

Messenger



Pathfinders Find 'COURAGE TO STAND' at Oshkosh Camporee

PLUS: Excellence in Teaching Awards 2009 (p.16);
"Sharing More than Gold" at the 2010 Olympics (p.19)

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The Challenge of Change

There is a multi-million dollar industry in North America built on the notion of self-improvement. The problem with self-improvement, however, is that we don't know how to be other than what we are. Yes, there are forms of self-improvement that only require one to pull up their boot straps and be better. Saving money, for instance. Quitting a junk food or television habit. Promptly replying to email. For these and myriad other things, you either do or you don't. They represent the behaviour modification that often passes for self-improvement but do not in any way alter the self.

True self-improvement must go deeper. It is tied to behaviour only in that our behaviour is the natural outcome of who we are. To change who we are requires deep introspection and self-awareness and a willingness to change those pieces of ourselves that, looking within, we do not like.

My experience with self-improvement is that it is here, at the intersection of awareness and willingness that the discussion often stops, for very few reach this point. I'm sure you know, as I do, someone who can matter-of-factly point out a character trait of theirs and unapologetically say, "well, that's just who I am; take it or leave it." That speaks of an unwillingness to change. Or you know someone who lacks the other ingredient—awareness, someone who doesn't realize that they have a tendency towards a particular trait.

Having met both prerequisites, however, the challenge is change itself. Your self—your natural inclinations, your reasoning, your upbringing, your value system, etc.—have led you to be what you are. How do you employ it to arrive at a different outcome? Clearly you can't rely upon yourself to change your self. You must turn to an outside source.

Christians find the ultimate answer in God. As the Creator, He is also the re-creator. In 2 Corinthians 3:18, the Bible is clear that any improvement in ourselves comes only as we more fully reflect Him. Romans 12:2 tells us that being "transformed" is really the outcome of the "renewing of our minds," and that requires that we no longer be satisfied by "conform[ing] to the pattern of this world."

It is true that each of us has room to improve. That our bookstores and airwaves are permeated with offerings from innumerable experts in various fields is an indication that we sense our inability to achieve change, even within ourselves, singlehandedly. We don't know how to be other than what we are. But we are assured that "He who began a good work in you will carry it forward to completion" (Phil 1:6). All that is required of us is to let Him work, to give Him access. It's self-help for the helpless, and it won't cost you a penny at Chapters. ■

Crystal

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Photo: Insignia Photography

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November 2009



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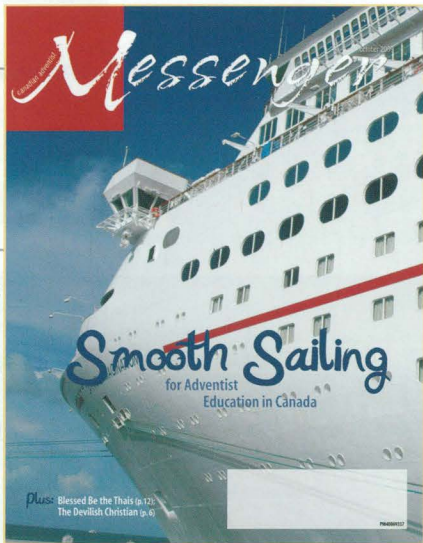
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Your Words

“I was greatly encouraged by the article on internet ministry.”

RE: A Digital Denomination

I was greatly encouraged by the article on internet ministry. It is timely for my wife and I as we feel led to start internet ministry ourselves. I have just begun a blog (xy3lr604.blog.spot.com) on the subject of science, the Bible and life on other planets. This blog represents the contents of a number of sermons given in my home church over the last few years. I hope to reach science-minded, secular people and show them that the story of the plan of salvation (at least the way Ellen White and the Bible tell it) is just as exciting as any sci-fi film or TV show.

By the time this letter gets published in the letters to the editor section, I also hope to have begun a video Bible study series on SabbathTube.com and whatever other video sharing sites I can get them onto. My wife will be helping with camera work and likely editing. My hope is that the Lord will lead people to these websites and work to change lives through them.”

Thanks again for the article. I'd like to suggest you do an article on SabbathTube. It was founded by Sean Cliff from Germany but has since been taken over by David Lynch from Kelowna, B.C.

—L. Miller, via email

RE: “The Serpent Scroll,” Bookends, Sept. 2009

I just received my copy of *Messenger*—and was blown away by your review of *The Serpent Scroll*. A very sincere and appreciative THANK YOU from all of us at Pacific Press. Although our sales numbers look good to date, I know there is a little concern from some parents about the manner in which this subject has been expressed in *Serpent Scroll*. Your positive review may be all that is needed to encourage others who have a similar response to your first glance.

Thank you for taking the time to read it—and for sharing your thoughts in a public forum.

—K. Pearson, director of publicity, Pacific Press



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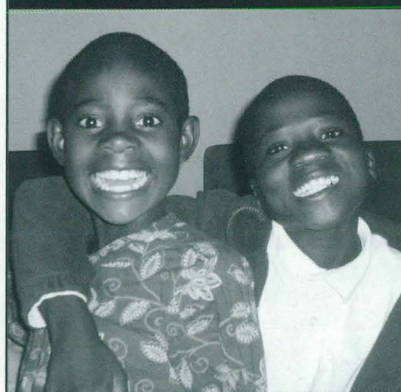
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Temper Your Temper

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32)

Experts warn us against confronting another driver, especially one who is angry, simply because there is no way of predicting how the other driver will respond.

This was a lesson Lucy Laporte and her husband Eric learned the hard way on a warm July evening in 2001, when a small, trivial disagreement with another driver led to violent consequences, as told by a CBC News report of the same year. Road rage that develops into hostile confrontations among drivers, according to research, in many instances starts with a relatively minor incident that escalates into a major situation. Some American statistics indicate that incidents of road rage are up 51 percent since the first half of the decade. The real issue, however, is how people are affected by their anger.

Have we not all seen or experienced anger even in the church? Have we not witnessed it at board meetings, business meetings or constituency meetings? What is anger, and does it have a place in the Christian context?

Psychologists indicate that anger is an emotional state that everyone experiences. It occurs in varying degrees of intensity, from mild annoyance or aggravation to violent rage. It begins in infancy and continues into later years. It may be hidden and held inside or expressed openly and freely. It can be of short duration, or it may persist for years in the form of bitterness, resentment or hatred. Psychologist Neil Clark Warren, in his book *Make Anger Your Ally*, calls anger "our most baffling emotion" and concludes that "anger management is a shockingly underdeveloped skill in our society."

The Bible must be credited for its openness in speaking to the issues of life. Divine wrath and human anger are mentioned repeatedly in the Bible. In the Old Testament alone, there are almost 600 references to wrath or anger. God's anger is mentioned in many instances. This is interesting. How can God experience anger?

Since anger is a part of God's emotional package, we cannot justifiably conclude that anger itself is bad. God is completely good and holy, so we must conclude that divine wrath is also good. According to James I. Packer, in his book *Knowing God*, says that "God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is instead a right and necessary reaction to moral evil" (136).

The fact is that God is wise, sovereign, powerful, perfect and all-knowing; he never misinterprets a situation, never feels threatened and never loses control. In contrast, we humans misinterpret circumstances, misjudge, react quickly when we feel threatened or hurt, and sometimes respond with vengeance and vindictiveness. As a result, human anger can be harmful and dangerous. (see Eph. 4:26, 27).

In *The Desire of Ages* we are told, "Those who at any supposed provocation feel at liberty to indulge anger or resentment are opening the heart to Satan. Bitterness and animosity must be banished from the soul if we would be in harmony with heaven" (310).



Mansfield Edwards

REASONABLE CONCLUSIONS

Human anger is normal and not necessarily sinful. We were created with emotions. Even Jesus expressed anger in Mark 3:5. *Desire of Ages* explains: "He had a holy wrath against the Prince of darkness, but He manifested no irritated temper. So the Christian who lives in harmony with God, possessing the sweet attributes of love and mercy, will feel a righteous indignation against sin, but he will not be roused by passion to revile those who revile him."

Human anger may be the result of faulty perception. We are imperfect, and we see each situation from our own perspective. Many times we are unable to judge accurately. We so often misinterpret the actions of others and jump to anger, unjustified conclusions.

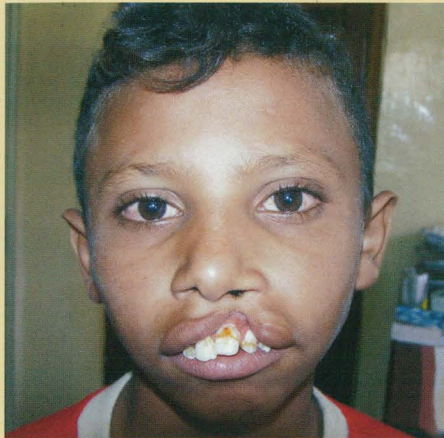
Human anger often leads to sin. Anger can easily lead to harmful and destructive behaviour. "Do not associate with a hot-tempered person or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared" (Prov. 22:24, 25; see also Eccl. 7:9; Ps. 37:8; Prov. 16:32).

Human anger can be controlled. One of the fruits of the Spirit is self-control. A child of God thinks before acting. It is always a good thing to pour out our feelings to God. This verbal activity often leads to new perspectives that reduce or dissipate anger before it is expressed inappropriately. In Psalm 73, for example, the writer gets angry and embittered because the wicked seem to be so happy and successful while the godly are having trouble. Instead of exploding in anger, the psalmist approaches God in prayer and begins to get a fresh perspective on the apparent injustice in the world. His anger, as a result, subsides and is replaced by praise.

Committing one's life to the Holy Spirit's control on a daily basis can be an effective way to prevent destructive anger. ■

Mansfield Edwards is the president of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

A New Smile for Amin



Amin before



Amin after

Cleft Palate is a congenital deformity in which the two plates of the skull that form the roof of the mouth are not completely joined, leaving an open space between the mouth and the nasal cavity.

I first met Amin* on his way to the hospital. His eyes glanced at mine but quickly looked down, as they had done for 13 years, in shame and embarrassment.

Ridiculed and alienated his whole life because of a cleft palate that made him look unattractive and caused him to have a speech defect, Amin had learned to be wary of people. At lunch time, Amin took his dish of food and sat by himself, driven away because no one could stand to see the food spilling from his mouth or hear the noises he made while eating. In the classroom, he sat alone in a corner, hoping that no one would make fun of him. Life was very difficult for Amin, and even though he was only 13, he had already started losing hope.

One afternoon while visiting Hais, Amin's small desert village, Abdullah Yassin, the ADRA Yemen Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) worker, heard about Amin's case. He talked to Amin's mother and family members and promised a life-changing event: Amin and four other children would go to Sana'a (the capital of Yemen) to receive a free cleft palate operation, and ADRA would pay for it all. Amin's mother cried with joy; suddenly there was hope that her son could live a normal life.

On August 18, 2009, Amin and the other children were finally freed from the condition that had plagued them their whole lives. "Getting this operation has been the most important thing in my life. I know that from now on everything will be different!" said Amin, with a painful smile on his face.

The Physically Challenged Program, totally funded by ADRA Canada, is in its fourth year. Since the program's inception, hundreds of physically disabled individuals have been helped. The program consists of a wide array of activities, all aimed at improving the quality of life of disabled individuals. For example, it gives disabled individuals access to health care by providing them with referrals to hospitals and physiotherapy. Other components include vocational training and microfinance activities that teach disabled individuals to become independent and self-sufficient. The project also features an awareness-raising component that educates people on how to avoid the major causes of disability and tries to change general attitudes toward disability.

The lives of disabled people in Hais have been greatly improved thanks to ADRA Canada donors. As one patient recently stated after surgery to remove his bladder stones, "Sa'aadati kaamilat" (my happiness is now complete).

Inshallah (God willing), we will continue to bring happiness to many more people along our path. ■

Alan Delmonte is a Project Manager with ADRA Yemen.

Creation Corner for Kids

“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.” Psalm 31:24

Shrew



Farm cats are usually good mousers, and Gramma Cat was one of the best. Usually, it was only mice that she hunted, but one day she caught something else. By its tiny size, very pointed nose and velvety fur, we could see it wasn't a mouse but a shrew.

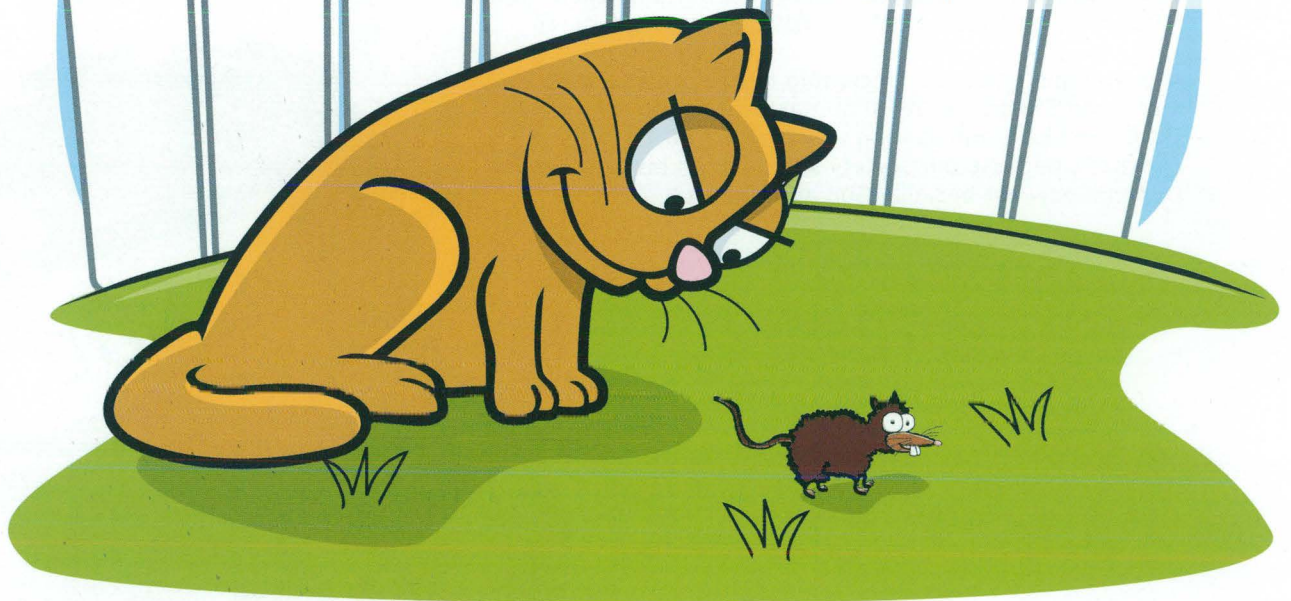
Unlike mice, which are vegetarians, shrews mostly eat invertebrates like earthworms. Because of their famously large appetites, though, shrews will eat just about anything small enough to fit into their mouths. Shrews are also well known for being very active and rarely stopping to rest. In fact, a shrew's heart beats so fast that anything causing the heart to beat faster than normal can kill it. It's really true that a shrew can be scared to death!

Think about it.

Maybe Gramma Cat didn't kill the shrew she brought us. It might have died from fright when it saw her. If you're fearful of things, don't worry. It's unlikely that you would ever die from fear like shrews do. For one thing, our hearts don't beat as quickly as shrews' hearts. Also, we can choose to let God take control when we are scared. A faster beating heart can be a reminder to trust God with our fears.

Do it.

Next time you feel your heart beat faster and harder because you're afraid, ask God to take your fear away and give you courage. To learn more about heart health, you can visit the American Heart Association's webpage at www.americanheart.org. Click on "Children's Health," then pick "For Kids."





Josué encourages you to wait

Instant Gratification Dependency

November, 2009

I don't really lust when masturbating. To me, it is a stress reliever. And since I'm not looking at or imagining any sexual stuff, I guess there's nothing wrong with it, right?

Josué Sánchez

Answer

Most people find it very difficult to separate masturbation from lust (i.e. sexual thoughts that aren't exclusively geared to your spouse). Still, some try to separate the two in order to avoid having a "guilt trip." But Jesus was quite clear when he said "don't think you've preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body. Those leering looks you think nobody notices—they also corrupt." (Matthew 5:27, 28, The Message)

You can compare the orgasm to a very powerful prescription drug that, although is meant for a specific situation, is widely available over the counter—for free. When that drug is abused, chances are that a dependency will develop. In the case of masturbation, I call it IGD (Instant Gratification Dependency) because instead of waiting for the appropriate time (marriage) to enjoy the orgasm, it is used over and over any time that there is arousal or stress buildup.

What's the deal with IGD? The brain is not used to waiting. It must be satisfied ASAP. Thus, it tends to apply the learned behaviour over other circumstances in life. Not saving for a gadget—buy it now, pay later. Not enough time to develop a meaningful relationship—either you are and act as I want, or I will move on. Other people's needs are not important—mine come first, no matter what . . . You see the trend here?

Many people nowadays (including health professionals and some Christians) say that masturbating is completely OK if you like it and as long as you don't hurt anybody. But that's because our society suffers from Instant Gratification Dependency, not because God approves it.

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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!



VISUALLY ENHANCED TECHNOLOGY

Living in the technological age, we have to learn over and over how to use new technologies well. We can't hide from it or avoid it in any way.

And with all these technologies today, we have become a society dominated by the visual. The search is for more portable and better visual, whether it be computers, internet, televisions, iPhones, iPods, portable DVD players or GPS devices, just to mention a few. We love to use our eyes—we love to see for ourselves—and we live by the familiar saying that “seeing is believing.”

A very effective tool that many churches are using to incorporate the visual element into worship is the use of presentation software such as Microsoft Powerpoint, Keynote for Mac, MediaShout and many others. Creating interesting slides for songs, sermon notes, and even announcements can add visual interest to any worship experience.

And so today, considering our visual society, we are faced with an age-old question: how does a church incorporate technology, specifically visual, into the worship service without detracting from the sacredness of worship? I am aware that there are many different ideas and opinions to this question; however, I am going to share seven guidelines on how to enhance the overall visual presentation without detracting from the sacredness of worship.

1. USE COMPELLING MATERIAL Make sure that every image, video or word you use is going to enhance the presentation and its impact on the worship experience. The audience is not interested in looking at images just tossed onto a screen.

2. BE CAREFUL ABOUT THE DESIGN

The use of fonts, type size and colour combinations are very important.

Make sure to stay away from using fancy fonts because they tend to be hard to read on the screen. Also, be very careful with the size of font you use to make sure it is easy to read from the back. Use colors that are neutral and easy on the eyes. And whenever possible, always check your presentation on the display device first.

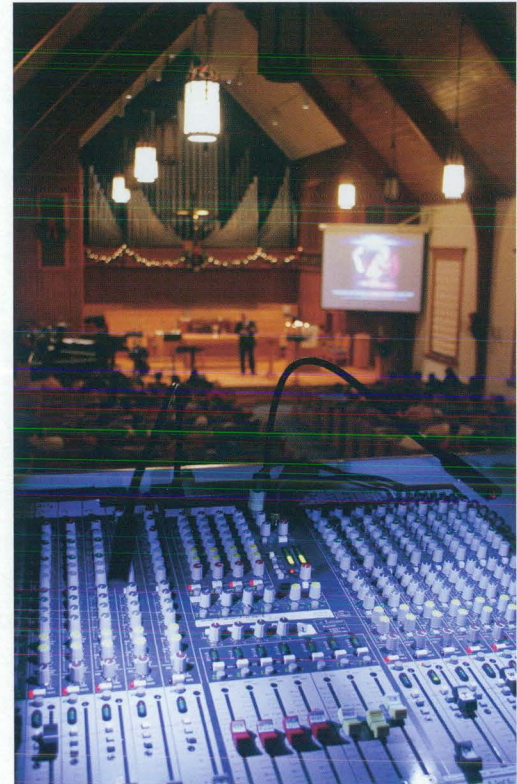
3. AVOID EXCESSIVE ANIMATION Using too much visual animation, such as transitions between points, headings and slides, is very distracting to the audience. Use visual animation sparingly and with good judgment. Also, if you do decide to use visual animation, be careful to time the action with your words so that the visual effect does not slow down what you are saying or jump ahead of your point.

4. KEEP IT SIMPLE The most effective presentations are simple and easy to follow. One way of making your presentations look neat and not too busy is by using keywords and statements instead of sentences. Some experts suggest using no more than five words per line and six lines per slide. You don't need to have everything on the screen.

5. DON'T PARROT One of the most common and distracting mistakes people make when using presentation software is to read every word of the presentation to the audience. This causes the presentation to become boring and redundant. The presenter should use remarks that expand and discuss the visual rather than mimic every word that's on the screen.

6. EDIT AND SPELL CHECK BEFORE PRESENTING

Nothing is more distracting than seeing spelling and grammar mistakes on the screen. Make sure you take time to read



through your presentation for mistakes that spell-checking software cannot pick up, such as words like “there” when it should be “their.” And when using slides for songs, make sure the words and verses you sing correspond with what is on the screen.

7. TIMING IS EVERYTHING This is extremely important! Make sure that the timing of the presentation matches where the congregation is reading, singing or reflecting. When singing from the screen, switch to the next slide while the congregation is singing the last line of the current slide so the next words are ready.

There they are, seven guidelines that will greatly enhance a visual presentation without detracting from the sacredness of worship.

And of course, we must always stop and examine any technology that is incorporated into the church worship service to make sure it is not hindering but leading people to Jesus. ■

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

Oh, We Are the Pathfinders Strong!

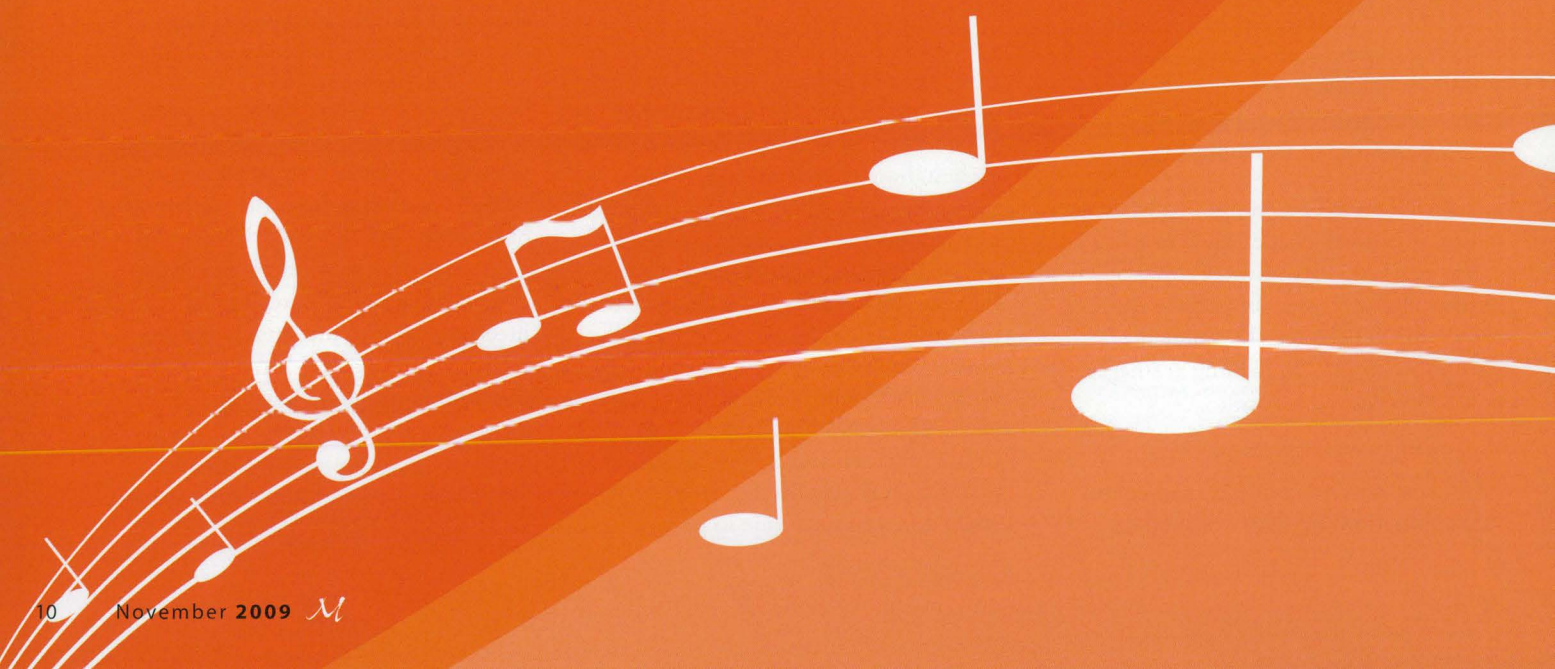
by diane thurber

The strength of the Seventh-day Adventist Pathfinder organization was evident as loaded cars, vans and buses streamed through the gates of the EAA AirVenture Campgrounds in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on August 11-15. There were even several cyclists who pedaled more than 850 kilometers across the United States to the 2009 International Pathfinder Camporee, an event that only occurs every five years.

In all, more than 36,000 Pathfinders made the journey to the camporee, themed "Courage to Stand." The travel was not easy for some, like the club from Amarillo, Texas, who was in a bus accident en route (all arrived safely) or the club from Montrose, Colorado, whose rental van was stolen the day before they were to leave for Wisconsin.

Included in the tally of participants were 1,975 guests from 10 other Seventh-day Adventist divisions. More than 130 North American clubs hosted 1,500 international Pathfinders and youth leaders, and the remainder camped independently or stayed in nearby hotels.

Excitement was displayed across the Pathfinders' faces who eagerly anticipated a fun-filled, spiritually inspiring event. They were not disappointed because for the past five years many individuals convened and planned to make this the most meaningful camporee experience to date.





Back Row Left to Right: Ashley Phillip, Alecia Prendergast-Davls, Shey Williams, and Kimerberly Smith. Front Row: Phatima Prendergast-Davis. Members of the Ontario Drum Corp wait to go on-stage for opening ceremonies.



A plethora of recreational choices were available for the Pathfinders at both on-site and off-site location in surrounding communities. These included activities such as ice skating, sailing, golfing, Frisbee golf, inflatables, archery, a petting zoo, a full-size model of the sanctuary, and many others too numerous to list. The airline hangars at Wittman Regional Airport adjacent to the campgrounds were filled to capacity each day as Pathfinders converged to complete activities from more than 120 honors offered and collect honor patches to fill their sashes.

Highlights of the daytime activities included the Suzuki Dream Team, the Talent Tent performers, the Native American village, the obstacle course and the daily afternoon on-site parades featuring clubs in full-dress uniform marching down the Midway to the beat of numerous drum corps teams who faithfully practiced day (and night).

Another highlight of the camporee was pin trading, which provided opportunities to interact with so many young people from different parts of the world. Even Don Schneider, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America got involved. He offered a specially crafted prayer pin to any Pathfinder willing to pray with someone they didn't know. Schneider gave out 2,500 pins at the camporee.

The Servants of God Are We

At the opening night of the camporee a search began to locate the oldest Pathfinder present at the camporee. Soon Donna Hooper, a 91-year-old Master Guide from Calhoun, Georgia, was spotted

riding around the campgrounds on her motorized scooter, offering to trade pins with the young people. She still enjoys teaching honors, too. What an inspiration she was as Pathfinders learned of her life of service!

On Sabbath, more than 400 Master Guides and TLTs (Teen Leaders in Training) were pinned during the investiture portion of the morning service. As they stood throughout the mass of people that filled the assembly field and were invested by their local club leaders, eyes turned to admire and appreciate their dedication to Pathfinder ministry.

The camporee would not have been possible, according to camporee executive director Ron Whitehead, except for the more than 1,000 volunteers, paid staff and summer camp staff. These individuals worked very long hours and endeavored to meet each need and request with a smile, to ensure the Pathfinders experienced the most from the camporee.

Receiving special recognition for his contributions to the camporee was Terry Dodge, the camporee facilities director. His love for Pathfinders and his love for a bargain helped keep camporee costs to a minimum. He will retire as Michigan Conference Pathfinder director on November 1, and plans to focus his attention afterward on building a Pathfinder museum and learning center in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Faithful as We March Along

In addition to the daily on-site parades, on Sabbath more than 1,500 Pathfinders boarded buses for downtown Oshkosh and marched in full dress uniform through the streets of Oshkosh to Menominee Park



on Lake Winnebago. Townspeople gathered to see the young people who caused such a stir in their town since their arrival earlier that week. Many of these young people faithfully witnessed throughout the week as they meet strangers in stores, restaurants and at outreach sites. The march concluded with a rally at Leach Amphitheater where World Church youth director, Baraka Muganda, challenged parade attendees to adopt healthy lifestyles and better living.

In Kindness, Truth and Purity

Goals for the camporee included encouraging the Pathfinders to look outward—to contribute to those in the surrounding communities. More than 20 off-site community service projects were attended by thousands of Pathfinders. These included places like Heckrodt Wetland Preserve, The Paine Art Center and Gardens and the Sheldon Nature Center. The young people's presence and impact were felt throughout Oshkosh. Many they serviced were impressed by the Pathfinders' willing spirit and attitude while working. Also a surprise was their quickness to complete tasks.

Locks of Love representatives were stationed at a booth at the campgrounds to cut hair of Pathfinders who wished to donate their long tresses to disadvantaged children who are unable to grow hair for any medical diagnosis. Some girls had grown out their hair for several years before they donated it. Katie Bue of the Gridley Guides Pathfinder club in Gridley, California, grinned as hairdressers cut approximately 12 inches from her hair. She remarked, "It feels good to give it to people who don't have hair, because I'd hate it if I didn't have hair." Her selfless donation demonstrated

love for others, an attribute encouraged by the Pathfinder organization.

Pathfinders lined up on Friday of the camporee to donate blood to the American Red Cross at the Blood Drive. Sarah Stevermer, communications and public relations specialist for the Mid-America Blood Services Division, says 20 pints were collected at the camporee. There is a careful health screening process involved for blood donation and many of the Pathfinders were under the legal age allowed or there would have been more blood collected.

Throughout the campgrounds acts of kindness were witnessed. Whether assisting a friend carrying a heavy load, picking up debris from the assembly field (each Pathfinder was challenged to pick up ten pieces of litter a day) or sharing food or camping supplies when needed, many young people demonstrated the familiar Pathfinder spirit of caring for others.

A Message to Tell to the World

Each night at designated sites at the assembly field, Pathfinders delivered Bibles they had collected back home since the 2004. At the 2004 camporee, 32,000 Bibles were collected. At the 2009 camporee, the challenge was to collect 35,000 English and Spanish. These Bibles will be delivered to mission sites in Ghana, Belize, Brazil and India in 2010. The Sabbath morning offering appeal by Kevin Gutierrez urged Pathfinders to donate one dollar each to raise the \$35,000 needed to cover shipping costs or to purchase Bibles in native languages. To learn more about the upcoming Pathfinder evangelism mission trips, visit www.adventistyouth.org.

Photographer: Rich Herard



James Black, youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, spoke Sabbath morning and challenged Pathfinders to have purpose, determination and focus (PDF) as they stand for the Lord in their communities. He stressed, "The devil is trying to convince you that all your efforts for God are useless. But don't you believe it for a minute. . . . I believe God is going to use many of you to do things that have never been done before . . . your time is now. God has called us to the camporee for such a time as now . . . so you can get your marching orders." He also encouraged them to look for people near them who need help or need to know about Jesus and make it happen. He said, "I believe God is raising up a young people who when you pray in the name of Jesus, something will happen." He emphasized, "Before you go anywhere to stand anywhere around this world, you make sure you stand at home first . . . stand in your neighborhood and in your community. . . . Go elsewhere to practice what you do here." In conclusion, Black asked, "Jesus stood for you. Who will stand for Him?" He invited the crowd to repeat in unison, "I will stand" if it was their desire to stand for Jesus, which they did with much enthusiasm.

A Truth that Will Set Us Free

Pathfinders were encouraged to contemplate the life of Esther, a young Jewish girl who was placed in King Xerxes' palace to accomplish God's purpose for His people at that time in history. In his opening message to Pathfinders in the "PathfinderTODAY" newsletter, Whitehead, challenged those at the camporee by saying: "Even if those around you compromise and fall, I challenge you to always have the 'courage to stand' because He stood for you on the cross! He loves you so much! And He is coming back for you soon, so stand strong!"

A prayer journal was given to the young people; it included information about Esther and the world she lived in, and thought questions and places to write personal responses.

At the beginning of each evening program, Pathfinders joined in chorus to sing the theme song, "Courage to Stand," written by Emily Beth Bond of the Southwestern Union. As the camporee progressed, Pathfinders throughout the campground were heard singing or humming the song, which will no doubt inspire them to stand for Jesus and the truth they believe long after the camporee is past.

Nightly, the Pathfinders sat with rapt attention as "Courage to Stand: The Story of Esther" was portrayed by a 24-member cast and approximately 40 extras and guards. Esther's story of courage in adversity and her stand for truth encouraged many Pathfinders to also stand with courage in a world that challenges them

with many temptations. Some were so inspired by Esther's stand for the Lord that they decided to join the Sabbath afternoon baptism service where 518 Pathfinders publicly made a commitment to Jesus and were baptized. It was incredible to listen as these names were read and watch as groups of eight to ten Pathfinders stepped into one of two large swimming pools with the pastors who would baptize them. Family and friends jockeyed for space to view the baptisms. Some baptized Sabbath afternoon waited two years or more for the experience of being baptized with so many other committed Pathfinders, and others were convicted at the camporee when Hunter Murray, the keynote speaker from Queensland, Australia, made an appeal after each evening program. As the groups of Pathfinders emerged from the pools they were handed helium-filled balloons with their names on them, which they released toward Heaven together—a symbol of their commitment to Jesus and their desire to have their name written in the Book of Life.

King Jesus the Savior's Coming Back for You and Me

As the sun set before the closing night's program, whispers and gasps were heard throughout the assembly field as many pointed to a remarkable cloud formation in the sky. When an airplane intersected a vertical cloud formation, the plane's exhaust created the shape of a cross that was prominently displayed in the sky. Some called it miraculous, and many expressed their belief it was a sign the Lord was present at the event.

After the last Esther play concluded, an animated announcement introduced the theme of the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee, "Forever Faithful." The next camporee will focus on the life of Daniel, a courageous Hebrew boy who remained faithful to the Lord through much adversity in his life. This theme selection resulted in spontaneous cheers by the Pathfinders.

Whitehead closed the camporee by saying, "See you at the next camporee . . . or in Heaven." Though many enjoyed the camporee, many remarked their belief that a reunion in Heaven would far surpass the experience. A much-enjoyed fireworks display followed Whitehead's remarks and punctuated the end of a memorable camporee.

The next camporee in North America is scheduled for August 12-16, 2014, in Oshkosh. Pathfinders may learn more about the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee by visiting www.adventistyouth.com. ■

Diane Thurber is the assistant director of communication for the Lake Union Conference and the managing editor of the Lake Union Herald.

THE 2009 OSHKOSH INTERNATIONAL CAMPOREE is already in the past but the impact that was left in the pathfinders' lives will last their whole life long. Our Canadian delegation—almost 2300 participants coming from the seven conferences—was not unnoticed, especially on the Sabbath international parade.

The message that was shared to our youth through the enactment of Queen Esther's life every night was quite up-to-date and challenging. Hundreds were touched and made their personal commitment to God. We want to praise Him for such a response.

I think it is a propos to have two of our conferences share with readers their experience from their own perspective. First, we have the Maritime conference camp director talking about how their 14 participants appreciated their experience and then the Ontario conference with the largest delegation.

Hebert Valiame, youth director, Quebec conference; leader of Canadian delegation to Pathfinder camporee

MARITIMES

What a privilege and exciting experience it was for our club to attend the camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin! Often it is easy for us to get caught up in the day-to-day happenings in our own area and forget that the rest of the world exists. When we think of our global church, there is often no comprehension of what that means; however, camporee opened the eyes of our young people and made them realize, that they are not alone in their beliefs. I think that it encouraged them to have the "courage to stand" when it comes to their relationship with Jesus.

We had seven Pathfinders, two Adventurers, one Youth Instructor and four adults who attended the activities, and each walked away with a stronger commitment to promote Pathfinders, Youth Ministries and Christ in our local area. Because of the positive experience, we are now seeing three or four new clubs interested in starting up in our conference. This is wonderful, since for the last several years, there has only been one club in our conference.

Our young people enjoyed their activities in the hangars such as the preaching activity, ventriloquist, art, slot cars, rock wall climbing, BMX biking, waterskiing, wakeboarding, and tubing. They enjoyed participating in flag lowering for the Canadian union with eight huge flags which were there. They also participated by marching in the parade to represent our conference.

They have already set their sights on the next camporee with the theme "Forever Faithful" portraying the life of Daniel. Wouldn't it be wonderful if that one included a Sabbath hike with Jesus?

Kay Graca, camp director, Maritime conference

ONTARIO

Never in the history of the Pathfinder ministry in Ontario were we able to bring so many Pathfinders to camporee. For this we say, "to God be the glory!" In many ways, we are so proud of our Pathfinders, and thankful for the opportunity to showcase Canada to the world, by having the opportunity participating in the drill and drum corps competitions, the opening ceremony and the flag lowering exercises. Camporee changed the lives of many of our youth.

We find it humbling that our great God in heaven would be so kind as to get all of our Pathfinders to and from Oshkosh safely, despite the many challenges, and give us endless amounts of sunshine amidst it all. We are also humbled by the kindness that has been bestowed to our conference and which has subsequently reverberated amongst our Pathfinders. Moreover, we are indebted to the countless Pathfinder directors, leaders, parents, pastors, church boards and all others who so tirelessly fundraised, helped pack, donated, prayed and went above and beyond so that we could not only join with our fellow Adventist brothers and sisters in Oshkosh but also so that we could have a Spirit-filled time doing so.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to experience a taste of heaven before even getting there. The fellowship was that sweet. To see people of every tongue, nation and race assembling peacefully and making friends was a true glimpse of what God has promised to those who remain faithful. Even if God had decided not to sign His love in the sky via the cloud in the shape of a cross on our final evening, we know that "heaven came down and glory filled our souls" in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and we are thankful to have been able to be partakers of that experience and to further ready ourselves, since "King Jesus the Saviour is coming back for you and me."

Simone Samuels, OCPC assistant secretary/newsletter editor, Ontario conference

Photographer: Gerry Chudleigh



Photographer: Rich Herard

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD—2009

The SDACC Office of Education takes great pleasure in announcing the recipients of this year's Excellence in Teaching Award. These are truly outstanding educators.



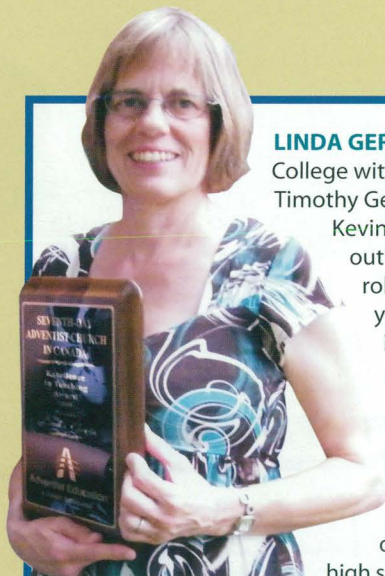
PETER BAYER graduated from Andrews University in 1980 with a BSc in Biology and Chemistry. He is married to Betty Bayer and has a son, Jonathan. He has an interest in unique old cars, photography, backpacking and canoeing. Peter began his teaching career as a student missionary at Athens International Academy, Greece, where he decided upon teaching as a career. Following graduation, Peter taught at Crawford Adventist Academy and then moved to Kingsway College,

where he currently teaches chemistry, biology, math, and cooperative education. With 29 years of teaching behind him, Peter has had some memorable experiences, one of which was the chemistry demonstration that went wrong resulting in an explosion which took the hair and some skin off the top of his hand. From that experience Peter learned that little things make a great difference, and he decided to try to be a spark in the life of his students. Being a teacher in the Adventist school system gives Peter the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of his students and at the same time contribute to the growth of his church.



RAYETTE ANGELEE HETLAND

graduated with a B.Ed. from Canadian University College in 1990. She is married to Lonnie Hetland, and has two teenagers: Tyler and Jeremy. She has an interest in scrapbooking, camping, playing the piano, cooking and photography. Rayette has 15 years of varied teaching experience, having taught at Mt. Arrowsmith Adventist School, Nechako Valley Christian School, Sylvan Meadows Adventist School, and Coralwood Adventist Academy, where she currently teaches. One of her memorable teaching experiences was praying with a non-Adventist student to find a tiny screw, which got lost while dismantling his calculator during class. The student was crying for he wasn't supposed to bring the calculator to school. After praying with the student, they immediately noticed the tiny screw on the edge of the metal heat register beside his desk. Hugging Rayette, the boy squealed with joy saying, "Jesus does answer prayers." "Teaching outside of our Adventist system has never been a temptation," Rayette said, "because I feel this is where I can do the best work God has called me to do: preparing our young people for the heavenly kingdom."



LINDA GERTZ graduated from Walla Walla College with a BSc in 1974. She is married to Timothy Gertz and has three children: Kendra, Kevin and Jana. Her hobbies are "hanging out with my grandkids," scrapbooking, rollerblading and golfing. Linda has 19 years of teaching experience, which includes teaching at Peace River Junior Academy, Coralwood Academy and Fraser Valley Adventist Academy (FVAA), where she currently teaches. Recalling a memorable experience, Linda talks about a young man in her Grade 7 class who was a bundle of energy and whose 'escapades' in high school and college were many. Recently

this former student visited FVAA, and Linda was surprised but delighted to see the transformation that had taken place. Having graduated from university with an education degree in English and History, this mature, self-confident man has joined the staff at FVAA as a teacher's assistant for a handicapped student. "This makes teaching so worth it," Linda says. Teaching in an Adventist school was a choice Linda made, because it gives her the opportunity to talk to her students about Jesus and to influence them to follow Him.



DARLENE HOFFMAN graduated from Canadian University College with a B.Ed. in 1995. She is married to Wolfgang Hoffmann and is the mother of two children: Damian and Jonathan. Darlene enjoys art, outdoor pursuits, gardening and travel adventure. Her 13 years of teaching have taken her to Sylvan Learning Center, Woodlands Adventist School, College Heights Christian School, Father Turcotte School, and Mamawi Atosketan Native School, where she currently teaches. Darlene describes her most memorable teaching experiences as those times when she was able to share hope, instill self-esteem and share Jesus with her students. She chose to become a teacher because of her love for children. Her greatest desire is for God to use her to lead young people into a meaningful relationship with Jesus. Teaching in an Adventist school gives her the opportunity to do so.

TRACEY JAMIESON graduated from Canadian University College in 1991 with a B.Ed. She is married to Rod Jamieson, and she enjoys horseback riding and reading. During her 20 years of teaching, Tracey has taught at Terrace Adventist School, Avalon Adventist Junior Academy, College Heights Christian School and South Side Christian School, where she currently teaches. What excites her most in teaching is to see children succeed in school when their parents and significant others have told them that they would never amount to much. Seeing how children's lives are transformed through her efforts, gives her joy, contentment and the motivation to teach. Tracey has chosen to teach in an Adventist school because she believes in our school system. "It allows me to share my fundamental beliefs with my students, and helps me to build stronger relationships."



KATHLEEN MITCHELL graduated from Andrews University in 1977 with a B.A. and has been teaching for 19 years. She was married to the late Kurt Mitchell and has four grown children: Victoria, Amber, Sheri and Hugh John. Kathleen enjoys cake decorating, flower arranging, swimming, sewing, gardening, canning, cooking, reading, crafts and telling stories. During her 19 years of teaching, Kathleen has taught at Grand Valley Adventist Academy, Chatham Adventist Academy, Stratford District Christian School and Grandview Adventist Academy, where currently she is the teaching principal. One of Kathleen's memorable teaching experience occurred while teaching a lesson on the differences between lines. At the end of the lesson, one student said to her: "So, Mrs. Mitchell, if God is a line, who goes on forever and ever, then we have the choice as to whether we will be a line segment or a ray." "Profound!" she thought. Kathleen likes teaching in an Adventist school "because of the freedom it affords me to live and teach my convictions and life principles."



ROBYN WETTSTEIN graduated with a B.Ed from Canadian University College in 1987. She is married to Les Wettstein. Her hobbies are reading, walking and playing the piano. Robyn has had a rich teaching experience of 22 years, having taught at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, Pleasant Valley Adventist Academy, and Medicine Hat SDA School. One of her memorable teaching experiences involved a boy from a dysfunctional family who lived unsupervised in a rough neighbourhood. One day, this boy wrote a profound sentence in his notebook in describing his classroom. He said, "I feel safe here!" Robyn said that those words broke her heart, because in a small way she was able to make a difference in this boy's life. Robyn has had a desire to teach since she was a child. She remembers lining up her dolls to "teach" them in the basement of her house. After graduating with her degree in education, Robyn chose to teach in an Adventist



school "because sharing about the Jesus I love and teaching students for now and for eternity became my passion."

"TRUE EDUCATION," according to Ellen G. White, "does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements, but above information it values power; above power, goodness; above intellectual acquirements, *character* [my emphasis]. The world does not so much need men and women of great intellect as of noble character..." (*True Education*, 136). It is, therefore, gratifying to know that what excites our outstanding educators is something that goes beyond the intellectual achievements of their students; it is the joy of knowing that they are helping their students develop a personal relationship with Jesus. —Dennis Marshall, Education Director, SDACC

THERE ARE A FEW NEW FACES ON THE CAMPUS OF CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE THIS FALL. BY THE TIME THE ADMISSION DEADLINES HAD PASSED, THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HAD ENROLLED 410 STUDENTS—AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 16% FROM THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR. THIS TOTAL INCLUDES 148 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS—THE LARGEST TOTAL IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. FOUR HUNDRED AND TEN STUDENTS ALSO REPRESENTS THAT LARGEST TOTAL ENROLMENT SINCE THE FALL OF 2004.

A FEW MORE FACES



Students getting to know each other at new student orientation.

The higher enrolment numbers can be attributed to a number of factors, including an intensive recruiting effort not only by the staff of Marketing and Enrolment but also the rest of the faculty, staff and students of Canadian University College. Enrolment advisors and other school ambassadors visited with more than 100 Seventh-day Adventist academies in Canada and the United States as well as a few outside of North America.

The recruiting effort carried over into the Summer as the push turned towards campmeetings. Rise Above, CUC's summer music ministry team along with enrolment advisors and Advancement department staff kept busy by visiting 11 campmeetings from British Columbia in the West to Newfoundland in the East, as well as numerous churches in between. Vice-president of Marketing and Enrolment, Bryan Lee, attributes the higher Fall intake to the constituency seeing Canadian University College as a real option for its students, "It is exciting to see not only the significant Fall intake increase of students, but the change across Canada in the attitude of the constituency towards our Adventist university. The diversity and Adventist culture of our campus makes it an awesome fit for our youth in Canada. A place where they have the opportunity to receive an affordable, accredited undergraduate degree with other young people growing in their Adventist Christian beliefs. This is truly a result of today's new CUC," remarks Lee.

CUC students are also excited about their university

college and are active recruiters for the school. A new student recruitment program brought in 12 students who were actively recruited by a current student. Enrolment advisor Danielle Goulet acknowledges that prospective students listen more intently to current students when weighing their options. "Recruiting students has a lot to do with the relationships we have with students. I have found that students here at CUC can have a tremendous influence on whether or not a student decides to come to CUC," says Goulet. This student interaction is clearly evident during the numerous campus visits and College Days throughout the school year.

While most recruitment efforts are focused on North America, CUC is also proud of the international diversity represented on campus. This school year, 15 countries are represented. International students come from as far as Australia and Sweden to as close as our neighbor to the South who have 18 of their states represented. In the past year, students, teachers, and pastors have visited the campus and have seen the changes taking place. From the launch of our new website to the expansion of the Physical Education Centre, people are talking positively about what they see and experience at CUC. ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director for Canadian University College.



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

British Columbia

The 2010 Olympics: Sharing More Than Gold

The 2010 Games are rapidly approaching and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is preparing to host the world! Together with other Christians in a network called More Than Gold, Adventists will provide volunteer opportunities for service and witness in Vancouver to

- 5,500 Olympic athletes and officials
- 1,350 Paralympic athletes and officials
- 80+ countries participating in the Olympic Winter games
- 40+ countries participating in the Paralympic Winter games
- approximately 10,000 media representatives
- approximately 25,000 Games volunteers, and
- approximately 300,000 visitors!

Sharing God's Love in Tangible Ways

A beautiful hand knit scarf can be a quiet witness to the love of Jesus! Even if you can't come to the 2010 Games,

you can be a part of the outreach by knitting a scarf and sending it to Vancouver. Welcome kits containing assorted items including a homemade scarf will be given out to tourists during the Olympics. Care kits will also be prepared for shelters in Vancouver. To date, several hundred scarves have been knit by seniors, adults and pathfinders across North America!

Each scarf contains the five colours of the More Than Gold snowflake, which tells the story of salvation (*see sidebar*).

Volunteers giving out the scarves will prayerfully look for opportunities to talk about the Jesus of the snowflake. And on the inside of each scarf is sewn a label which says: "This scarf was knit with love by your friends, the Seventh-day Adventists" along with a Web address. The goal is to knit 10,000 scarves before January 31st of 2010! Scarf patterns are available for download on the Go the Distance website. ■

— Gaileen Woytko,
project volunteer



The Meaning Behind the Snowflake

Each hand knit scarf carries a snowflake emblem with colours to represent the plan of salvation:

Purple—the darkness of sin
 Blue—the hope we find in God's love
 Green—the new life we experience in Jesus
 Red—the blood of Jesus on the cross
 Gold—the promise of eternal life through Jesus

Volunteers will look for opportunities to share this message with each scarf recipient.

The following items are needed for welcome kits and care kits. Churches or schools wishing to contribute items to the welcome kits or care kits can collect any of the following and ship them to West Coast Baptist Association More Than Gold, 131 Kings Road, North Vancouver, BC V7N 1H4. (When preparing your carton of items clearly indicate the exact contents on an exterior label. Make sure the label says "GIFT." All items must be received before January 15, 2010).

Items for Welcome Kits

Lip Balm	Rain Poncho
Band-aids	Kleenex
Sunscreen/Lotion	Mini Notepads
Hand Wipes	Canada Logo Pens
Hand Warmers	

Items for Care Kits

Lip Balm	Rain Poncho	Kleenex
Sunscreen/Lotion	Hand Wipes	Mittens
Hand Warmers	Scarf*	Socks
Shampoo	Soap	Toothbrush
Toothpaste		

*Scarf needs to be knit with one of the scarf patterns available through Go the Distance. Sizes for all items must be small travel size. Gloves and socks must be adult size.

Alberta

Central Alberta Public Schools Join Church's Mission

"There is something about this project that is magical, miraculous and providential," wrote Eric Rajah in a blog from Ikonge School in Kenya. "The funds came in from the Alberta schools in the shortest amount of time and greater than expected. Construction moves faster than expected and the cost is lower than other schools we have built." His words are reflective of the growing interest in global leadership being embraced by students in Alberta schools through A Better World projects in Kenya. A Better World, operated by the College Heights Adventist Church has drawn 16 public schools from around Alberta to help educate children around the world.

Rajah, co-founder of the Central Alberta-based humanitarian organization, guided a group of students and teachers to several projects they're supporting during the summer.

Collectively, the three schools represented raised \$97,000 to build schools in Kenya and participants spent about \$100,000 for their trip.

"They are here to begin a relationship with the children they are helping. Just sending a cheque alone wasn't good enough, and am I ever glad that they can share not just money but feel the pain of the people around the globe. These young people give me confidence that there is hope for A Better World. They will invest a part of their lives here," Rajah added in another blog during the trip.

But the story really begins with the visions of students and teachers in diverse locations of Alberta:

In the summer of 2008, teacher Steve Neufeld, from H. J. Cody High School in Sylvan Lake, visited Kenya to sign an agreement with the leaders at Kiprengwe to build classrooms at the remote rural hilltop school. Neufeld had already infected a group of students with his enthusiasm for a Kenyan project



Students from various Central Alberta public schools partner with A Better World to support schools in Kenya. Many toured Kenya with ABW Director Eric Rajah this summer.

and, with the assistance of student Julie Anderson who'd previously travelled to Kenya with A Better World, Project Kenya had been launched and fundraising begun.

In St. Albert, just north of Edmonton, teacher Ruby Solomon was also working on her vision of getting students at Paul Kane High School involved in an international humanitarian effort. A former teacher in Lacombe, she knew about the efforts of students at École Secondaire Lacombe Composite High School and their trip to Kenya in 2008. After piquing the interest of a couple of her students, Change for Africa was launched at Paul Kane.

Then when Cody's newly appointed vice principal, Jas Payne, was talking to Serge Jette, a former colleague at Westwood Community High School in Fort McMurray, he spread the vision to that northern community. "One of the things we were looking for at Westwood was giving the community a global project we could get behind," Jette said.

With support from teachers and students, Spirit of Harambee was launched. The theme Westwood chose is particularly appropriate because Harambee is Swahili for working together.

Westwood's major fundraiser, Get Locked Up for A Better World, (similar to Jail and Bail), raised more than \$30,000 of the \$50,000 that the school collected in its initial year. A similar project at Cody, called Feast or Famine, raised \$14,000 of the school's \$30,000 total. And at Paul Kane, fundraising projects included collecting change from students one day a month, a silent auction, a one act festival, and money that school clubs raised through ticket sales and door prizes. Their efforts garnered over \$17,000.

Through the project at Cody, other schools in Sylvan Lake and throughout Chinook's Edge School Division got involved. Librarian Gillian Sykes took the idea to a meeting of librarians from across the division and they embraced the vision. New books soon started flowing to the school for eventual transportation to Kenya.

Visiting orphanages, schools and a medical clinic, students and teachers from all three schools, were continually challenged by the conditions they found, but also saw the amazing differences being made through contributions by their schools, through A Better World. They also learned about the relationship building philosophy of the Central Alberta humanitarian organization.

Choosing projects for support, Rajah said, is like a dating process. "We send many people to date the project. The African people have to take the lead, with our support," he said. "We don't own anything; we only support to make it happen. We want the people to benefit and have ownership." In another conversation, Rajah said, "We don't build all buildings in one year because what kind of a relationship do you build that way. Building those relationships is so rewarding," he added.

The tremendous gratitude and happiness of the Kenyans was another thing that impressed the travellers. "Their appreciation was genuine," said Anderson as she reflected on, the amount of gratitude and appreciation they had for us. Cody teacher Marian MacVicar was struck by the Kenyan people—their friendliness, helpfulness, their ability to smile in adversity, accept life the way it comes with no complaints. "That's a lesson we can all learn." At all three schools, the relationship building is continuing as they execute fundraising activities and plan more trips to Kenya.

"Education is freedom from poverty; it's understanding. It will help you grow and make your country better. That's why we have come to share the gift with you," Rajah said during ceremonies at Ikonge. The mission of the Kiprengwe school, prominently painted on one of the new buildings, is also to the point: To highlight *education* as a weapon against *poverty* and *ignorance*. Building on that theme, students in Canada who are growing through education are also growing through their international efforts.

There are now 16 schools supporting the efforts of A Better World to build schools, supply books and pay for teacher education. ■

—Steve Dills, editor, Sylvan Lake News



Camp Whitesand supplied a rock climbing wall for the Curtis Horne school's community outreach fun fair.

Curtis Horne School Fun Fair Outreach

On Sunday June 14th members of the Hill Avenue Adventist Church worked together to promote Curtis Horne Christian School by hosting a free community fun fair. The goal of this project was to create an event that would allow for members of the community an opportunity to share in fun while learning about Adventist education. The event was an overwhelming success as more than three hundred individuals came to the community fun

fair. Throughout the afternoon, individuals could participate in a variety of activities such as playing street hockey with members of the Regina Pats, visiting animals from the Griffiths petting zoo, or climbing the rock wall that was present from Camp Whitesand. Additional activities included face painting, a bouncing tent for kids, and a Root Beer gardens where floats were made as a way of cooling down from the heat. As well we were joined by city counselor Jocelyn Hutchinson along with her husband were able to attend the event and learn first hand about Curtis Horne Christian School.

Perhaps most importantly, a treasure hunt was created as a way of encouraging families to explore Curtis Horne and learn a little about Adventist education. At the end of the treasure hunt, prizes were graciously donated from Dairy Queen, Mr.Sub and other businesses from around Regina were given to children and their families as they successfully completed the treasure hunt. This was an incredible experience as our church and school were able to interact and have fun with members of the community, while helping to educate about Curtis Horne Christian School. ■

—Harrison Hall, member

SDA Church in Canada

Lawton Lowe—“All About Grace”



Lawton Lowe 1925-2009

On September 20, 2009, family and friends gathered in Fonthill, Ontario to celebrate the life of one of the SDACC’s greatest loved administrators, Elder Lawton Lowe. President Dan Jackson officiated at the service attended by so many who wanted only to pay their respects to the man who’d touched their lives in such a positive way.

Lowe’s affiliation with the church began in earnest in 1953 when he attended Oshawa Missionary College (Kingway College) in Oshawa, Ont. He became a pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and, in 1961, was sent by the church to India and Sri

Lanka to minister there. Returning to Canada, he served the church as union evangelist and, later, as union ministerial director. He was also treasured by members in the Maritimes where, in the 1980s, he laboured as conference president.

“[Lawton] had a heart for souls,” says Jackson of his friend and former colleague. “He had a heart for bringing people to an understanding of the gospel, and to him the gospel was all about grace.”

Lowe lost his battle with cancer on August 28, 2009. He was a great man and a great worker for God. He will be missed. ■

North American Division

Laaser Addresses Sexual Addictions at Family Celebration Sabbath

Andrew’s University held its annual Family Celebration Sabbath weekend on July 17-18 on their campus. Prominent author and speaker on the topics of sexual addiction and pornography, Mark Laaser, of Faithful and True Ministries, was the weekend’s presenter.

Through worship, inspiration, and Scripture-based guidance, the weekend was designed to offer encouragement and help to hurting families and advice for those who minister to them. The weekend also included inspirational praise and worship led by Terrance Taylor, previous youth and associate pastor of Emerald City SDA Church, Seattle, Wash.

Laaser addressed the issues of human sexuality, sexual addictions, pornography and their effects on the family, challenging all to realize that “Without vision, people perish” and “Spiritual discipline works!” Laaser also stressed the importance of positive vision and pure thoughts, encouraging families to “Take every thought captive” and “Share the vision God has given . . . He’ll make it happen.”

Laaser’s expertise on the weekend’s subject stems from both his personal and professional experience. An avid writer, Laaser has authored six books, including *Healing the Wounds of Sexual Addiction*, the first Christian book to address the issue of sexual addiction. He also ministers to sex addicts and their families and consults with numerous churches and hospitals to develop treatment programs.



Photo by A. Allan Martin.

Right to Left, Dr. Peter Swanson, chairman, SDATS Christian Ministry Department; Dr. & Mrs. Ron & Karen Flowers, co-directors, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Family Ministries; Dr. Mark Laaser, speaker; and Dr. Willie Oliver, director, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists Family Ministries.

“Family Celebration Sabbath 2009 was an outstanding spiritual and professionally stimulating experience,” lauded Dr. Willie Oliver, Director of NAD Family Ministries. “Every Adventist worker and member should avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity.” ■

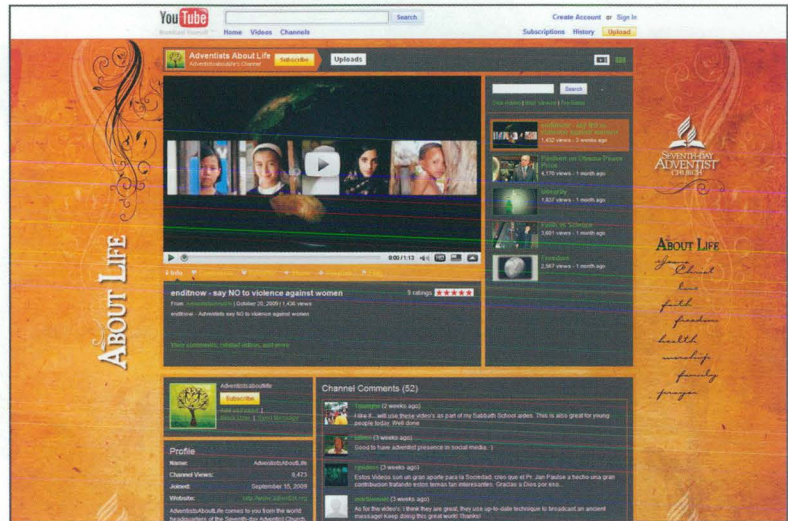
General Conference

GC Launches Video Series on YouTube

A new issues-driven video series broadcast on YouTube is part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's continued efforts to broaden the scope of its online outreach, church communicators said. Launched in early October, Adventists About Life is designed to stimulate conversation and offer a distinctly Adventist take on issues such as freedom, faith versus science, the environment and integrity.

"These videos have the potential to reach an audience that is typically 'tuned out' to the church's more traditional methods of ministry," said Rajmund Dabrowski, world church communication director and executive producer of the series.

You can find this important church resource at www.youtube.com/adventistsaboutlife. ■



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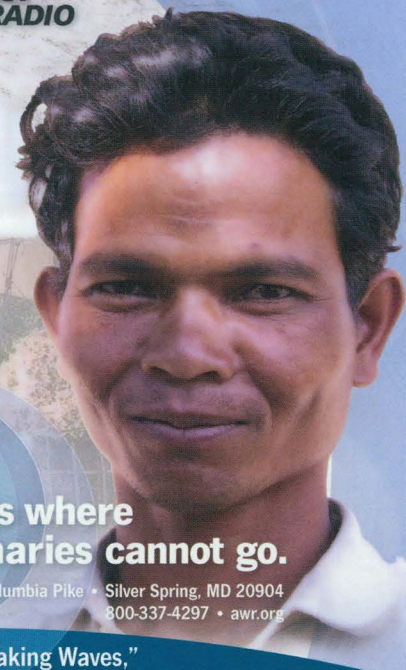


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- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Lori MacDonald lmacdonald@sdacc.org or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual 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**

Missing Members: The Terrace church in B.C. is looking for the following members: Dean Best, Raelene Best, Dave Borden, Lynn Borden, George Bowler, Gertrude Bowler, Bill Burns, Dustin Burns, Nathan Carriere, Krista Chan, Francis Christiansen, John Christensen, Sylvia Edgars, Patrick Ellert, Will Friesen, Dane Ganson, Kathleen Ganson, Claudette Grosset, Travis Harkins, Lenora Kennedy, Nadina Kos, Perry Kusnezoff, Sharon Lamke, Karen Lang, Sheila Leason, Bev Lyons, Clayton McClellan, Ken McClellan, Karen McClellan, Donna McColman, Calen McNeil, Kara Miller, Susan Nelson, Wilfred Nelson, Alex Olson, Clayton Overholt, Donna Overholt, Glen Overholt, Lanny Parsons, Toby Parsons, Dianna Penner, Henry Penner, Justin Penner, Kimberly Penner, Ferdie Poellot, Cory Reynolds, Daniel Scarborough, Erma Seaton, Lawrence Smith, Jason Smyth, Thomas Smyth, Titan Smyth, Jared Solomon, Susan Springer, Kathleen Stewart, Albert Townsend, Lea Townsend, Jennifer Wall, Delton Young. If you have any information about these members, please contact Darlene at dburch@telus.net

■ **New Members**

Zsofia Berki, Gyöngyi Király, Mihály Besszer and Ern Berki were baptized in Toronto, Ont. on Aug. 22, 2009 by Károly Nagy. They are now members of the Toronto Hungarian SDA church.

Carl Blair, Angela and Ethan Ruby, Louis and Lee Springer, Julie Astleford, Dawn Astleford, Amber Geates and Sianna (CiCi) DeBoer were baptized in the Shuswap River, B.C. on Aug. 22, 2009 by Cameron Koronko. Carl, Angela, Ethan, Louis and Lee are now members of the Armstrong church; Julie, Dawn and Amber are now members of the Grandview church; and Sianna is now a member of the Enderby church.

Kaelan Bovey was baptized in Sylvan Lake, Alta. on May 30, 2009 by Warren Kay. Kaelan is now a member of the Sylvan Lake church.

Erik Pataki and Shelley O'Donnell were baptized in Cambridge, Ont. on May 5, 2009 by Dirk Zinner. They are now members of the Cambridge church.

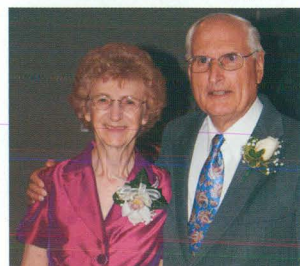
■ **Weddings**

Jodi Letniak and Marvin Primero were married July 26, 2009 in Sand Point, Idaho and are making their home in Fort Worth, Tex. Jodi is the daughter of Lawrence and Debbie Letniak of Veteran, Alta., and Marvin is the son of Romeo and Remedios Primero of Yucaipa, Calif.

■ **Anniversaries**

Wander (Leaming) and Edward Chipeur of Keremeos, B.C. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 23, 2009 in Kelowna, B.C. with their children and grandchildren. The Chipeurs have three children: sons Gerald (Barbara) of Calgary, Alta. and Mark (Maureen) of Tehachapi, Calif. and their daughter Rebecca (Everett) Davidson of Watrous, Sask. They also have four grandchildren.

Joyce and Larry Milliken celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on



Aug. 13, 2009 with a special event on Aug. 8, 2009 at the Willowdale church. The celebration included a vespers program and a reception in the fellowship hall. The Millikens have three children: Kathleen (Scott) Forner of Darien, Ill., Joan (Kent) Arsdell of Knoxville, Tenn. and Carol Crosby of Plymouth, Minn. They also have four grandchildren.

Dorothy and Allan Robertson of Kelowna, B.C. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 23,



2009. Their family was honoured to share in this joyous occasion. The Robertsons have two daughters: Joy (Dale) Sismey and Althea Robertson.

■ **Obituaries**

Rosalind (Clarke) Baier was born Oct. 26, 1948 in St. John's N.L. and died July 25, 2009 in St. John's. Rosalind served her church as Sabbath School teacher, leader and superintendent, as head deaconess and as assistant treasurer. She is predeceased by her father, Joseph. Surviving: husband Jack; son Glenn of Conception Bay South, N.L.; daughter Sonia (David) Nelson of Ingersoll, Ont.; mother Sadie Clarke; brothers Joseph (Karin Trelle) Clarke and Eric (Sharon) Clarke both of Conception Bay South and David (Marie) Clarke of Roslin, Ont.; and sisters Lillian (Thomas) Daniels and Judy (Elijah) Dawe both of Conception Bay South.

Alma (Parrish) Blahovich was born Oct. 19, 1920 in Dover Township, Ont. and died May 1, 2009 in Hamilton, Ont. Alma served her church as pianist and as an elementary school teacher for more than 30 years. She is predeceased by her husband David, and brother Otis. Surviving: sons Allan of Lavoy, Alta. and Darryl (Marisa) of Chatham, Ont.; daughter Donna (Allan) McEntegart of Bradford, Ont.; sister Esther Parrish of Chatham; and four grandchildren.

Mary (Guttormson) Fortney was born on Nov. 29, 1934 in Naicam, Sask. and died March 8, 2009 in Winnipegosis, Man. Mary served as a literature evangelist in Manitoba

for 13 years. She is predeceased by her brothers Allan, Einar, Stanley, Ingval, John and Gordon Guttormson and her sister Verna Goodwin. Surviving: husband Steve; son Dennis (Denice) of Edmonton, Alta.; daughters Brenda (Ira) Mayne of Yakima, Wash., Louise (Jeff) Winter of Lafayette, Ore. and Ruth (Chuck) Malin of Columbia, Md.; sisters Elsie Philip of Prince George, B.C., Irene Clark of Naicam, Myrtle (Marcel) Martin of Red Deer, Alta., Ruby Antipovich of Winnipegosis, Olive Unger of Prince George and Jean (Mike) Fushety of Grand Prairie, Alta.; and seven grandchildren.

Shirley (Ashcroft) French was born Aug. 15, 1935 in Lethbridge, Alta. and died Aug. 2, 2009 in Yakima, Wash. She is predeceased by her brother Jack and her sister Melora Hanks. Surviving: husband Lloyd; son Robert of Long Beach, Calif.; daughter Barbara Breitenfeldt of Yakima, Wash.; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Gordon Kennedy was born May 13, 1920 in Cabri, Sask. and died May 15, 2009 in Lacombe, Alta. Gordon served his church as a literature evangelist, a lay preacher and as linotype operator for Parkland ColorPress. He was also a founding member of the churches in Ponoka, Alta. and Mirror, Alta. He is predeceased by his first wife Mamie, daughter Colleen, brothers Milton, Walter, Arthur, John and Gilford, and his sisters Beatrice and May. Surviving: wife Helen; daughter Dawn (Bob) Clark of Shaunavon, Sask.; brother Roy of North Battleford, Sask.; and two grandchildren.

Rudy Kwiram was born Dec. 24, 1921 in Hamm, Westphalia, Germany and died Aug. 14, 2009 in Abbotsford, B.C. Rudy served his church as treasurer, Sabbath School superintendent and deacon. He also served on church and school boards. He is predeceased by his brother Willi and his sister Martha Kuhn. Surviving: wife Stephanie; son Ryan (Ina); brothers Ben (Elsie) and Alvin (Verla); sister Elsie Golke; and one grandchild.

Joseph McCreery was born Oct. 28, 1909 in Arden, Man. and died Feb. 27, 2009 in Ste. Rose du Lac, Man. Joseph is predeceased by his brothers Arthur, William, David, Alexander and Benjamin and his sister Elizabeth Janke. Surviving: sisters-in-law Alma McCreery Reimche of Lacombe, Alta. and Alma McCreery of Waterhen, Man.

William Pfanmuller was born July 28, 1918 in Winterburn, Alta. and died Sept. 2, 2009 in Abbotsford,

B.C. Surviving: wife Julie; sons Barry (Dolores) of Abbotsford, Roy (Pam) of Coldstream, B.C. and Dean of Abbotsford; daughters LeeAnn (Walter) Chiakowsky of Abbotsford and Gwen (Eugene) Skoretz of Langley, B.C.; sisters June (Ben) Wiech of Hanna, Alta. and Lorraine (Victor) Fast of Kelowna, B.C.; 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ronald Rusk was born Dec. 31, 1945 in Prince Albert, Sask. and died Aug. 26, 2009 in Lacombe, Alta. Ronald worked in the Adventist school system serving as teacher, administrator and counsellor in Saskatchewan, Ontario and B.C. He is predeceased by his father, John, and his brother Donald. Surviving: wife Cheryl; sons Randy (Kyla) of Calgary, Alta. and Kent (Rachel) of Williams Lake, B.C.; daughters Sheri (Murray) Grovet of Lacombe and Chantelle (Matt) Picco of Ferintosh, Alta.; mother Maj-Britt of Lacombe; sisters Darlene (Don) Sands of Oshawa, Ont. and Daphne (Tom) McConnell of Winnipeg, Man.

Orval Troop was born Feb. 14, 1926 in Portage la Prairie, Man. and died

Aug. 30, 2009 in Portage la Prairie. Orval served as elder for many years and also faithfully tended the grounds of the church. He is predeceased by his brother Alvin and his sister Phyllis Sloik. Surviving: wife Gwendolyn; sons Douglas (Jayne) of Brandon, Man., Keith (Cheryl) and Ronald both of Portage la Prairie; stepsons Larry (Pat) Bradley of Guelph, Ont. and Tim (Wendy) Bradley of Hope, B.C.; daughters Colleen (Darrell) Fedak of Watson, Sask. and Marilyn (Linden) McCarty of Ponoka, Alta.; stepdaughters Pamela (Gordon) Weir of Edmonton, Alta., Joni Bradley of Calgary, Alta. and Cynthia (Bela) Incze of Ottawa, Ont.; 23 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Doris (Hey) von Gunten was born July 23, 1915 in Paris, Ont. and died Aug. 31, 2009 in Oshawa, Ont. Doris served her church as deaconess, worked in the Sabbath School divisions and as a volunteer leader of the community services centre in Oshawa. She is predeceased by her husband Jules and sister Myrtle Embleton. Surviving: daughters Pharolyn (John) Perk and Eleanor von Gunten both of Oshawa; sisters Isabel Close and Lillian Dodd both of Paris and Ruby Hillock of Loma Linda, Calif.; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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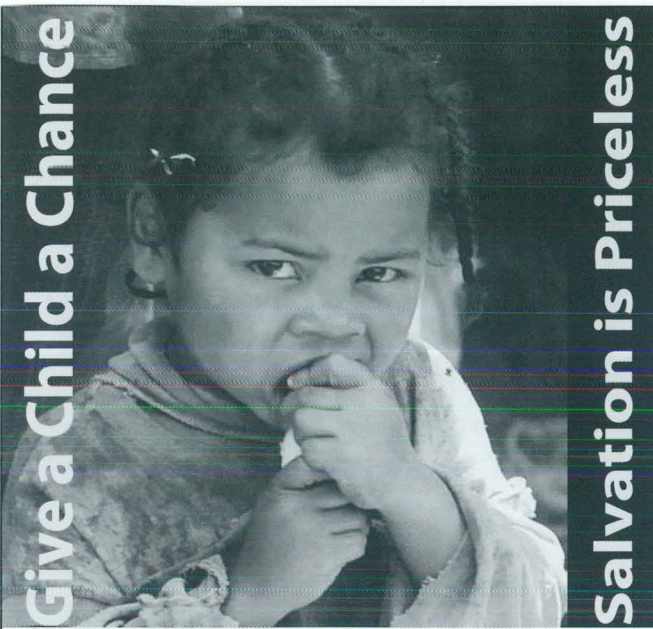
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COMPLETION

My music collection was incomplete without *Completion*.

Kingsway College is the place to be—a beautiful campus, education with strong Christian components, and a launching pad of some of the most talented young people in our church today. The loss of our seasoned musicians at graduation is only offset by the influx of new freshmen with budding interest in the musical arts. It is thus no surprise that a group of six very gifted musicians came together and realized a special connection through harmony and instrumentation; the result was *Completion*.

A professionally recorded and packaged project, *Completion* is a wonderful collection of ten songs rejoicing and praising our Creator. With a strong penchant towards the folk genre, the combination of acoustic guitar, piano, violin, bass and drums offers the tonal foundation of the accompaniment. Completing the ensemble of sound are the vocals; more than once I found myself thinking I was listening to The Cranberries (*Your Love is Real*) and James Taylor (*Faith Walk*). The complementary vocals blend smoothly, weaving an audio tapestry of detail and precision. I personally found *Making Life Complete* and *Holy One* to be quite inspiring. I also enjoyed the upbeat “cajun-esque” elements of *The Turning Point*. It is a charming combination, to say the least.

One might think that performance is the essence of *Completion*; however, it is only the surface—the depth of the group goes beyond vocals and accompaniment. This album is the culmination of many talents. The six members of *Completion* not only performed all works, but also wrote the lyrics, composed the music, arranged the instrumentation and vocals, and assisted in editing the pieces in post-production. It is truly a testament to the collaboration of gifted, dedicated Christians.

This album on its own is truly impressive. What makes it even more credible is the personal connection I’ve been blessed to have with each of these youthful ministers. I can personally attest to the integrity of all six members, as I have interacted with them all in various forums here on campus. They have contributed not only musically but also through leadership roles and spiritual commitment. Add all these components together, and you achieve *Completion*.

I could continue to enthusiastically rave about the attributes of this project, but I recommend you experience *Completion* firsthand to truly appreciate their merits. Their website houses a sampling of this album’s tracks for your perusal, as well as personal information about each band member. You can access their website at www.completionband.com/main. Give it a listen—you’ll be pleasantly rewarded and blessed. In addition you’ll be supporting a musical ministry dedicated to furthering the gospel. I highly recommend this CD especially to Christian-music lovers of all ages. ■

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

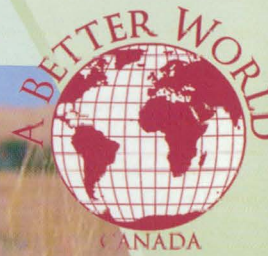


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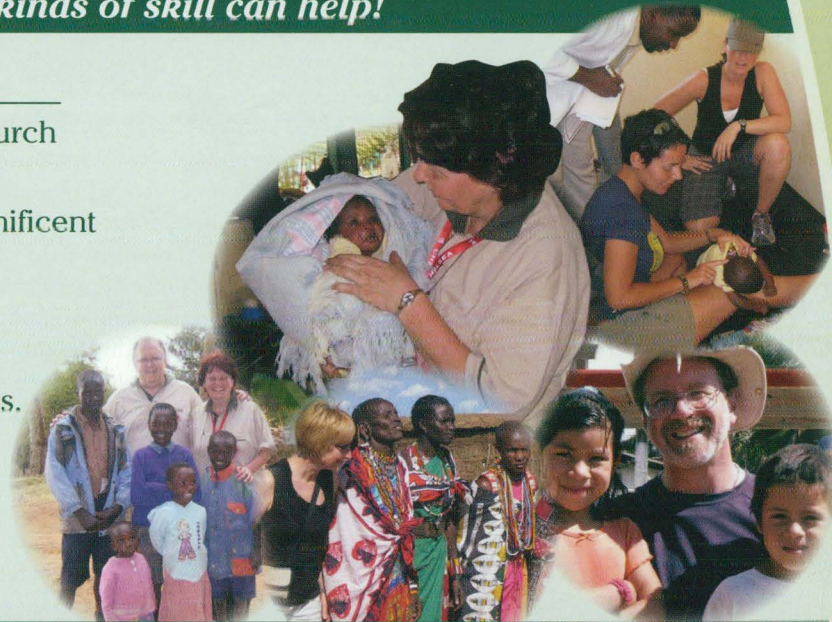


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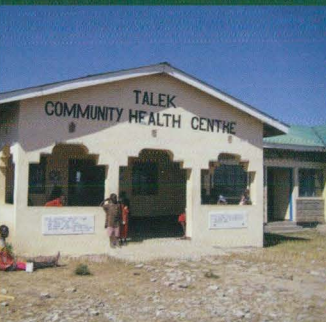
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About Us

A Better World was founded in 1990 by the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of Canadian University College. Managed entirely by volunteers, A Better World involves community and church members and implements projects in direct partnership with local communities. Together you can volunteer your skills, support projects and experience the joy of helping beyond the borders of Canada. Over 1000 volunteers have travelled with A Better World!