

canadian adventist

Messenger

january 2010

Changing Lives in Central Alberta

MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL

PLUS: Air Time for *The Adventists* (p.14);
SDACC Board Affirms Creation (p.4)

“What We Have Here is a Failure to Communicate”

I watched in utter disbelief as the play unfolded on the television screen before me. It was a moment that will go down in Canadian sports history. I'm talking about the last few seconds of the 2009 Grey Cup football game. The Saskatchewan Roughriders led rival Montreal Alouettes throughout the entire game but, by the final moments, had let their lead slip until the Als were within striking distance. There was just time enough for a final field goal attempt. The pressure had to be enormous. It was a do-or-die situation. The Als would either make the field goal and win the game or miss and hand the victory to the other guys. The Als kicker lined up and struck, but his shot went wide of the uprights. Riders fans began to party! Before the first cheer of victory even had time to pass their lips, however, they were stalled by the realization that there had been a flag on the play. Their team was penalized for lining up with too many players on the field! Too many players on the field?! How does that happen? The Als were given a “do-over,” and this time the kick was good. This time it was the Als fans who celebrated while the Riders looked on bewildered at how swiftly the win that was theirs had slipped away.

I'm not a big sports fan, that's sure, but it was hard not to be captivated by the drama of this story as it happened just a few months ago. The emotional upheaval that swept back and forth across that stadium was remarkable. The game belonged to the Roughriders. It was theirs for the taking. They held it in their hands and were elated. A split second later, however, their fortune reversed completely, and they came up short. Why?

“It was a lack of communication,” said Riders coach Ken Miller in interviews following the game. A lack of communication! The defeat seemed more bitter and more crushing with the realization that a lame mistake was the cause. Bad enough to lose because the other team is bigger, faster, stronger or smarter. Worse to lose when the guys on the field have played hard but someone on the sidelines called the play wrong. But the coach's assessment was correct. “It was a lack of communication.”

As a part of the body of Christ's followers, we are embroiled in a mission far more important than football. The objective is clear: “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). Time is ticking away, and we are in the final seconds. Many are working hard to complete the task, giving everything they've got out in the field. My fear is that, too often, the same ill that befell the Riders in that Grey Cup game also plagues our church. A lack of communication.

Communication in this decade is instant and mobile and constant. How is a monthly print publication to keep up? The *Messenger* is committed to good communication, to keeping each member of the team connected with each other and with those behind the scenes coaches who often get to call the plays. As 2010 begins, we remind ourselves of that commitment and recognize that, to be effective, we need to change our methods. We are working hard on some new ideas and planning some interesting changes to help the church achieve its goal. None of it will be easy, but each of us here at the *Messenger* wants to be of use to the team. We are determined that we will not drop the ball. ■

Crystal

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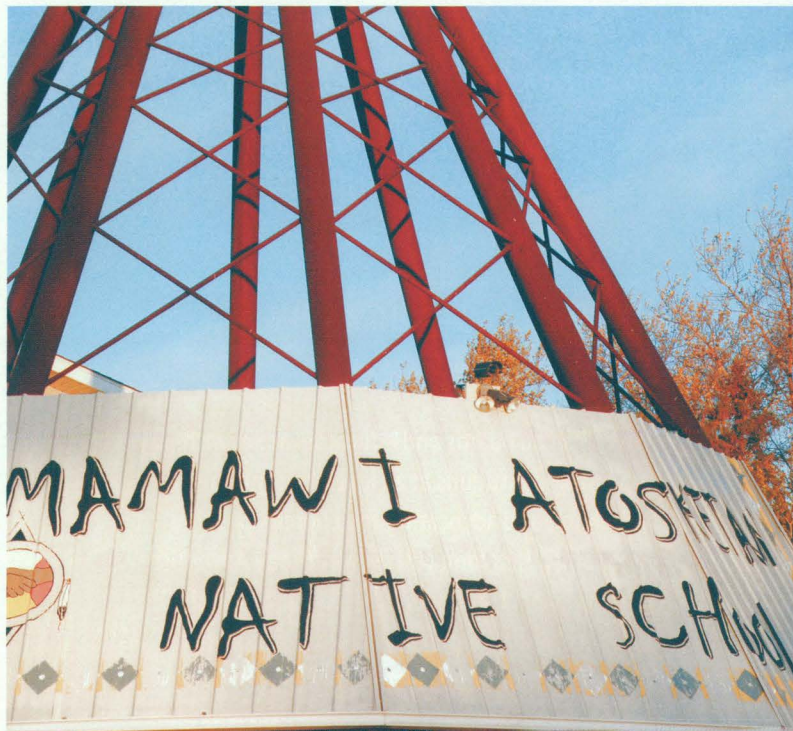
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WHAT'S INSIDE

January 2010



FEATURES

- 4 **STATEMENT**
SDACC official statement affirming creation
- 13 **DEVOTIONAL**
The Goosebump Myth
- 12 **HEALTHY LIVING**
The Plus of Protein
- 14 **OUTREACH**
Air Time for "The Adventists"
- 16 **COVER STORY**
'Mamawi Atosketan' Means Working Together:
Changing Lives in Central Alberta
- 20 **CANADIANS ABROAD**
The 2010 Olympics: Sharing More Than Gold

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2 **EDITORIAL** What We Have Here is a Failure to Communicate—Communication in this decade is instant and mobile and constant.
- 5 **PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE** Oh, the Size!—The God of the macrocosm and the God of the microcosm has focused His eternal love on us.
- 6 **TEENTALK** Can You Hear Me Now?—We just need to adjust our ears to His frequency.
- 7 **CREATION CORNER** Clark's Nutcracker
- 8 **CUC** Student to Teacher—Rebekah McClair's education has just begun.
- 10 **A DIGITAL DENOMINATION**
Streaming Video and Audio Online
- 11 **ADRA CANADA** Wells for Peace—Can a water well bring peace and hope to a community?
- 21 **NEWS** Reports from the Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia conferences, and the SDA Church in Canada.
- 26 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 31 **THE BACK PAGE**

Affirming Creation

On November 22, 2009, the Board of Directors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada unanimously voted to re-affirm its support of and commitment to the idea expressed in the following statement:

Whereas belief in a literal, six-day creation is indissolubly linked with the authority of Scripture, and;

Whereas such belief interlocks with other doctrines of Scripture, including the Sabbath and the Atonement, and;

Whereas Seventh-day Adventists understand our mission, as specified in Revelation 14:6, 7, to include a call to the world to worship God as Creator,

We, the members of the General Conference Executive Committee at the 2004 Annual Council, state the following as our response to the document, *An Affirmation of Creation*, submitted by the International Faith & Science Conferences:

We strongly endorse the document's affirmation of our historic, biblical position of belief in a literal, recent, six-day Creation.

We urge that the document, accompanied by this response, be disseminated widely throughout the world Seventh-day Adventist Church, using all available communication channels and in the major languages of world membership.

We reaffirm the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the historicity of Genesis 1-11: that the seven days

of the Creation account were literal 24-hour days forming a week identical in time to what we now experience as a week; and that the Flood was global in nature.

We call on all boards and educators at Seventh-day Adventist institutions at all levels to continue upholding and advocating the church's position on origins. We, along with Seventh-day Adventist parents, expect students to receive a thorough, balanced, and scientifically rigorous exposure to and affirmation of our historic belief in a literal, recent six-day creation, even as they are educated to understand and assess competing philosophies of origins that dominate scientific discussion in the contemporary world.

We urge church leaders throughout the world to seek ways to educate members, especially young people attending non-Seventh-day Adventist schools, in the issues involved in the doctrine of creation.

We call on all members of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist family to proclaim and teach the church's understanding of the biblical doctrine of Creation, living in its light, rejoicing in our status as sons and daughters of God, and praising our Lord Jesus Christ—our Creator and Redeemer. ■

Oh, the Size!

It is estimated that you could fit one million Planet Earths inside the Sun. Amazing!

AM FASCINATED BY THE IMMENSE AND BY THE MICROSCOPIC.

Because most of us are normal, regular and average, the things in between those extremes don't catch our eye quite so quickly. The visible, "life-size" things between those extremes often don't catch our eye because they make up our immediate, surrounding world. An exploration of the two solitudes (the macrocosmic and the microcosmic), however, can leave you with your eyes, and your mouth, wide open.

Stars amaze me! Our sun gives us a sense of scale. This star, located 148,800,000 kilometres (92,460,000 miles) from earth, is 1.4 million kilometres (870,000 miles) across. It is difficult for us to comprehend! The sun accounts for 99.9 percent of all matter in our solar system. It is estimated that you could fit one million planet earths inside the sun. Amazing!

However, the largest known star is YV Canis Majoris. It is what the astronomers call a hyper-giant star. Located in the constellation Canis Major, it is about 5,000 light years from Earth. A professor from the University of Minnesota, Roberta Humphreys, calculated its size at more than 2,100 times the size of the sun. If YV Canis Majoris were located in our solar system, its surface would extend beyond the orbit of Saturn. It is so big, as a matter of fact, that light takes more than eight hours to cross its circumference. Travelling at a speed of 292,800 kilometres (182,000 miles) per second, you begin to sense the immensity.

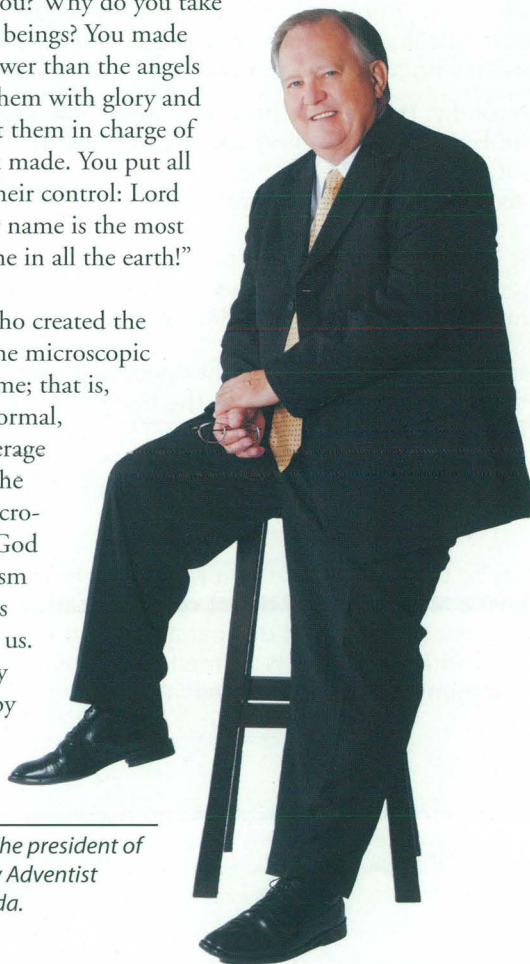
Yet, the microscopic also captures my thinking! I just recently became aware of a discovery that was made back in 1973. One thing is sure: time hasn't changed the awesomeness of that moment when a scientist came across the fact that some bacteria have an amazing propulsion device called a flagellum (a Latin word which simply means whip). The bacteria navigate the world of the cell by rotating their flagella, which act like rotary propellers. As a matter of fact, this amazingly tiny life form is actually constructed like a motor. It is comprised of a universal joint, a propeller, a drive shaft with bushings, a stator and a rotor. Each part of the motor must function or the

bacteria would die. Scientists tell us that there are millions of these bacteria floating around in your body. Amazing!

As a child, I learned to sing "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all." I still sing the song today and believe more than ever that God created our world as the Bible says. He is the source or your life and mine. The more we delve into the universe and the molecular, the more we find reason and faith to believe.

David had it right in Psalm 8:3-6, 9 when he wrote, "I look at your heavens, which you made with your fingers. I see the moon and stars, which you created. But why are people even important to you? Why do you take care of human beings? You made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You put them in charge of everything you made. You put all things under their control: Lord our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth!" (NCV).

The One who created the fantastic and the microscopic loves you and me; that is, He loves the normal, regular and average you and me. The God of the macrocosm and the God of the microcosm has focused His eternal love on us. I am completely overwhelmed by the size of His love. ■



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



Josue Sanchez is tuning in.

“Can you hear me now?”

January, 2010

A friend asked me, “How do I know when God talks to me?” Honestly, I’ve never heard God’s voice myself ... What should I tell him?

Josué Sánchez

Answer

God is always talking to us. We just need to listen.

Oook . . . I know what you are thinking (well, I’m guessing). I wish it were this simple, too. But actually, it is! We “just” need to adjust our ears to His frequency.

First, God speaks to you through the Bible. Read John 10:2-4. It says that the shepherd’s “sheep follow him because they know his voice.” When you read the Bible, you are “reading His voice” so to speak. When you understand what the Bible says, you are having an encounter with God right there. Quite neat, eh?

Secondly, He speaks through prayer. Now, how do you know what the Holy Spirit is telling you? I can’t give you an exact formula, but the rule of thumb is this: you will know it. Somehow you’ll have a clear idea of His will. Just be patient and don’t worry, because He will make sure you get it. Philippians 2:13 says that “it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” But for that to happen, you need to pray! It is during prayer that He communicates best.

He also speaks through other people, especially from church. Paul said that the church is the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27) and that He is the head of it (Eph. 4:15), so we can take its members seriously when it comes to advice. In fact, Paul reassures us that “a spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other” (1 Cor. 12:7)

Maybe this is not what you wanted to hear. It would be easier to have a Moses kind of direct communication with God. And make no mistake, He could do that again! But He is more interested in the *relationship* that is formed when you are actively trying to hear Him than in what He has to say.

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!

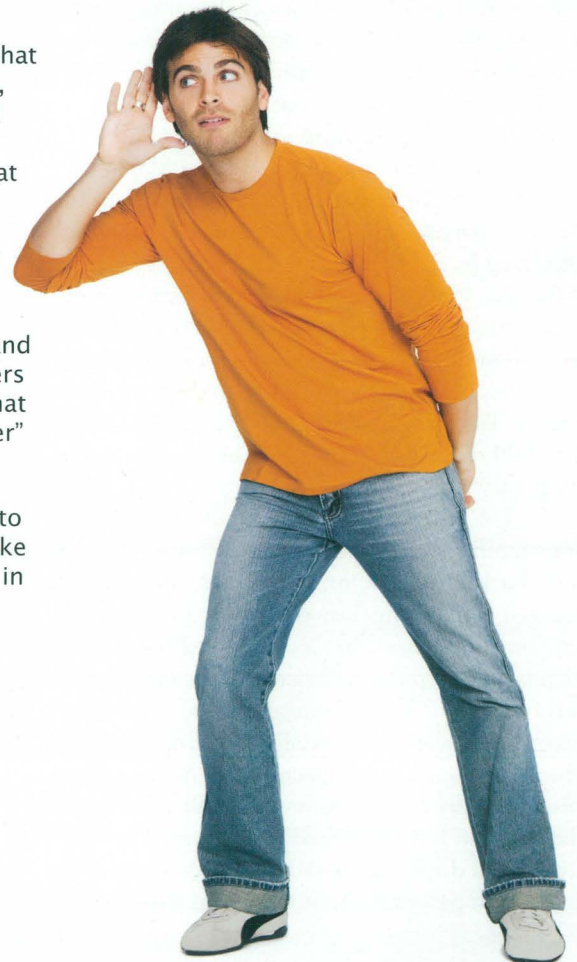
Become a fan of TeenTalk to keep updated (you’ll need a Facebook account)

Josue

www.JosueSanchez.com

Josué is a youth pastor with a passion to share Jesus with teens. He currently lives in Hagerstown, MD with his wife and small daughter.

Make sure you add him to your *Facebook*, *MySpace*, *Twitter* or *FlowWith.me* friends list!



Creation Corner for Kids

“Abram replied, ‘I have solemnly promised the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from you’”
(Genesis 14:22, 23 NLT).

Clark's Nutcracker

From its perch atop a nearby pine tree, a Clark's Nutcracker swooped down and made himself a guest at our picnic table. It's always amazing to me how God can put together simple colours like black and white to make a beautiful thing. Even though it's only black, white and grey, the nutcracker is a beautiful bird. But this beautiful mountain bird has a very bad habit. He takes advantage of people.

As soon as he saw us sit down with our food, without an invitation, he landed on the picnic table. He wasn't even a friendly beggar. He wanted just one thing—our food. He stood there watching us, boldly waiting for the opportunity to steal our lunch.



Think about it.

Though we should never do it, Christians are sometimes guilty of taking advantage of other people. Usually, we're more sly about using others than the nutcracker is. Still, being friendly to others just so we can get something from them makes us look very bad. Worse than that, it makes Christianity look unattractive to those who might be saved.

Do it.

If you have a problem of taking advantage of others, pray Abraham's prayer. Ask God to help you not to covet what others have and resist the urge to take advantage of others in any way. Remember, whining and pestering to get something from your parents is included here, too. Learn more about the nutcracker at www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Clarks_Nutcracker/id



This last year, I taught English as a student missionary in Almaty, Kazakhstan. I've always been interested in serving God and others in any way I can. Missions just seemed like a natural step for me, and I felt that God was calling me to go after I graduated from Canadian University College. In Almaty, I got to interact with my students and other friends I've met along the way. We often talked about God, shared our different views and encouraged one another. The area that I lived in is predominantly Muslim and Russian Orthodox. I can't say that I've converted people to become Seventh-day Adventists, but I believe God has used me and the others I work with to help our friends see a clearer picture of God and who He is. Many people have changed in the 10 months that I've been here. Their characters have changed, their need for God has changed, and their spiritual understanding and relationship with God has

Rebekah McClair (centre)
was a member of Rise Above

STUDENT TO TEACHER



Rebekah McClair with friends at CUC.



Rebekah McClair with one of her ESL students.

changed—all for the better. It's been a blessing to watch, and as I've watched and continued in my own journey with God, I've changed too!

As I mentioned before, I've always been interested in serving others and God. On top of that, I have a passion for young people, and that is one of the reasons why I became a teacher. Whether I am teaching English here in Kazakhstan or biology at home in Canada, I know God has a mission field. My time studying at CUC definitely helped prepare me for wherever God would have me serve. All the classes, activities, service opportunities and responsibilities; the dorm life, the spiritual and diverse atmosphere; all the mentors I found in the staff and faculty there really geared me up for my time here. I was able to go into teaching ESL with confidence. I was able to easily mix with, befriend and share God's love with a diverse group of people with differing cultures, beliefs, values and experiences.

My experience at CUC was really enjoyable. I know I will always look back on it with fondness. It provided me with the supportive, spiritual community I was looking for and needed to succeed. I also developed my leadership skills as I took roles in the choir, the

dormitory, worship teams, and Rise Above. I also made great lifelong friends during my time at CUC. There was a sense of family between the students, especially in the dorm. There was always someone to talk with, share with, pray with, hang with, run with, sing with, study with, etc. The friendships I made were ones that built up and did not tear down; they were an encouragement in many ways.

At the end of December, I moved on to the next phase in my life that God has prepared for me. I am will be teaching high school science in B.C. I am excited to put all that I've learned in and out of my classes at CUC into practice. I'm thrilled about joining the staff at my new school and becoming active in educating our young people. I truly believe that all that I've learned at CUC has enabled me to go into life prepared to serve. Also, very importantly, it has taught and provided me with methods on how to continually learn, adapt and better myself in any given situation. I pray that God will use these tools to mold me into the teacher and person He wants me to be. ■

Rebekah McClair graduated from CUC with a BEd in Secondary Education specializing in Biology.



Rebekah McClair enjoying the Kazakhstan scenery.



Streaming Video and Audio Online



Remember sitting at my computer back in the year 2000, while I was pastoring in Newfoundland, trying to watch a video over the Internet on a 56k dial-up connect. What an unpleasant experience that was. Kind of like driving through a Newfoundland snow storm in January. The video would start and stop every few seconds, and you spent more time staring at the word “buffering” on the status bar than watching the video. And to make things worse, for the few seconds that the video actually played in between stops, it was choppy, pixelated and hard to see.

Well, those early days of Internet video (and the unpleasant experiences associated with it) are long gone. Streaming video and audio have come a long way since then.

According to an online source, 57 million people listen to Internet radio every week, and in 2006, people watched more than a million streaming videos a day on YouTube.

Online video consumption continues to grow at an astonishing rate. A global leader in measuring the digital world, comScore, Inc., released a report showing that 21 million Canadians viewed more than 3.1 billion videos online during the month of February 2009. ComScore also reports that an average of 15.5 billion videos are watched online in North America each month and 27 billion hours were spent on the Internet globally in September 2009.

With the recent technological advances in faster networks for mobile devices such as Apple’s 3GS iPhone and the Blackberry Storm, online mobile video consumption is alive and well.

Given these staggering facts about the Internet and online video consumption, streaming your audio/video sermons is a huge evangelistic tool.

Here are the steps to get your next sermon from the pulpit to the information highway:

STEP 1—Record the events from your church (sermons, seminars, etc.). To record an audio file, you can use a computer with audio recording software or a small MP3 recorder with a line input. To record the video, you should use a digital camera that has a FireWire output.

STEP 2—Transfer your recording to your computer. Connect your video camera to your computer using the FireWire connection and cable. The computer will detect that your camera is now connected. To get the audio from an MP3 recorder, you can connect the device to your computer using a USB cable. The computer will detect that your audio device is connected.

STEP 3—Edit your audio/video file on your computer and convert it to a format suitable for use on the web. You can use one of the many specialized video editing software programs available, like Adobe Premiere, Sony Vegas Pro, QuickTime Pro or Final Cut Pro for the Mac OS X to edit your video files. For editing audio files, you can use software like Audacity or Fission for Mac OS X.

Then you can export (encode) your file to a web format—for example, Flash (.flv), MP4, Windows Media (.wmv), Real Media (.rm), QuickTime (.mov) and MP3 (for audio).

STEP 4—Upload your file to a media server. Contact your website provider to ask for media storage. Then use a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) program to upload your file to the media server. There are many choices available for a good FTP program. FileZilla is free for Windows. For Mac OS X, an excellent choice is Transmit.

STEP 5—Add information about your file on your website and link to them. If your church website is an Adventist Church Connect site that is provided by the North American Division to every church in North America, you could use the media modules already available to you. These features make it easy to add information about your audio/video files, such as title, description, URL (a link to your file location to the media server), duration, size, etc.

If your church is not using an Adventist Church Connect website, the best option for video is called “JW FLV Player” and can be found online at <http://www.longtailvideo.com/>.

If you are using a website that is powered by a WordPress Content Management System (CMS), you could use the Sermon Browser plug-in, available at <http://www.4-14.org.uk/wordpress-plugins/sermon-browser>.

Well, I hope this information and step-by-step guide will help you get your audio and video files from your church to the Internet. Let’s continue moving forward and learning how to better use the technology opportunities God has made available to us to lead people to Jesus. ■

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

Wells for Peace

“God blesses those people
who make peace. They
will be called his children!”
(Matt. 5:9, CEV).



“We don’t fight anymore because we share the water.” The words spoken so softly sound nonchalant, but I know they are the most important words I’ve heard all day. As she speaks through an interpreter, Ayesha sits on the ground under a thatched-roof shelter with the women and children in her family who have agreed to talk about their lives and describe the benefits of the ADRA water well located nearby.

Ayesha lives in West Darfur State, Sudan. Her home is located three hours north of the state’s capital, El Geneina. My visit is a momentous occasion, and the women in this nomadic family have tidied up their “yard” and are eager to show off their home to the foreign guest. Colourful fabrics line the inner walls and ceiling of the hut, and various household necessities are stacked against the walls. It’s a cozy home with everything neatly arranged—everything including two AK-47 rifles on the bed. As my eyes rest on the rifles, I recall Ayesha’s words and wonder: in this country of friendly, hospitable people, what does water have to do with peace?

The answer to that question lies in understanding some of the basic challenges faced by the nomads and farmers in West Darfur.

Nomads migrate across the country

with their herds of livestock in search of water and grazing land for their animals. Farmers establish permanent homes, plant crops and build fences to protect those crops. Conflict often arises when the nomads migrate across the farmers’ land and their animals destroy fences, trample and eat crops, and pollute the water supply.

Both sides lose when the farmers use force to protect the crops and water they need for survival and the nomads use rifles to protect their livestock. In extreme cases, farmers have even destroyed their own water pumps in order to keep the nomads away from their villages.

Other factors contributing to the conflict include complex tribal, economic, cultural, religious and political issues that are often misunderstood by Westerners. Sometimes, mistrust, jealousy and hate result when there are insufficient basic resources such as water, food, education, sanitation and health.

I have worked in at least four countries affected by civil war and have never encountered a community that prefers conflict to peace. But when nobody seems to care about their daily struggle to obtain basic necessities and they can’t envision anything good in the future, people often lose hope. When hope is gone, it becomes easy to justify violence

in order to survive. There is a saying: “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing” (Edmund Burke).

ADRA is working with both the nomads and the farmers to develop water resources and provide training in the use of clean water, sanitation, and basic health care. By sharing its resources, ADRA is teaching people in Sudan and other countries to do the same. When I see what has been achieved and the attitudes of the people in the communities in which ADRA works, I am encouraged to continue to support water, sanitation, health and education projects in the communities that lack these things that we take for granted.

Some may view these projects as overly simple, downplaying the extent of their influence on peace and stability. But actually, these projects play a key role in building the framework for open dialogue, which allows people to peacefully find their own solutions. Can a water well bring peace and hope to a community? It certainly can, and I saw proof of it with my own eyes in West Darfur. ■

Ronald Kuhn is the executive director and Elizabeth Horniachek is the donor relations assistant of ADRA Canada.

The Plus of Protein



January is a month of differences: depending on a person's perspective, it can be either a positive or a negative month. For the outdoor enthusiast, there is time for lots of winter sports, like skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. For others who do not like the cold, this month can mean less sun, and possibly being shut in, especially for the elderly. The prairies are especially cold, and the amount of snow can make it difficult for people to get out of the house. The month of January also leaves many people down in the dumps: The holidays are over and there is not as much to look forward to. Maybe you have even gained weight over the holidays. You may feel that now is the time to make some positive changes in your life. This endeavour does not need to be difficult or drastic; by committing to small, gradual changes you can reap benefits.

Because eating is such a regular and necessary part of life, we can do a lot for our health by simply improving our meals. Today, let's talk about protein, an important part of any nutritious meal. Protein has a number of functions. It helps repair the cells in the body. It also slows down the digestion so as to allow for greater satiety. This is especially important for diabetics and those trying to lose weight. These are just some of the reasons to ensure that you

have enough protein in your diet. There is, of course, the other extreme of consuming too much protein.

Protein comes from a variety of sources, including red meat, poultry, fish, cheese, milk, nuts, legumes and seeds. A person following the health principles set out in the Bible will avoid the use of pork products, but may eat beef, chicken, turkey, fish and the rest of the clean meats. A vegetarian will use milk, eggs and cheese, along with vegan sources of protein. The protein sources for a vegan are nuts, seeds, grains, legumes and other sources. When considering the source of protein in your diet, be aware of the fat that often comes with the protein. For example, a lot of meat and animal products have saturated fat, which is not very healthy.

Protein is composed of essential amino acids. The amino acids in the right combinations will make a complete protein. Sources of protein from animal products (meat, poultry, fish, eggs, milk and cheese) are complete sources of protein. If you are a vegan, you need to complement proteins to ensure you are getting all of the amino acid building blocks in a day, but you don't need to eat all of these amino acids in the same meal. An example of a complete protein is rice and beans (legumes).

According to Canada's Food Guide, a person needs two servings of meat and alternates a day and two servings of milk and alternates. According to the Vegetarian Food Guide pyramid, one needs five servings of legumes, nuts and other rich protein foods.

A "haystack"—layers of corn chips (or rice), beans, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes—is just one example of a one-dish meal that contains protein (rice and beans/cheese). What are other sources of protein that you can think of? Do you eat a source of protein with every meal?

So, do you like the outdoors in January or do you prefer to stay indoors? Are you considering losing weight especially now that the holidays are over? Regardless of your lifestyle, you need protein in your diet every day. It is part of a healthy eating plan that will have a positive effect on how you feel. Have you considered what sources of protein you eat and what changes you can make to your diet to eat more healthfully? ■

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

The Goosebumps Myth

It is quite good to be a Seven-Days Gladventist. You don't have to change behavioral coats.

No need to create a special playlist in your iTunes library. Sunsets fade effortlessly.

The Sabbath is served in an extended release capsule. You are a Christian 24/7 and love it.

And then you wake up.

Depression takes over. Shades of grey dominate your world. Nothing is what it was, and what it was really wasn't.

The measuring tape is elastic, worthless, because you take your emotions as evidence of the truth. The signed paper is wet—better discard it. Distortion rules your decision making process. You go from all-or-nothing thinking to over-generalizing.

You apply a mental filter, picking out a negative detail in everything. You rapidly invalidate any positive feedback from your peers and jump to conclusions (or rather, contusions).

You've become a Seven-Nights Sadventist.

The grass is greener on the other side of the fence. You just know it. You look at the Seven-Days Gladventists and envy their fluoride-treated smiles. If only you could smile again! Afraid of being rejected, you keep your feelings to yourself. However, the masquerade doesn't last long. You can't hide it anymore. You've got to say it. Bowed head. Eyes fixed on the floor. "I suffer from depression." There you go. Now what? Wait. Wait a little more. Raise your head and what do you see? A group of well-intentioned but clueless Seven-Days Gladventists ready to solve your problem. They take turns. "Just pray about it." "Jesus loves you, don't you see that?" "How can you be depressed when God is blessing you so much?" "Come on, you don't have any reason to be depressed!" "Christians don't get depressed."

Your cry for help brings pain instead of relief. You feel guilty. "I'm not spiritual enough." "I don't have what it takes to be a Christian." "Jesus is punishing my lack of faith!" "Of course, what do I expect? I'm not happy at

church anymore, nor pray as much as I used to. I have a spiritual crisis!" "I have a bad relationship with God!"

Ever felt this way? I have.

I suffer from chronic depression and I'm exhausted. I read about it, pray about it, preach about it, write about it and talk about it. I fight the symptoms of depression with prayer, positive focus, medication, meditation, natural remedies and gardening. I'm just tired. That's all. But fighting.

Ten years. Non-stop. I used to jump from feeling guilty to blaming God for everything. "My relationship with God is a disaster. I can't read the Bible. I can't even concentrate enough to pray! What a bad Christian I am. What a hypocritical pastor I've become!" And then, "Why doesn't He make me feel better? Why isn't prayer working?" Fortunately though, after years of spiritual anguish and emotional wounds, I've come to realize that my definition of "relationship with Jesus" was distorted.

Goosebumps in church fail to define my relationship with Jesus.

It's not about me. It's about Him. It's not about how I feel in church. Nor the amount of time I spend in prayer. It's not how much I've read the Bible this week. It's about Him. Him! He is the one who died on the cross. He is the one who reconciled us with God. He is the one who forgives us. He is the one!

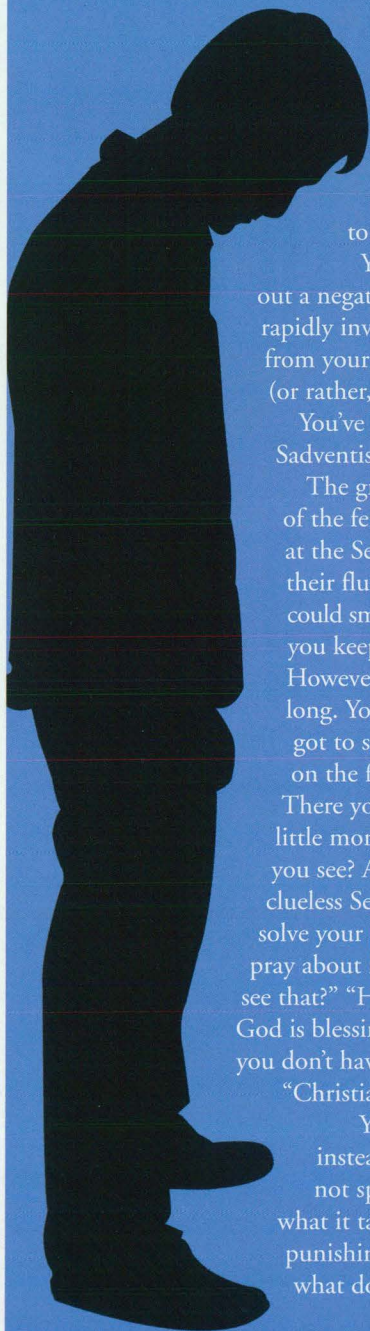
I've finally learned to trust God with my eyes closed. Yes, closed, because I can't see Him nor feel Him anyway. But I know He is there. Period. I don't have to feel good to trust Jesus. I don't have to say a prayer to be in touch with God. I can barely finish a whole prayer! But I know that God knows my heart. His love doesn't depend on my feelings.

Often, my prayer is a simple "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus . . ."; I just can't go further.

Thus, when a Seven-Days Gladventist tells me "just pray about it," I can't take his advice. It just doesn't work. Does it mean that we, Seven-Days Sadventists are helpless? No, not at all. How can I be so sure? Paul tells me:

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" (Romans 8:26, NIV). ■

Josue Sanchez is a youth pastor and freelance writer who appears regularly in the Messenger, Insight, Adventist Review, and other denominational publications.





Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier (centre) directs a re-enactment scene for the documentary film "The Adventists."

Air Time for "The Adventists"

A new film featuring the Seventh-day Adventist church will be aired on PBS stations in the spring of 2010. The film, entitled *The Adventists*, is a one-hour documentary by Martin Doblmeier of Journey Films. Doblmeier's previous works include *Bonhoeffer* (2005) and *The Power of Forgiveness* (2008). Most of Doblmeier's work has aired on PBS and focuses on religious topics.

Fred Kinsey, assistant to the president for communication for the North American Division and speaker/director for the *Voice of Prophecy*, invited Martin Doblmeier to talk at the Communications Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday morning, October 14, 2009, before the Society of Adventist Communicators' convention. Doblmeier, one of the presenters at the convention, happily shared his thoughts about Adventists, our health message and his newest film *The Adventists*, which "explores the body–mind–spirit connections inherent in the health message" of the Adventist church.ⁱ

A very strong Christian, Doblmeier sees his work as a way of sharing religious ideas with non-religious viewers. He is not Adventist himself, yet sees the Adventist message as powerful and important in today's world. He was introduced to Adventism while working on his film *Bonhoeffer*. Later, when he visited Loma Linda, he saw film possibilities: a traditional and conservative religion mixed with cutting-edge technology. He heard stories of infant heart transplants. He saw research evidence that Adventists live an average of eight to ten years longer. Finally, Doblmeier was impressed with the recognition of the body as the "temple of God." He saw that this faith community "couple[s] a firm belief in the second coming of Christ with a remarkable focus on health, wholeness and well-being."ⁱⁱ It was this reverence for the body as well as the research evidence that finally convinced him that Adventists have an important story he wants to tell. He felt that the health message is a "common denominator and a way to reach the public."

For each film produced, Doblmeier must sign an agreement with PBS stating that those who have funded the film "have not had anything to say about the film or its subject." The agreement also states that the funding for the film is not provided by the film's subject. *The Adventists*, a film funded by non-Adventist sources, presents the Adventist community and their beliefs in a favourable, yet objective, light. Despite the increasing difficulty in soliciting funds for such projects and the escalating complexities of talking about faith to an increasingly secular world, Doblmeier feels strongly about presenting topics that "promote what he sees God doing wherever he sees it."

Commenting on Doblmeier's perspective, Kinsey stated that "so many people, even members of our church, do not recognize the intimate connection between our theology and our emphasis on health, and I was impressed to find an 'outsider' who recognized it and portrayed it so articulately."

The Adventists, Doblmeier pronounced, is an opportunity for public viewers to see and understand who Adventists are and what they have to offer a world that is becoming more concerned about health issues. One of the things he did for the film was stand on

street corners asking passersby to tell him what they knew about Adventists and their faith. The general populace didn't know very much, according to his findings. He himself added that prior to this process, he had not known very much about it. He has Adventist friends, but his last year working on this film has been "an education." He is now more careful with his own diet, leaving out red meat, and his perception of the relationship between the body and the spirit has changed.

Doblmeier was also impressed with the Adventist culture. He stated, "you can sense the health of a community by the welcome you receive when you come into it. We were warmly welcomed wherever we went. Every time we went into a community, the welcome we received showed the comfort that the group felt for who and what they are."

The documentary depicts powerful re-enactments from Adventist history including the Great Disappointment. It discusses the role of Ellen White within the church's history and her influence on the health message as well. "Ellen White comes up early in the script," said Kinsey. Doblmeier responded that "many people referenced her—scientists and medical technicians—although ministers were reticent to speak of her."

Nearing the end of their discussion, Kinsey asked Doblmeier: "After the film has aired, what do you think people will know about Adventists?"

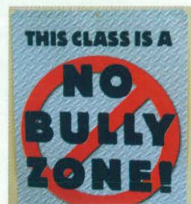
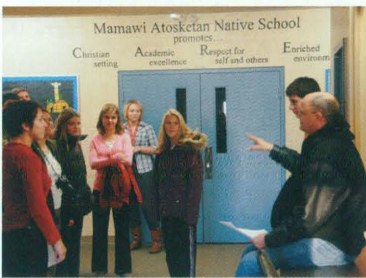
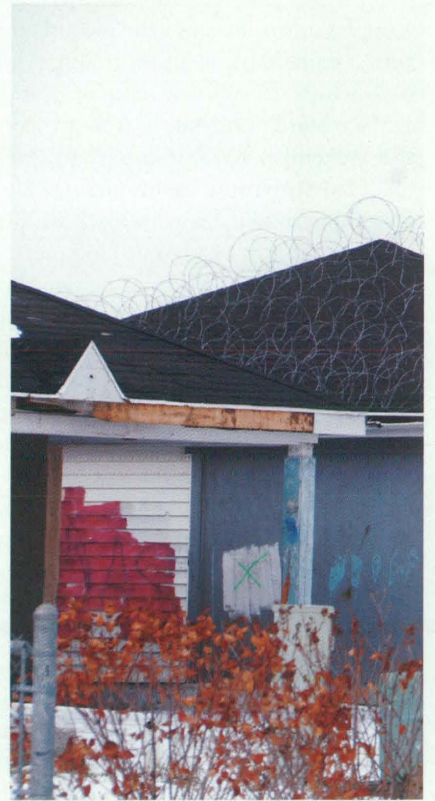
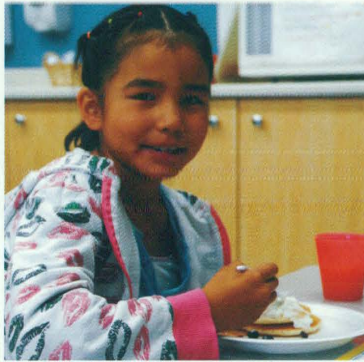
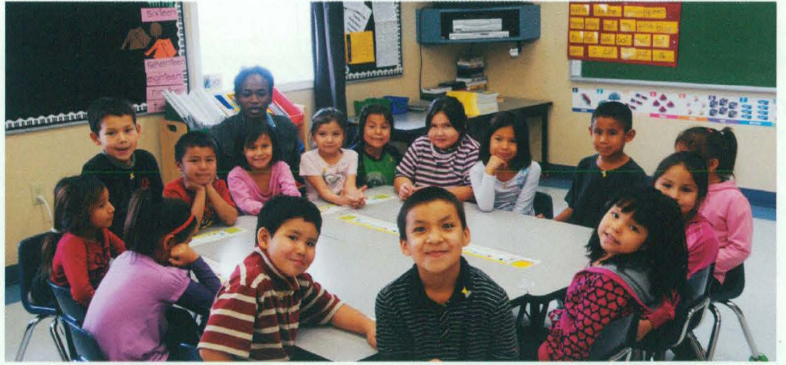
Doblmeier replied, "I hope they will have a sense of a body of people who are doing something worthwhile."

A rough cut of the film was shown in November at the year-end meetings for the North American Division. SDACC president, Dan Jackson, had this to say about the film: "I thought that the film demonstrated the extent of our Adventist health system and viewed it in a very positive light. I believe that the film will go a long way to inform the world about our serious emphasis on health care, prevention of disease and our attempt to share the healing ministry of Jesus to all in need."

John Ramsay, treasurer and vice-president for finance, added that "if the church *had* paid someone to do a documentary about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, they could not have done it better. It shows the world who we are."

For more information about this film, see www.journeyfilms.com. The DVD, available soon, can be purchased from this website as well. ■

Lori MacDonald works at the Canadian Adventist Messenger as writer, circulation co-ordinator, advertising and announcements manager, and secretary.





The vehicle in which I was riding slowed and stopped at an intersection. At my request to the driver to pause so I could snap a photo, my three hosts uncertainly surveyed the area and said, "Okay, but hurry"; after all, people here are as uncomfortable as we would be seeing someone on the street snapping pictures. I grabbed my cell phone and quickly snapped a shot of a traffic sign with the tags of five different gangs graffitied on it. It was yet another of several moments when I thought of the similarities between this location and another to which I'd travelled recently. At both, I saw an environment that can generate fear. At both, extreme poverty and harsh conditions could be seen, this one however, at the very doorstep of wealthy comforts. This was not Santa Cruz, Bolivia. This was no third-world country at all. In fact this was my own country. I had travelled no further than Central Alberta.

'Mamawi Atosketan' means 'Working Together' Changing Lives in Central Alberta

Crisis on our Doorstep

Hobbema is home to four native bands: Ermineskin, Louis Bull, Montana and Samson. It is a town that lies less than 100 km south of Edmonton, a short 20-minute drive north of Canadian University College, and the school of which Canadian Adventists are rightly so proud. But unlike in the Adventist-filled community that surrounds that school, there are no lush, park-like grounds here and many of the homes bear the marks of bullet holes while some have coils of barbed wire covering their roofs in an attempt to gain some sense of security from rival gangs. Paint has been applied in large squares on the sides of buildings in an attempt to erase the graffiti applied to mark gang territories. All this combined with the flat, brown landscape of the winter prairie and the bitter cold give me a singular impression: crisis.

I know from my research that I am not the first to have such an impression of Hobbema and for good reason. In recent years the national media has paid considerable attention to the problems here. It has been widely reported that no fewer than 13 gangs operate within the reserve where more than 50% of

the 12,000 citizens are younger than 18 years old. The National Post¹ quoted RCMP spokesperson Corporal Darrel Bruno as saying that, in 2005, there were stretches of "four or five drive-bys a night," a number that decreased in 2006 but picked up again in 2007. By late 2008 there was general recognition that Hobbema was, as Samson Cree Nation Chief Marvin Yellowbird phrased it, "in a state of crisis." (Fortunately, as I discovered, it is a crisis for which a concerted community effort begun in 2009 has already begun to see positive changes and to improve the outlook for their future.)

All the reading and research in the world, however, did not prepare me for the reality of this place. How can you be prepared for the feelings that come when you roll up in front of a burned out shell of a house, have your attention directed to a particular window and are told that is where a young mother of 19 was killed by a gunshot that entered through the wall of her bedroom as she laid her baby down in the crib for a nap? Or to have someone tell you that they have moved into the basement of their home because they

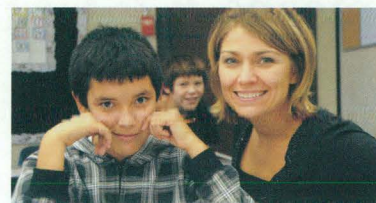
¹"Hobbema, Alberta: a Town in a 'State of Crisis.'" National Post. April 15, 2008.

...WITH ITS
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do not feel safe to be above ground? Or for the knowledge that many of the children you see who are older than eight- or nine-years are involved in gang activities or that initiation into gang life meant they had to be severely beaten, commit a serious crime or submit to gang rape? That is the reality for many young people in Hobbema, and every story enforces my initial impression: crisis.

MANS

In this bleak environment where the people of Hobbema face the daunting challenge of survival together, Mamawi Atosketan Native School joins with them to help provide an education, safety and a place to learn about Christ for the future generations who will lead their community to flourish. Like many Adventists in this country, I had heard about Mamawi Atosketan Native School but had never taken the time to learn more. I knew in a general way that the church helped fund this school and even that it is the only native school that we operate in Canada. I did not know that with its enrolment of approximately 180 students, it is the largest Adventist-run native school in all of North America. I did not know that it operated on a million



dollar per year budget made up of tuition from the native bands themselves, the Alberta conference, the SDACC and often miraculous donations of community groups and church members.

Mamawi Atosketan offers education from kindergarten level through grade nine. Their student population draws from all four of the native bands in Hobbema even though each has their own K-12 school. Mamawi has been operating in various locations and under different names since about 1985. It moved to the current site, just 10 km south of the reserve, in January 2003 and has steadily grown since that time. It enjoys a good reputation within the community, and students often want to attend Mamawi because they feel safe there and because they know the teachers truly care about them. Often it is the student who makes the decision to attend MANS; some guardians, because of drug and alcohol addictions or other issues, are unable to participate in their children's educational lives.

It's the People Who Make the Difference

Julie Bancarz is the principal at Mamawi, and although I had previously met her at meetings and

other functions, I had never seen her 'in action' before the first day of my visit. As I met with her in the morning of day one of my time in Alberta, I was immediately impressed with her leadership of the school, and from that moment until the time I left, I never saw her not 'in action' again. With a no-nonsense style she efficiently moves from task to task without wasting a moment but without ever being too busy to share a hug with a student who needs loving contact or to discipline a student who has stepped out of line. She leads her staff by example, I note repeatedly, seeming to never expect more of them than she herself gives.

Mrs. Bancarz and the staff of Mamawi Atosketan do all the work that any other school staff would do, but in addition they also keep up on what gangs are active in the community, what their colours and symbols are and what students are members of which ones. Gang colours are not allowed at school and they spend the necessary time explaining to the students that this is an environment for learning without fear of gang influence. In the principal's office Mrs. Bancarz keeps a supply of healthy snacks for the steady stream of students who come by to visit. As she walks the

hallways and classrooms, order is maintained in a way that prevents small infractions from becoming major incidents and positive relationships are formed. I am aware that the students respect and accept Mrs. Bancarz and her staff and that they know she and the staff will be unwaveringly fair to everyone they deal with. It is a relationship that, having worked hard to earn, no one takes for granted.

"These are very loyal children, very caring children and very giving children," Mrs. Bancarz told me repeatedly. A story was related to me in which a new student had once gotten in Mrs. Bancarz' face, saying terrible things and threatening her. Without flinching, she opened her mouth to speak when another student stepped between her and the boy, stared his fellow student down and told him that no one was allowed to speak to her that way. It was a tense moment, she said. No one knew what would happen. But the new student backed down and communication guidelines and skills were established with him, and life resumed as normal. "These children are very loyal," she reiterated.

Loyalty, I note, is a trait that runs in two directions. Bob Spratt, a Hobbema church member and former

Principal of Mamawi, who has long been hard at work among the native community in Hobbema, tells the story of when he first met Mrs. Bancarz. It was in a discipline committee meeting, he says, and “we were deciding whether or not to expel a particular student. Mrs. Bancarz was just a first year teacher, but she came to the committee and asked to speak.” He continues by telling me that she spoke in defence of the student under review, revealing mitigating circumstances surrounding their infraction and even bearing part responsibility herself saying that if she’d intervened more effectively the outcome would be different. “She wasn’t making excuses for anybody,” he said, “She just wanted to make sure that what we did was fair to everyone. I knew then that she would work well here.”

The fact that Mrs. Bancarz and her staff at Mamawi view their work as a mission outreach ministry cannot be doubted for a moment; they come here and stay here because they have a heart for these children. Bettyanne Tompkins, known to students as “Miss Bettyanne,” has been at MANS for 19 years. On one morning during my visit, I ride the bus with her and a host of others to the



local swimming pool for swimming lessons, and she tells me how, in the early days, she and other staff members would go out into the community on the first day of school and literally search for students. Although they don’t do that anymore, I can see in her eyes that she is just as eager to reach out as she was then. As we talk, one student does an about-face on her bus seat, looks into her teacher’s face and says, “I love you, Miss Bettyanne.” I choke back a few tears, but Bettyanne simply looks at me and says, “Once you win their hearts, you find they long to learn, and you can teach them anything. But you’ve got to win their hearts; they need to know they can trust you.”

Every teacher here has an obvious commitment to the students. Whether it is in finding ways to teach that make the curriculum relevant, leading their class in performing a monthly outreach project, or preparing and serving hot food for students who may not have eaten anything else that day (MANS runs both a breakfast and lunch program at the school, funded by ADRA Canada) these teachers are certainly some of the hardest working teachers I’ve seen in any school.

And they do it all with efficiency and a matter-of-factness that gives a feeling of normalcy and stability that so many of the students lack in life.

Not only do they teach regular Alberta curriculum, they also take the time to teach the students the importance of serving others, whether globally or locally. Each month, each classroom decides on a community outreach project and then reports on the outcome. Projects have included baking cookies for community members, collecting items for women’s shelters, supporting a variety of ADRA sponsored projects, cooking breakfast for other students. The list is endless, as is the joy that is seen on each student’s face. They love to give. They love the idea of helping other people, of being the one to put a smile on someone else’s face.

“Although we see those smiling faces everyday at school we, up to recently, have not had many resources available to them within their own community,” Mrs. Bancarz says. “However, the Alberta Conference has now purchased a piece of land in the middle of the Hobbema townsite. We are also happy to have the addition of Pastor Peter Ford to the area and with his leadership we are ecstatic and looking forward to the

time when there is an Adventist church/community center where our students, their families and other community members will have a place to get to know Christ from our perspective. It will create another safe place for them to gain access to the love of Jesus and to provide a wholesome alternative to the influence of the local gang culture while receiving support they so much desire.”

Even by the end of my visit, I still struggled to comprehend what I’d seen and learned and to know how to present my impressions. Despite what the world had to offer these children at this particular time in their young lives, one lesson was hard to miss; as the children went through their daily routines and academic lessons, there was always something to be happy about. The brilliant smiles and childish giggles were a delight to hear and would warm the coldest heart on any frigid winter day. As Mrs. Bancarz says, “It’s a wonderful reminder to be thankful for the many simple blessings we often take for granted”. ■

**“ONCE YOU WIN
THEIR HEARTS,
YOU FIND THEY
LONG TO LEARN,
AND YOU CAN
TEACH THEM
ANYTHING.”**

Crystal Steeves is editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.

THE 2010 OLYMPICS

Sharing More Than Gold



Anticipation ...

Athletes have spent years training for their 2010 Olympic competitions; Olympic officials have worked countless hours developing the City of Vancouver; International guests have planned their trips to Vancouver with great care; Christians have been prayerfully creating service opportunities during the Olympics; God has been faithfully preparing the City of Vancouver for one of its greatest assignments.

...“for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

When Adventists began knitting scarves in the spring of 2009, they could never have anticipated the far-reaching effect of their simple acts of kindness. From the heart of Vancouver’s financial district to the Downtown Eastside (one of the most impoverished communities in North America), Adventist scarves have already become symbols of loving Christian witness.

On Sunday, December 6 of this past year, 130 Christians from the More Than Gold network walked in the Vancouver Rogers Santa Claus Parade. Band members and participants representing more than a dozen denominations walked through the heart of one of the most secular cities in the world—and with clear voices and beautiful red Adventist scarves around their necks, they sang Joy to the World, The Lord is Come, and Let Earth Receive Her King! More than 300,000 people lined Vancouver streets, and many of them received a simple gift card inscribed with More Than Gold, Radical Hospitality, and an invitation to use the 15 language salutations listed to greet Olympic guests in 2010.

Later in the month, the More Than Gold network hosted a Dessert and Christmas Caroling event at a Downtown Eastside women’s services centre. About 140 More Than Gold participants, along with women from local shelters, wore red Adventist scarves as they sang Christmas praises along the streets. Local Downtown Eastside residents were invited to keep a scarf as a Christmas gift. The executive director of the centre, upon meeting an Adventist woman from a local Vancouver church, remarked, “Oh, you are the wonderful people who have knit all these beautiful scarves!”

To date, more than 2,500 scarves have arrived in British Columbia. Knit by seniors, pathfinders, prayer clubs and hobbyists around North America, these scarves represent thousands of hours of loving service.

Scarves will be given out to tourists in the city during the Olympics as those who distribute them look for opportunities to share Jesus, symbolized by the five-coloured snowflake in each scarf. Scarves will also be placed in care kits for social agencies in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

Just as the city gates were the public space for the early church to offer hospitality to strangers, so Vancouver is a place where Christians are preparing to host an estimated 400,000 international guests in 2010. With awe and anticipation, we look forward to what God is doing and will continue to do in the City of Vancouver in and through His people during the Olympics!

For such a time as this . . . ■

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Alberta

Together Everyone Achieves More

In the fall of 1967, a young man hitched a ride on a Peterbilt transport truck hauling pears from the Okanagan Valley to northern California. All he had was a small suitcase and guitar and a tremendous desire to be part of a unique acrobatic team. He continued to hitchhike south to the city of Escondido and to a small SDA Academy in the San Pasqual Valley, 1600 miles from home. Over the next four years, an exclusive bond would develop between this teenager, the coach and his teammates. You might wonder what would compel a 17-year-old boy to travel such a distance to be part of a team?

What is it that makes athletes desire to spend three weeks trying out for a volleyball or soccer team? Forty students took on the challenge at Parkview Adventist Academy this year with no guarantee of making the team. Laura, Stephanie and Andrea, after making the team, said "they felt tremendous pressure, satisfaction, exhilaration and relief." Theresa said there was intense competition during the tryouts. She also shared that she felt very privileged to be chosen on the PAA Panthers team.

The fact is that while all teams are groups, not all groups are teams. What separates the two is interdependence. A group becomes a true team only when its members support and enhance one another's performance and contributions. A group becomes a team when they work together to achieve results that are bigger and better than what could be realized individually.

Six hundred volleyball and soccer players from all over the U.S. and Canada assembled at the Walla Walla Fall Classic this year. Fifteen men's soccer teams and 21 ladies' volleyball teams competed at this tournament. PAA's boys' soccer team, coached by Jason Irish, and girls' volleyball team, coached by Rod Jamieson, were among those who participated. Many deemed this trip to be the highlight of their team experience. What stood out for some was singing songs at the top of their lungs in the van as they traveled. One PAA senior noticed how being away from their home school brought the team members closer. For others, their memorable moments were meaningful conversations with new teammates during tedious hours of travel. An inextricable bond formed.

The Bible's ideal of working together is consistent with the concept of teamwork. First Corinthians 12:25 says: "The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part." Paul said, "I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you" (Romans



1:12, NCV). All the team members desperately depend on one another. Each player's individual abilities make the whole team stronger. The PAA team members' consensus was: stay positive no matter what happens, keep a good attitude during the most stressful times, be patient and communicate with your team members and above all, work hard. Each team member concluded the discipline and mutual respect learned from sports was a life lesson for the future. ■

—Landon Ritchey, PAA communications

Ontario

Haileybury's 'Ladies' Day Out' for Community Women

Recently, Ruthann MacDonald and her friends from Haileybury Seventh-day Adventist Church successfully hosted the second Sunday afternoon Ladies' Day Out at the Golden Age Club in the small mining town of Cobalt.

Welcoming smiles and lovely table settings greeted the women who attended. Shortly after, they enjoyed a delicious vegetarian dinner served by five men dressed as chefs. However, the meal was only part of the event.

The entertainment-filled afternoon included the singing of familiar hymns and choruses, but a highlight of the program was Interlink Choir's singing the COBALT song accompanied by Gaetan Pleuffe dressed in his mining garb. Ann Margetson, our local poet laureate, shared some of her poetry and encouraged those present to join her in



writing poetry and even offered to host a poetry writing class.

Amber, a local florist, demonstrated how to arrange a bouquet using fall flowers and greens to prepare an extra special tabletop bouquet. Afterwards, a draw was held for the bouquet and several other door prizes were awarded, some of which were homemade.

For many, the highlight of the day

was the keynote speaker, Evelyn Glass from Minnesota, who presented "My Life is Like a Soft-Sided Bag."

Her humorous illustrations greatly assisted her serious message that many people are weighed down by unnecessary "burdens." She also spoke of the worth of each person and the importance of a good self-esteem. Attendees were clearly delighted.

"I just want to say thank you to Mrs. MacDonald for the lovely afternoon," said one lady. "I don't know how you can do all that and not even ask for an offering for your church." Ruthann responded that she was just happy that everyone had such an enjoyable time, and it has inspired her and members of Haileybury to hold another Ladies' Day Out. ■

Mount Olive Graduation Exercise

Dr. Kenneth Campbell, senior pastor, and Pastor Joseph Amankwah, associate pastor, effectively conducted a 12-week teachers' certification course at the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church. On September 24, 2009, the graduation exercise was celebrated and 14 graduates were awarded certificates.

Dr. Kenneth Campbell, in congratulating the graduates, commended them for their commitment and dedication in attending the classes over the weeks. He also encouraged other teachers to enrol in these classes and stressed that Sabbath School is critical to the growth and development of the church. In her speech to the graduates, Joan Denton, Sabbath School superintendent stated: "by you taking on this role, it will

inspire, strengthen, and improve our Sabbath School which is one of the most effectual means in bringing souls to Christ."

In addressing the graduates, Pastor Theodore Sargeant, Sabbath School director of the Ontario conference, commended the graduates for their dedication. He expressed his joy at seeing so many teachers who took advantage of the training. He mentioned that the class he sat in was taught by one of the graduates. Pastor Sargeant further indicated that "Sabbath School is the best school. It



is the only school where a professor can be taught by his student and a Pastor by his member."

The graduates had a celebratory luncheon where family and friends had the opportunity to share in their accomplishments. ■

— V. Lyttle, member

British Columbia

Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry



An article caught my eye in the *Pacific Union Recorder*, entitled “Motorcycle Ministry Brings New Members, Gives Participants Purpose.” Having ridden across Canada in October 2007 as a passenger on the back of a motorcycle, I have come to love this new-found freedom. So, when I saw this article, I took copies of it to circulate among other riders in the Aldergrove Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry is not a club or a gang! This Seventh-day Adventist-sanctioned ministry started in 1997 in Hollister, California. Now there are nine chapters throughout the United States.

In April 2009, the Aldergrove Seventh-day Adventist Church Board gave approval to form an Aldergrove Chapter of Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry. The Aldergrove Chapter is the only one in Canada. In June 2009, members and friends of Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry rode to attend and join our American riders at the first Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry Camp Meeting at Milo Academy, Oregon.

I’m excited to know that there are Seventh-day Adventist members who love to motorcycle and use their motorcycle in ministry for the Lord. They are reaching people that the mainstream Seventh-day Adventist Church hasn’t targeted yet—the motorcycle community.

Tom Infante, president of Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry, Southwest Washington Chapter, saw an article in a California Adventist publication on Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry and immediately was attracted to this ministry. Tom says he has been a biker for over 40 years but had never become acquainted with an Adventist Motorcycle Ministry. Having only been an Adventist for five years, he was excited about an opportunity to work in “a mission field” right in his backyard.

As one rider says, “Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry does ministry from a point of common interest in an uncommon way with a unique and unknown approach. Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry fits well into this parameter with the common love of motorcycling matching the desire to take the message to those outside the conventional church interests.” Have you noticed how many motorcycles and mopeds are on the road today? The following from Statistics Canada shows the rise in use of motorcycles and mopeds:

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
273,957	311,275	318,300	350,088	373,362
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
408,822	443,718	484,903	522,433	566,894

The mission statement of this loving and accepting group's mission is to "share the good news of the revelation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to share the true meaning of the 7th Day Sabbath." We are part of the body of Christ, riding and working together to show Christ's love.

The Aldergrove Chapter plans to attend motorcycle rallies in the spring and summer of 2010. We would love to have non-motorcycle owner/riders to help tend rally booths and rub shoulders with rally attendees. Our booth will provide

free Christian literature (Review and Herald Publishing Association has come out with a *Steps to Jesus: The Ride of Your Life* edition for riders), printed health information and simple blood pressure and BMI testing.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this exciting ministry or starting a chapter in your area, please e-mail Lloyd Steinke, president, Sabbath-Keepers Motorcycle Ministry, Aldergrove Chapter at lbsteinke@shaw.ca ■

— Betty Lang, member

Men of Hope Convention in the British Columbia Conference

The Men's Ministry in the BC Conference was richly blessed recently when approximately 180 men filled the Lodge at Camp Hope with their energy and masculine spirit. The Hope camp grounds formed an inspiring backdrop for the fifth annual "Men of Hope" Convention.

Pastor Greg Wellman, the Men's Ministry leader for the BC Conference, and local pastor of the Penticton, Cawston/Keremoes SDA Churches, welcomed the men and encouraged them to take the time, as they came apart for the weekend, to reflect on what it means to be a real man! A Christ-centred man!

The Men of Hope Convention had as its title "Strong in the Lord," a theme taken from Ephesians 6:10: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." This theme encouraged all present to a deeper commitment to Christ. The messages of the weekend also encouraged men to develop and become equipped as strong men who love Jesus Christ in their homes, churches, communities and the world at large.

By Sabbath morning, the numbers had swelled to over 200 men and included the presence of our conference president, Pastor Gordon Pifher, who briefly addressed the men as a fellow attendee, rather than in an official capacity. It was also good to see other local pastors who were also there to support this valuable ministry to the men.

Have you ever heard 200 men raise their voices to the Lord in worshipful praise? If you haven't, you've really missed something!



We were all richly blessed by the ministry of our key speaker for the weekend, Pastor David Asscherick of ARISE Ministries of Sonora, California. David encouraged us take a "journey" toward the "person" of Christ and drew amazing lessons from the Beatitudes and the Commandments. He pointed us toward the realization that while we are "sons of God," our wives and other female figures in our lives were "daughters of God" and that we needed to talk to Him (Our Heavenly Father) about how to relate to them. He also told his personal story of the power of Christ in his conversion from punk rocker to Christian leader.

We were greatly blessed by Oscar Halvorson and Luke Heimann, who told their personal testimonies of God's power in their lives, encouraging men to stay connected to the Lord. Kevin Burke of the Penticton SDA church gave an excellent seminar on creating men's groups that work!

As men we were also really encouraged to seek a closer relationship with God, who is ultimately our true Father.

John Eldredge, a men's ministry leader, says in his book *Wild at Heart*: "The History of a man's relationship with God is the story of how God calls him out, takes him on a journey and gives him his true name."

I encourage you to take a "journey" with Christian men devoted to being "real men" for Christ.

If you missed the men's convention at Hope, I encourage you to attend the next men's getaway at Apex Mountain Resort in the Penticton area May 14-16, 2010. Gary Barkalow, of Noble Heart Ministries will be our speaker, and his theme for the weekend will be "Calling." (For more information, contact Pastor Greg Wellman at (250) 493-2741 or pastorwellman@gmail.com). ■

— Gerard P. Obery, member

Surrey Evangelism



The spiritual atmosphere was exciting, the excitement was buzzing and the energy was high as the Surrey Church waited with keen anticipation for the opening night of the Revelation of Hope seminar at the Surrey Arts Centre on September 4–October 3, 2009.

Justis St. Hilaire began this four-week seminar with clarity and purpose right from the opening session, captivating an audience of 400. Visitors kept coming meeting after meeting to learn new truths. At the end of the each night’s meeting, visitors would crowd the speaker for more that would satisfy their spiritual hunger.

Truly, God is to be praised for His mighty power that enabled the members and leaders of the Personal Ministries department of the Surrey church to rely upon God to give the victory. In preparation for this seminar, we decided not to hold business as

usual, so we had a 24-hour prayer session. Members signed up to participate for two-hour periods and then met at the church for prayer. It was a Pentecost experience that, I believe, made the difference in this seminar.

We saw many life-changing miracles because of the preaching of a mighty man of God who was always bold enough to preach the word without fear. These meetings were interesting and easy for anyone to understand. The person responsible for the sound system at our venue at the Surrey Arts Centre said, “I have not heard anything like this before. Are there recordings available?” When I said that there were some recordings, he purchased a set of the CDs, and who knows where the Lord will lead this person?

The result was that 28 individuals committed their lives to Christ, 25 by baptism right away and the other 3 to be baptized soon. There are more who are currently studying and might be baptized in the future. ■

—George Ali, pastor

SDA Church in Canada

President Jackson on the Haitian Tragedy:

Our hearts hurt as we heard about and then viewed the tragic images coming out of Haiti. The prayers of Adventists across Canada are with our brothers and sisters both here in Canada and in Haiti who have been so devastated by the January 12 earthquake. I believe that we must support these children of God through our prayers and financial means and in any other way that the Lord directs us. ■

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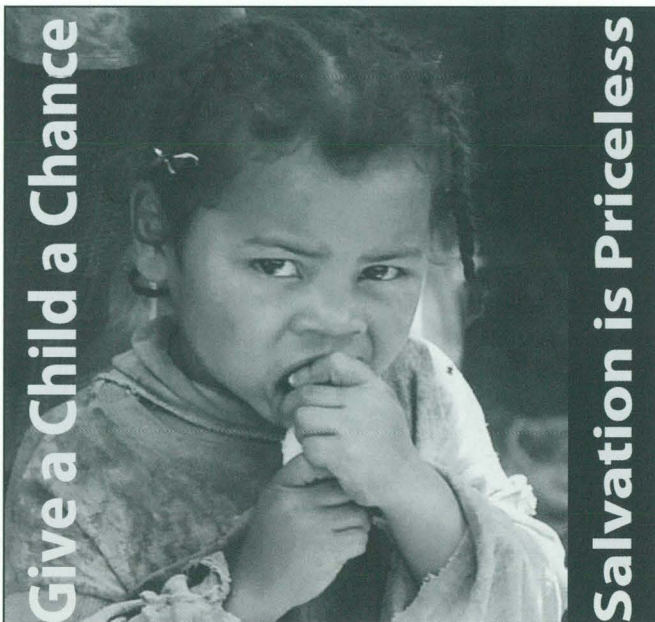
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- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submittable) are available at www.sdacc.org/messenger.
- The *Messenger* assumes no 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.'

Births

Raina Grace Reimche was born Oct. 30, 2009 to Lisa (née Kapiniak) and Jayd Reimche of Edmonton, Alta.

Anniversaries

Kaija and Gosta Richt of Finland celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 28, 2009 on



the Shushwap lakes in B.C. The Richts have five children: Rita, Christar, Anita, Lena and Roy. They have 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

William (Bill) Foster was born Jan. 17, 1931 in Yorkshire, Eng. and died Sept. 14, 2009 in Moose Jaw, Sask. Bill served as Sabbath school superintendent in his Tugaskie church. He is predeceased by his sister Joyce. Surviving: brothers Brian of Northern Ireland, Kenneth, David and John all of England; and sisters Barbara (Peter) Hardy and Shirley Braithwaite both of England.

Kenrick Ramlal was born Nov. 19, 1940 in Trinidad, West Indies and died Oct. 6, 2009 in Cobourg, Ont. Kenrick served as a deacon in Trinidad and in the Bowmanville church. Surviving: wife Cynthia; sons Rodney and David both of New York; daughter Allison of New York; step-daughter Laura Ferron of Burlington, Ont.; brothers Paul, Daniel and Beresford all of Oshawa, Ont.; sisters Lydia of Cornwall, Ont., Joyce Ragoobir and Elizabeth Green both of Ottawa, Ont., and Jennifer Rampersad of New York; and one grandchild.

Anya Kristel Riano was born July 15, 2008 in Winnipeg, Man. and died July 28, 2009 in Winnipeg. Surviving: parents Gheslyn (née Biscaro) and Julbert Riano and grandparents Estela and Roger Biscaro.

Fred SanJenko was born Mar. 1, 1917 in Wood Mountain, Sask. and died Oct. 21, 2009 in Vegreville, Alta. Fred served as a deacon and "investment" leader in Calgary and Vegreville churches. He is predeceased by his wife Ruth, his brothers Bill, Steve, John, Mike, Alec, Kelly and Edward, and his sisters Nettie Wolfe, Alyce Hall and Jean Poirier. Surviving: daughters Grace SanJenko of Edmonton, Alta., Darlene Rastegar and Jane (Lee) Farrow both of Vegreville.

Marie Orba (née 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, her brothers Drewry Carle and Earl Carle, and her sisters Daisy Walker and Gladys Givens. Surviving: sons Kenneth (Hedwig) and John (Dorothy) Toombs both of Prince George; daughter-in-law Darla Toombs of Port Hardy, B.C.; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

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Andrews University is seeking a Graduate Dean for the School of Graduate Studies and Research. An earned doctoral degree is required. For more information and to apply please go to: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi. (02/10)

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

Announcements

The College Park church will celebrate its 50th anniversary on the weekend of Apr. 24, 2010. All former pastors and members are invited to attend. Please check the website www.collegeparkchurch.ca for events and scheduling.

The 56th Toronto Junior Academy/Crawford Adventist Academy Alumni Homecoming

Weekend. May 28-30, 2010. The honoured classes are: TJA Grade 10 Class: '80, '75 and '70. CAA Graduating Grade 12 Class: '00, '95, '90 and '85. To confirm your attendance, please RSVP to Derrick Hall, VP of advancement at 866/960-2125 ext. 234, www.tadsb.com or dhall@caasda.com. (05/10)

Union College Homecoming

April 1-4, 2010. Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming, April 2-5, 2008. Honour classes are 1940, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990, and 2000. For more information contact the alumni office at 402/486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu. (02/10)

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Andrews University, an international Seventh-day Adventist Christian University with more than 3,500 enrolled domestically and more than 4,000 enrolled offsite, is seeking a new provost. The provost reports to the president of the University and is responsible for all the academic programs, educational services, quality/program review, student success, teaching & learning resources, faculty development, outcome assessment, university accreditation and providing Christian leadership to the seventh most diverse campus in the nation.

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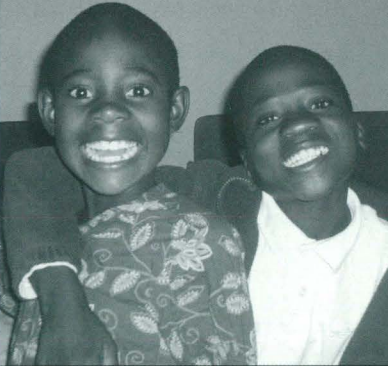
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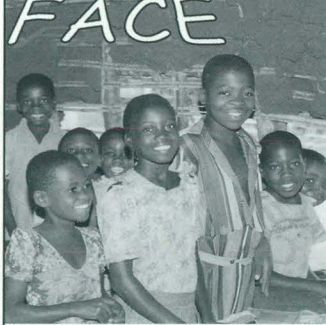
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Unseen Harvests

by Lori Wiens MacDonald

A favourite photograph
Pictures my father
Grey overalls and tattered cap atop salt and peppered hair
Standing, back to the camera
Unaware
While he surveys his crop
With the broad prairie sky beyond.

A solitary man against a field of black
And an endless sky of blue
Pondering tiny shoots
Yet unseen
Upon which rest the future.

All his hopes
Depend on the still, quiet seeds
Painstakingly planted.
And just as he is not aware
Of the lens and unseen observer
Capturing his solitary moment,
I wonder if he knows how
His faith in those roots, now grown
And blossoming, have shown
Promises of another harvest.

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