the conventions I have been to. I am truly grateful for this experience.” “I was one of those who were against the cruise, but having experienced it, I’ll be the first one to sign up for another one.” “Wow! To know that my conference would sponsor something like this makes me feel highly valued.” “You guys did a great job. We can’t thank you enough.” “There was a healthy balance between learning and relaxing. You treated us as if you cared.”

Sincere appreciation goes to Dan Jackson and the Board of Directors for their approval and support in organizing this unprecedented event for our teachers. Teachers have an awesome responsibility and face many challenges in the classrooms. Parents, school administrators, church leaders and other stakeholders expect them to be good role models for their children, to deliver quality education by covering the curriculum, to instill discipline and spiritual values in their children, to become technologically literate to confidently integrate technology in the classroom, to promote and market their school, to work miracles with limited resources, to attend before- and after-school meetings, to fundraise for school equipment and special projects, to put up with difficult students and respond to abusive behaviour with professional decorum, to smile in the face of adversity instead of whining and complaining—no wonder a recent poll rated teaching as the most stressful job in America.

It is our hope and prayer that the Canadian Teachers’ Cruise Convention has given our teachers a breath of fresh air so that they can face the new school year with enthusiasm and anticipation. If, as a result of this convention, our teachers made a renewed commitment to the ministry of teaching, offering as their gift to God impeccable service to our churches’ children, then our investment in time and resources was well worth it. ■

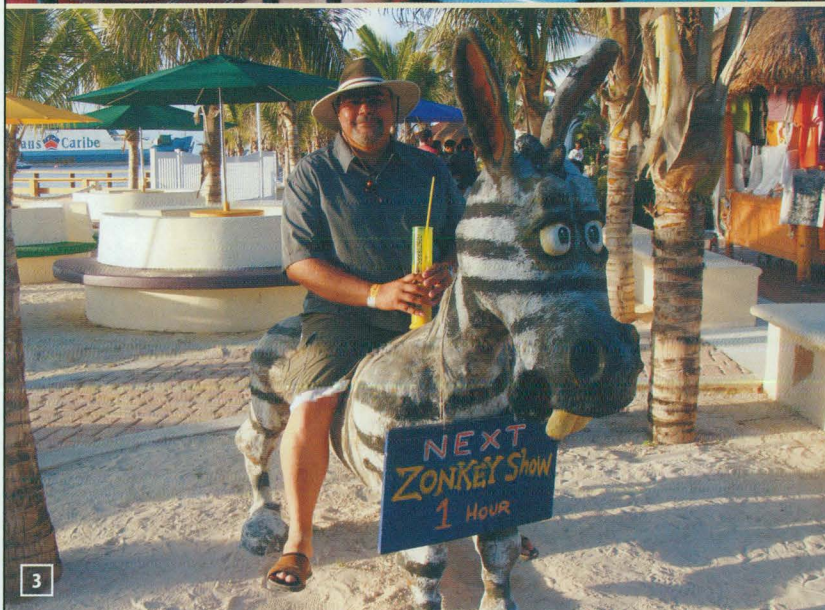
Dennis Marshall is the director of education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.



1. Dan Jackson presented medallions in recognition of 25+ years of service to Adventist education. Here he congratulates Judy Burgin-Hall of Willowdale, Ont.

2. Betty Bayer, associate director of Education, meets with Elissa Kiddo, project director of the CognitiveGenesis study.

3. And for some fun in the sun ... Lee Richards, principal of Cariboo Adventist Academy and West Coast Adventist School, relaxes with a cool drink and with his “zonkey.”



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British Columbia

Embracing the Virtual Classroom

Cariboo Adventist Academy (CAA), nestled comfortably in the town of Williams Lake, recently celebrated a fulfilling milestone: its 30-year anniversary! Three decades ago, the first graduates marched proudly down the aisle to receive their diplomas. Two of those graduates are still dedicated to CAA's success; Warren Friesen is a long-time teacher at the academy, while Kevin Brucks serves as school board chairman. While students have come and gone through the years, the level of education offered at CAA has remained of the same excellent quality.

The story of CAA does not end here, though, and thirty years of existence is not its only milestone. The June 2009 graduation weekend also marked the first graduation ceremony involving Cariboo's partner school, West Coast Adventist School (WCAS). Two years ago, CAA birthed a new idea in Adventist education in Canada and a new school to go with it. WCAS is an online learning system that takes Adventist education to remote areas of British Columbia where smaller schools offer an elementary or junior high school program. With a fully-accredited high school program, it enables students to continue their education at home or at their local school. Attending public high school or boarding academy is no longer the only choice B.C. students have!

Not long ago, correspondence courses were one of the few choices high school students had if they wanted to stay at home. What makes the education that WCAS offers so unique? The crowning distinction it offers is LIVE online courses. Using Elluminate as an interface, students attend their classes in virtual classrooms where they can listen to teachers as they are instructing from CAA and other locations around the province. Elluminate enables online students to participate in classroom discussions, join in on projects, listen to lectures, make class presentations and more. Moodle is the site on which WCAS is established, and all general school information as well as class schedules and class assignments/material are available for student access there. Live online classes are the closest that distance learning students can come to being in an actual classroom! Students have constant access to a teacher and can interact with their peers. Twice a year, CAA hosts a face-to-face week where online students are urged to visit the campus for a week of socialization and hands-on curricular activities.



The first ever graduates of West Coast Adventist School. (L-R) Kegan Henry, Chelsea Lamming, Jalysa Dixon, and Laura Kozak

So, this year's June graduation not only marked Cariboo Adventist Academy's 30th year, but for the first time, graduates of West Coast Adventist School also walked down the aisle to receive their diplomas. Students from both schools worked in true partnership style during the school year to plan their graduation weekend with all of its personal touches. Kim Harrington, Kent Rusk, and Stefan Scremac, all teachers at CAA/WCAS, took the opportunity to share personal tidbits about each one while presenting this year's graduates. From Cariboo Adventist Academy: Mark Gill, Chevy Astleford and Jonathan Hallam; from Westcoast Adventist School: Chelsea Lamming (McBride), Laura Kozak and Jalysa Dixon (Bella Coola) and Kegan Henry (Chetwynd). Principal Lee Richards proudly presented golden cords to West Coast valedictorian Chelsea Lamming and Cariboo valedictorian Mark Gill.

Really, it has been an effective combination so far—an online school and a physical school offering Christian education in partnership, bringing students from all over the province together in friendship and learning! With tweaking and various adjustments, the "baby project" has grown into the "toddler stages", and each year West Coast Adventist School grows towards its full potential. The June graduation marked a significant achievement in British Columbia! ■

—Lisa Brucks, teacher

Ontario



STORM Co Projects Involve Youth in Serving Humanity

Traveling from the Ottawa and Toronto regions, 12 young people descended on Cochrane and Moosonee to spend one week in service to others. Four of the group, led by pastor Lyle Notice, traveled on by the Polar Bear Express from Cochrane to Moosonee while eight remained with pastor Daniel Saugh and camped out in the gym on the Taykwa Tagamou Reserve.

Arriving July 29, they carried out various projects such as stacking firewood, cleaning the main kitchen in the Band Office of Taykwa Tagamou, laying a tile floor for an elderly grandmother in Moosonee and painting the living room and dining room for a disabled senior.

The group in Moosonee had the opportunity of sharing their vision with one of the councillors, Bob Gravelle on Friday evening. He was very enthusiastic about what he was hearing from the group as to the work they were accomplishing. As a result, tentative plans are currently being made for a community project for next summer that will have the creek flowing into the Moose River cleaned not only by the STORM Co. crew but also by equal partners from Moosonee. The local fire department has volunteered to supply the ropes and safety gear for this clean-up project. Other locals have indicated support for this project. Alison Down, the bible worker who lives and works in Cochrane will prepare a proposal for this project to be submitted to the Moosonee town council and other interested partners.

This is what STORM Co is all about: partnering with local communities to fill real needs. Each year the youth department sends teams to work for, learn from, and engage in service in far northern communities. They are sharing God's love by building bridges to all peoples through an adventure in service to others.

In 1992, a group of senior high school students from Brisbane, Australia spoke of 'doing something' with their faith. They didn't have enough money or time to prepare for an overseas mission trip, but they wanted to do something adventurous for God. They were dedicated to serving Jesus and inspired by the Holy Spirit, but they were doing nothing practical to express their faith. Their chaplain felt the same. He called them "fat Christians"—fed to the point of bursting with Christianity but not 'doing' anything to make it real. Together they came up with a simple concept to go to a small town somewhere in the outback and see what they could do to help out, physically and spiritually. In this way STORM Co was born.

In Ontario the adventure continues. After three summer projects in Cochrane the next STORM Co. team will be considering work for elderly and disabled citizens there. We are tentatively looking at building a firewood storage unit at one or possibly two individuals' homes. Further study will be undertaken during this coming year as we make more complete arrangements. Once we have firmed up the projects that we wish to complete in both areas, we will inform interested young people in the hopes of having enough to cover both areas. Alison Down, STORM Co. coordinator in the far north will again prepare a proposal for the town council. We appreciate all prayers and support for our young people as they go into these remote areas of our great province of Ontario. If you are a young person interested in serving your Lord you can talk with your youth leader or contact the youth ministries department of the Ontario conference. ■

First Baptisms in Moose River as the Gospel Reaches Moosonee

On August 1, 2009, Pastor Lyle Notice, assistant pastor at Ottawa Church, happily baptized Rachel Chakasim and Alex Hughie in the Moose River. They are the first to be baptized among a growing number of people living in the far north who are experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Cochrane Bible instructor, Alison Down, reports that the work of God is “going forward in the far north and that the excitement grows with each passing month”.

She credits June and Pat, who have been living in Moosonee for the past two years, for the work they have been doing in seeking out people who are receptive to the gospel. Alison studies with them and leads them to Jesus.

Alison said that Rachel Chakasim began studying the Native New Life Bible lessons in the spring of 2008. She and Rachel corresponded through these lessons and finally met in July 2008, when she made the five hour train ride from Cochrane to Moosonee. When Rachel completed the lessons she asked for additional ones. Even before making her decision to be baptised, Rachel felt the urge to introduce others to Jesus and gave Alison the names of five of her friends and family who are interested in studying the Bible with the Bible lessons. Alison reports that three of these are now receiving the Native New Day lessons while two of her grandchildren are receiving KidZone Bible lessons.

Among Rachel’s friends who started receiving the Native New Life lessons was Alex Hughie, who lives across the river on Moose Factory Island. On



Thursday, July 29, Alex indicated that he also wished to be baptized. After he had satisfied Pastor Lyle Notice that he was indeed ready for baptism, final preparations were made, and it was a happy moment when both Alex and Rachel were baptised in the Moose River.

Prior to the immersion, both Rachel and Alex gave very moving and sincere testimonies of how God freed them from alcohol abuse and destructive drug use.

Alison makes regular trips to Moosonee. In early summer, she was accompanied by Pastor Antonio Bueno, who was at the time executive secretary of the Ontario Conference. While there, he presented two evening messages at the Friendship Centre. He also took questions from the people in the audience.

During the time there, they took a water-taxi over to Moose Factory Island to meet with Pauline and Michael Morrison who are also studying the

Bible lessons. The Moose River had opened the week prior to their arrival and ice floes were still floating towards James Bay.

Alison indicated that the cost of a water-taxi at \$20 each way is expensive, so the small group of interests on both sides of the river have set up a fund to purchase one costing \$5,000.00 to help them meet together. So far, the fund has reached \$700.

A week after camp meeting in July, Alison returned to Moosonee and conducted five sessions of the WIN Wellness programme. Others are asking for Bible lessons, and with the help of the Galupo family, they will also be able to learn more about God and the salvation only He can give.

To find out more about the work in the far north or if you would like to assist, Alison may be contacted by email: adown@adventistontario.org ■

Mother’s Day Shopping Mall

In the March issue of the *Messenger*, an article was printed entitled “MAN’s Christmas Shopping Mall.” This article really touched some members of the Living Word Christian Fellowship in Hamilton who decided to organize, in conjunction with a local community centre called The Eva Rothwell Center, a Mother’s Day Shopping Mall. On May 9, Living Word took on the project to thank mothers for all their hard work meeting the everyday challenges to make their children healthy and happy. The plans involved pleasing 30 or more children, but ended up by satisfying 30 mothers on top of that.

First, everyone watched *Kids for Christ Ministry*, an outreach ministry by children 5-12 years old, perform a short play about caring for others. Afterwards, each child got to make a Mother’s Day card and pick out two items to place in their mother’s gift bag. The children were then treated to a juice box and snack.

Since the guests were teamed up on a one-to-one basis with a volunteers 12 years old or more, each one felt very special and shared a lot with their new friend. This was a joyful experience for both the children and the volunteers.

Due to the positive response from the children, their parents, and The Eva Rothwell Center, a Father's Day Shopping Mall in June was also organized at the same location. Children remembered the members of Living Word, and the volunteers and were happy to see them. Our next event will be a Christmas Shopping Mall.

We thank the Mamawi school for sharing what they are doing in Alberta. ■

—(12-year-old) Cassandra Howey and Catherine Poplawski, members

Branson School of Nursing Reunion

The Branson Hospital School of Nursing became part of the Kingsway College Alumni Association when the class of '64 celebrated their 45th reunion at the Kingsway Alumni Homecoming on the weekend of May 8-10, 2009. Kingsway College chose a Branson grad, Twyla Gimbel (class of '63), as the alumnus of the year.

Of the 21 members of the class of '64, 10 were able to attend their reunion functions. They were: (front) Muriel Crosbie of Hamilton Ont., Greta Hillock of Paris, Ont., Eloise Kneller of Kelowna, B.C., Jeanette Funk of Cochrane, Alta., Eileen Petersen of Loma Linda, Calif., (back) Shirley Reimche of Winnipeg, Man., Linda Stevenson of Oshawa, Ont., Sharon Lehmann of Rosthern Sask., Inge Gray of Abbotsford, B.C. and Verna Karst of Burtonsville, Md. ■



SDA Church in Canada

Jackson Tours India, Assists Clinic Planning

"... we cannot focus our entire energy on Canada.

We must go out and help those in need beyond our borders as well, ..."

Construction is reported to be progressing nicely on a medical treatment facility in Zokhawthar, India where SDACC President Dan Jackson visited earlier this year. The construction of the clinic is being managed by A Better World (ABW) and funded by Medical Mercy Canada. Jackson joined representatives of those organizations to tour the area and meet the stakeholders this spring.

There is a temporary clinic in Zokhawthar, run by Medical Mercy Canada, but something permanent is

needed to help address the severe conditions of the area. Zokhawthar receives very few international travellers, and news about the conditions in this area is seldom heard. There is a profound need for sanitation and clean water as well as medical facilities. Currently, people must walk many miles from the Burmese side to the Indian Side for treatment. There is a high risk of malaria and there are no sewer systems in the entire area that compounds the health problems.

Recognizing that "we cannot focus

our entire energy on Canada. We must go out and help those in need beyond our borders as well," Jackson lent his time and expertise to assist in matters of planning. He conferred with the local building committee, visited the site where the clinic will be built and helped to ensure that procedures and documentation were complete—all areas in which his administrative skills and mission experience were, in ABW Director Eric Rajah's words, a "definite asset." During his trip, Jackson also preached, with the help of a translator,



SDACC president Dan Jackson with locals at the construction site for the Zokhawthar clinic.



Jackson was able to visit with students in a nearby Adventist school.

a Sabbath sermon at the Seventh-day Adventist church in nearby Mizoram.

The clinic is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2010, a deadline aided considerably by the progress

Jackson's group made. The new clinic will be built right on the border to serve the Burmese refugees as the border into India is open to them. Considering the work done, Jackson stated "I am so

proud of the work that our agencies like ADRA and A Better World are doing. Our international aid organizations are indeed working to improve the quality for life for so many around the world." ■

North American Division

Safe TV® Receives Fourth Emmy Nomination

Safe TV®, in Springdale, Ark., Producer/Director Carlos Pardeiro and Associate Producer/Director Ryan Pardeiro have once again been recognized with an Emmy Awards nomination on August 22, 2009 for the program "To Heal a Wounded Heart" from the series *Native New Day*. This program, hosted by storyteller Monte Church of the Mohican tribe, is dedicated to bringing hope and dignity to all native peoples across the American continent. The Emmy Awards recognize excellence within various areas of the television industry, and are a symbol of peer recognition from members of the Academy. Winners will be announced in a formal ceremony at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri on October 3, 2009.

"These awards reflect a joint effort of a team of dedicated people working together to accomplish a service to native peoples. We thank God for the blessings He continues to bestow on the *Native New Day* series not only by the awards received, but by the lives that have been touched as a result of Monte Church's moving presentations," comments Carlos Pardeiro, producer/director of *Native New Day* and president of Safe TV®.

For more information about Safe TV®, please visit www.safetv.org. ■

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—continued from page 5

out Sudanese refugees in Darfur. Producers hoped the NBC drama's fictional doctors could shed light on the real-life genocide in Sudan's Darfur region, where conflict has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people. *ER* has also focussed on larger questions, such as the AIDS crisis in the Congo.

- Ten years after the appalling genocide in Rwanda, when in the space of only three months one million people were brutally murdered, United Artists produced the film *Hotel Rwanda*. The film is based on the true story of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager who housed over a thousand refugees during the dark days of the killings.
- Released in 2007, a factual account based on General Roméo Dallaire's book of the same name, the film *Shake Hands with the Devil* is a

powerful testament to man's inhumanity to man as well as the lack of interest in humanitarian disasters by the United Nations and leading world powers.

- The TV drama *The Border* on CBC is a fast-paced, hard-driving series set in Toronto concerned with the topic of Canada's international border. Several episodes have highlighted humanitarian issues such as refugees, trafficking in abducted children and sex slavery.

Producers who tackle such controversial topics are to be commended. But we need to do more than be entertained by such productions—we need to be informed, and we need to do something. We need to learn more about how poverty affects children in India and around the world, and do something about it.

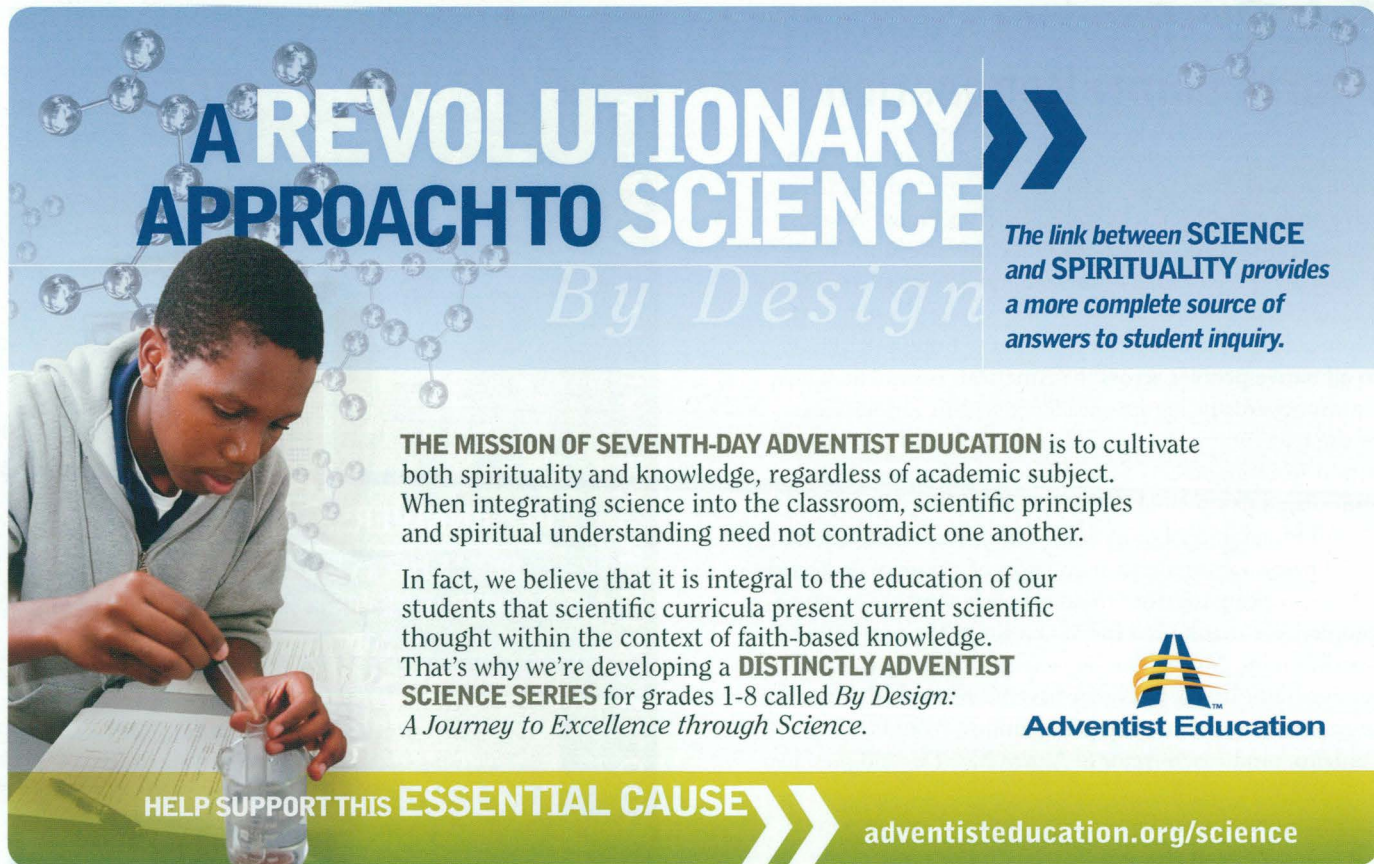
In addition to the themes portrayed in *Slumdog Millionaire*, there are other

key issues facing impoverished children in Asia:

1. HIV and AIDS
2. The global food and economic crises
3. Traditional low standing of girls and women
4. Early marriage

Your ADRA network team members can attest to the fact that children have an amazing ability to overcome their circumstances, just like *Slumdog Millionaire* shows. But we have the opportunity of partnering with them so that breaking out of poverty doesn't have to be a one-in-a-million miracle. Don't just be entertained! Do something, get involved, improve the situation. ■

James Astleford is the director of Donor Relations for ADRA Canada.



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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 submittable) 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.'

New Members

Rachel Chakasm and **Alex Hughie** were baptized in Moosonee, Ont. of Aug. 1, 2009 by Lyle Notice after being introduced to the church through the Native New Day Bible lessons and studying with Alison Down, bibleworker.

Births

Ayla Terrine Bakker was born July 18, 2009 to Chelsea and Trevor Bakker of Abbotsford, B.C.

Thalia Naomi Campbell was born July 20, 2009 to Sophie and Wayne Campbell of Langley, B.C.

Ryin Alexis Hansen was born June 23, 2009 to Shelley and Chris Hansen-Skoretz of South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

Weddings

Amanda LaLonde and **William Ennest** were married July 5, 2009 in Moose Jaw, Sask. Amanda is the daughter of Mike and Janet LaLonde of Moose Jaw, and William is the son of Don and Sherron Ennest of Mississauga, Ont.

Rachel Stapleton and **Chad Kettner** were married June 21, 2009 in Kelowna, B.C. where they are also making their home. Rachel is the daughter of Tom and Naomi Stapleton, and Chad is the son of Howard Kettner and Tina Cooke.

Obituaries

Vera (Perpelitza) Bezugly was born Feb. 11, 1920 in Arlee, Sask. and died July 14, 2009 in Saskatoon, Sask. Vera is predeceased by her husband Walter. Surviving: son Ron (Julia) of Borden, Sask.; daughter Lorraine (Ron) Wombold of Wetaskiwin, Alta.; sisters Nudie Tadla of Kelowna, B.C. and Anne Baker of Calgary, Alta.; four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Marjorie (Rowe) Doyle was born July 1, 1927 in Horizon, Sask. and died June 8, 2009 in Lacombe, Alta. Marjorie is predeceased by her daughter Sharlene. Surviving: sons Mark (Lily), Allen (Sue), Bryan and James (Jamena); and eight grandchildren.

Mervin Fitch was born Aug. 21, 1941 in Bentley, Alta. and died May 29, 2009 in Lacombe, Alta. Mervin worked for many years at the college furniture factory. He is predeceased by his wife Jean and his brother Raymond. Surviving: son Morgan (Judy) of Gull Lake, Alta.; daughters Jeannette Fitch of Enterprise, Ont. and Margery (Chuck) Pederson of Lacombe; brothers Leo (Gladys) and Herbert both of Red Deer, Alta. and Paul of Sylvan Lake, Alta.; sisters Amy Shaefer of Red Deer and Alberta (Don) Urlacher of Drumheller, Alta.; and 14 grandchildren.

Alexander Kozak was born July 28, 1924 in Mundar, Alta. and died Sept. 6, 2008 in Kelowna, B.C. Surviving: wife Helen; sons Leonard (Lynett) of Bella Coola, B.C. and David (Sandy) of Kelowna; daughter Mildred Harding of Edgewood, B.C.; sisters Nellie Cook of Richmond, B.C. and Cassie Sorochuch of Edmonton, Alta.; and six grandchildren.

Dorothy Oickle was born Apr. 21, 1934 in Halifax, N.S. and died July 29, 2009 in North Sydney, N.S. Dorothy worked with the Dorcas Society and helped plan social activities within her local church. She is predeceased by her brothers Walter and James and sister Joy Hodder. Surviving: son Stephen of Ottawa, Ont.; brother Alex (Patsy) of North Sydney; and sisters Betty Lou (Robert) Gullage of Georges

River, N.S. and Donna (John) Anderson of North Sydney.

Oscar Reimche was born July 31, 1918 in Maple Creek, Sask. and died July 11, 2009 in Lacombe, Alta. Oscar served his church as elder and in music ministry. He is predeceased by his brothers Albert, Ben and Ron and sister Esther Diminyatz. Surviving: wife Alma; sons Roger (Lindsey) of Kamloops, B.C. and Wayne (Becki) of Hazelton, B.C.; stepsons Carl (Leona), Alex (Valerie), Dan (Bonnie) and Dave (Bonnie); daughter Linda (Calvin) Hagen of Hazelton; step-daughters Marty (Randy) Kandt of Red Deer, Alta. and Loma (Bruce) Boyd of Lacombe; brothers Herb and Harold; stepbrothers Bud, Ray and Gary Leadbetter; sisters Martha (Walter) Toews and Claire (Don) Ritchey; half-sisters Brenda Bui and Gail (Dave) Morris; 21 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

George Tanaka was born Sept. 7, 1923 in Vancouver, B.C. and died July 5, 2009 in Port Hardy, B.C. George helped build the SDA school in Port Hardy and a classroom in Yecora, Mexico. He also built many homes on the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda-xw reserve. George is predeceased by his brother Kayo and his sister Kathleen Lindsay. Surviving: wife Ardy; sons Don (Laura) of Nanaimo, B.C. and Rick (Kathy) of Port Hardy; daughters Karen Tanaka and Nancy (Wade) Roberts both of Port Hardy; sisters Raiko (Forrest) Lambert of Aldergrove, B.C. and Elsie (George) Iwasa of Payette, Idaho; 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

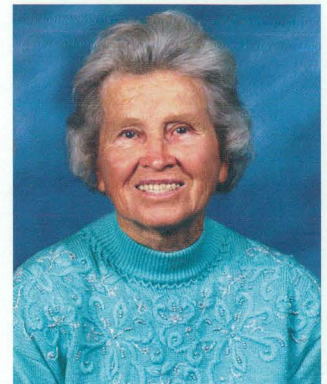
Marie Orba (Carle) Toombs was born Sept. 25, 1907 in Rouseau, Minn. and died July 9, 2009 in Prince George, B.C. Marie worked in the children's Sabbath school divisions and with the Dorcas Society. She is predeceased by her husband Irving, her sons David and Warren and her brothers Drewry Carle and Earl Carle. Surviving: sons Kenneth (Hedwig) and John (Dorothy) Toombs both of Prince George.

Joy Sheila Young was born Sept. 29, 1934 in Fox Point, N.S. and died July 18, 2009 in Halifax, N.S. She is predeceased by her husband Thomas, her son Samuel and her brothers Cyril and William. Surviving: sons William (Ann) of Dartmouth, N.S., Thomas of West Dover, N.S. and Paul (Sharon Digden) of Halifax; daughter Lila Young of Pugwash, N.S.; brother Marshall (Nell) of Dearborn, Mich.; sister Isabelle (Earl) Evans of Tenn.; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Jacob Wagemann was born Dec. 2, 1917 in Bruderheim, Alta. and died Feb. 13, 2009 in Sidney, B.C. He is predeceased by his brother Samuel and sisters Helen, Elizabeth, Mary, Caroline, Alvina, Elsie and Freda. Surviving: wife Lily and brother Ed of Stoney Creek, Ont.

Alice Ruby Williams was born Feb. 12, 1915 in Vancouver, B.C. and died May 21, 2009 in Kelowna, B.C. She served as dean of women and teacher in Beirut, Lebanon for 14 years. Surviving: sister Lillian McIntosh.

Tributes



Anne (Koleada) Melashenko was born Dec. 1, 1919 in Perdue, Sask. and died Aug. 8, 2009 in Paradise, Calif. at the age of 89. Married 64 years to Voice of Prophecy evangelist Joe Melashenko, she raised five sons and taught them to sing a cappella while Joe taught country schools at Regina, Meota, Rosthern, Arelee and Struan, Sask. Surviving: The Joe Melashenko Family Singers including husband Joe; sons Lonnie (Jeannie) of Kettering, Ohio; Joedy (Judy) of Biggs, Calif.; Dallas (Donna) of Bellville, Ohio; Eugene (TerriBeth) of Waynesville, N.C. and Rudy (Colleen) of Paradise; brothers George and Nick Koleada; sister Vera Donesley; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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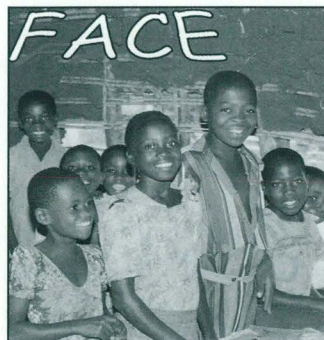
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Canadian University College is inviting qualified individuals to submit their curriculum vitae for a faculty position in the School of Education. A PhD or EdD in Education is required (Specialist or Masters degree may be considered if candidate has exceptional qualifications and/or experience and a willingness to pursue a doctoral degree). Preferred areas of emphasis include secondary school curriculum and instruction in the areas of science, mathematics and/or technology. Other assignments may include classes in educational administration, foundations, philosophy, and/or psychology based on educational background. Academic faculty teaching education courses must be eligible for teacher certification in Alberta. Responsibilities include instructing students, engaging in research and participating in the life of the institution, along with an ability and willingness to actively integrate faith and learning in all courses taught. Qualified candidates should send a letter of application, a curriculum vitae and names of three references along with contact information to Dr. Loren Agrey, vice president for Academic Administration, Canadian University College, 5415 College Avenue, Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5. Tel: 403/782-3381; fax: 403/782-3170; email: lagrey@cauc.ca. Further information at www.cauc.ca. (11/09)

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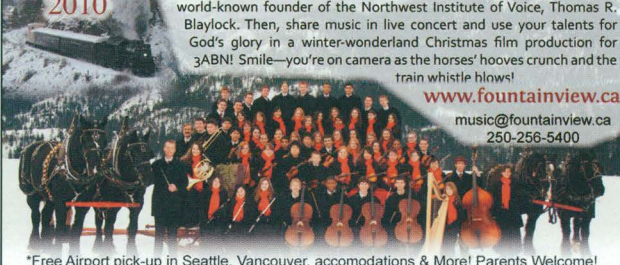
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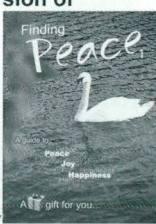
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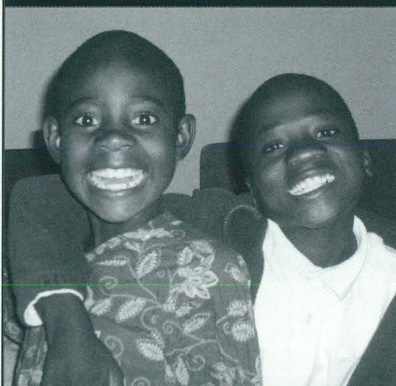

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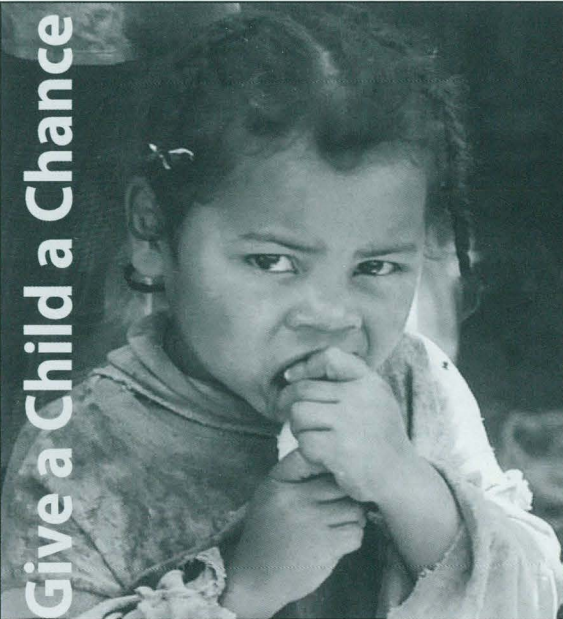
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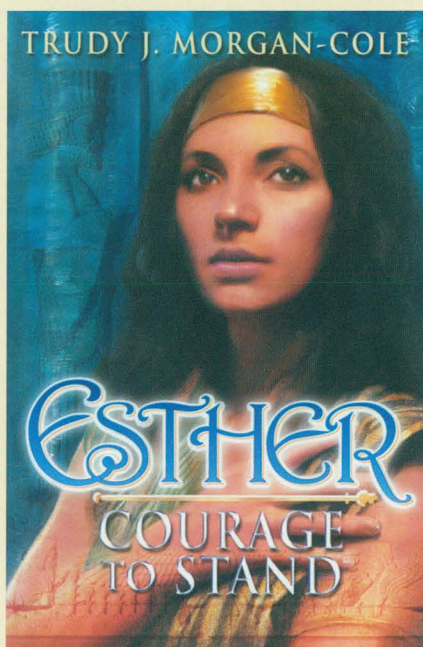
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ESTHER

COURAGE TO STAND



*“After reading this book I want
to be more like Esther.”*

—Ashley Smith

No. You're not experiencing déjà vu—this isn't the same book as was reviewed recently in this space; this is the adapted and fine-tuned junior version of Trudy Morgan-Cole's *Esther: A Story of Courage*. As both a reader and English teacher, I abhor abridgements. My perspective on this matter is simply put: Who is the best authority to choose what stays and what goes in a finely crafted story? Usually, the extensive detail is left out, but in many cases, the plot suffers as well. This book, though, is not an abridged version of the more detailed senior version. It was reworked by the original author. It is based on the original story but revamped to appeal to a

younger audience. Morgan-Cole's original *Esther* story is a fantastic tapestry of characterization and researched detail and, in that sense, is a stronger book for me personally; however, I found upon reading this version, the plot and character development was equally gripping, which is an essential trait for the target audience. It comes complete with a "Who's Who" of characters, a list of vocabulary terms, a "Q&A" with the author about Esther and some thought questions to contemplate while reading—features that nurture understanding and deeper reflection in young minds.

Most people associated with Pathfinders are already quite familiar with this book; it was the theme of the most recent camporee in Oshkosh, Wis. When asked about the connection, Morgan-Cole stated, "Basically [the] Review and Herald asked me to do a rewrite of the original *Esther: A Story of Courage* that would be geared for younger (Pathfinder-age) readers, to be released before camporee and tie-in with the camporee theme story of Esther." Needless to say, it proved to be a successful aspect of this year's gathering of Adventist youth.

Ashley Smith, my niece and junior reader, had this to say about the book: "I picked this book because I had just finished *Prince of Dreams* (the life story of Daniel), and since it was so good, I thought Esther would be interesting also. It was so interesting; when I finished reading one part there was another interesting part, and another, and another, throughout the whole book. After I got started with one exciting part, I tended to keep reading and reading and reading."

Ashley continued, "What did I especially like about this book? It gave me a better understanding of what it might have been like to be Esther. I had always thought that Esther had been the King's favourite, but when I read the book, I realized that she and the king had arguments just like we do. It made Esther seem more real. She learned to do well even in a situation that she didn't like at first."

"I thought her character was very strong and I was proud of her. After reading this book I want to be more like Esther. Basically, I liked everything about this book. There's not one thing I didn't like about this book. I'd recommend it for 9-, 10- and perhaps 11-year-olds." ■

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

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