

Messenger

Naomi Striemer: “My African Adventure”



PLUS Putting the 'Party' in Partisan (p.2);
Creation in the Classroom (p.9)
It Is Written Partnership Weekend (p.10)

The Seventh-day Adventist Church: Putting the 'Party' in Partisan

I'm writing this editorial in Regan International Airport in Washington, DC. I've just spent four days in the US, and, as tends to happen when I travel south of the border, I am overwhelmed at the differences that exist on either side of the world's longest border. I won't elaborate in this venue on what I perceive those differences to be or which country fares better in my mental comparison, but I will say that I am very glad every time I return to my "home and native land."

Perhaps because I've been staying in the stronghold of American politics for a few days or perhaps because I've been discoursing with the last great hope for continued democracy in the US, journalists, or perhaps because it really is a unique and scary period in the history of this nation, I have noticed a change in this country in recent months; there can be no denying that the US is now a nation divided. No matter the issue, no matter the arena, Americans are clamouring to line themselves up squarely under one of two banners: liberal Democrat or conservative Republican. There is no neutral ground. The partisan fight is everywhere, between everyone, on every issue, and the negative impact is obvious. Decisions aren't being made (or, if they are, they aren't being made well). Nothing is getting done. People seem too busy fighting about philosophy to be useful.

As I thought about the predicament of this nation, I was reminded of remarks I've heard from the president—not Obama, Jackson. Speaking not of a country but of a church—our church—SDACC president Dan Jackson has often said that "The greatest danger we face is not any threat from outside. It is the split that runs right through us as a denomination between the liberal-minded and the conservative." Could it be: partisanship within the church? You betcha. It exists, and it has the same effect on us as it has on our neighbours to the south: forward motion—any motion—screeches to a halt as we bicker about minutiae. Don't take my word for it; watch the "news" that arises out of the General Conference session next month. See if I'm right.

Well-known writer and activist Jim Wallis remarked on the phenomenon of the "broken Church" in a speech he made recently. "Christianity," he said, "doesn't fit well under any 'liberal' or 'conservative' banner. When I try to squeeze faith, real faith, the ways of Jesus Christ, into either of these boxes, it becomes misshapen." Exactly so, Jim.

I don't have the cure for the Seventh-day Adventist Church anymore than I have them for the United States of America. But I can see plainly enough that a cure is needed if there is any future for us. We can't accept statements that we, as a church, are "a little to the right" without alienating those who are a little to the left. We need to fight the notion that this congregation is "contemporary" while the one down the road is "more traditional." The labels we employ to define us are changing us, (mis)shaping us. The cure for partisanship in the church will not be found by in-fighting or forming factions.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, [liberal nor conservative] for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 (NIV) ■

Crystal

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Photo: Insignia Photography.

Messenger

May 2010 Vol. 79 No. 5

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The Canadian Adventist Messenger—the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—is published 12 times per year. Free to SDACC members. Annual foreign subscription price: US\$15.00. Printed by Maracle Press Limited. ISSN 0702-5084. Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index. Member of the Associated Church Press and the Canadian Church Press.



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Deadlines

July issue	May 3
August issue	June 1
September issue	July 5

>> View this issue online at www.sdacc.org/messenger

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Messenger subscriptions, 1148 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8

Canada Post agreement number 40069337.

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What Will the Cameras Reveal?

The stories of agony and ecstasy unfolded on the high-definition TV screen. I looked around the room to see if the tears running down my cheeks had been noticed as they exposed my strong emotions of empathy, sympathy and compassion, all mixed with pride of country, awe for personal accomplishment and sorrow for defeat. I was connecting with fellow humans in their personal struggle to be victors and true Olympians.

Canada's major media consortium was sharing a seven-minute tribute to the big winners and big losers in the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. Highlights of each athlete's experience were professionally presented. CTV had collected family pictures and video, revealing the effect of personal genetics or environment on the contestants. There were camera shots of recent events that had caused trauma in their lives, and pictures revealing the Olympians' personal emotions and testimony as they crossed the finish line.

Through the wonders of high-tech and high-touch, I was connecting with their stories. The CTV media team had 1,400 professionals working day and night all across this country to record, edit and prepare an accurate depiction of what had transpired during the Olympic Games. CTV's 4,600 hours of live recording didn't show us every waking moment in the athlete's life, because the production teams were trained to edit and focus on the details that affected the Olympic outcome. The media giant created a production that drew all of us into the agony and ecstasy that kept us engaged and focuses on what really mattered in the battle to be victors.

The Bible talks about a far more spectacular media event that started more than 160 years ago and had the entire universe fully engaged: "the books are opened" in the courts of heaven. Eventually, every life will be reviewed in the light of the "great controversy:"

As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat . . . Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. (Dan 7:9, 10 NIV)

God has trained more than 100 million messengers ("ten thousand times ten thousand") to "attend Him" as the records of heaven are opened. There is nothing boring about the judgment. The universe watches with intense interest as each of God's children has the highlights of his or her life opened before the universe, and there will be intense emotions as we see the controversy unfolding. I can only imagine the onlookers being hushed with awe and suspense as the presentations are given, and then suddenly the quiet will be interrupted with a shout of praise. When the Bible records that there is "joy over one sinner that overcomes," I wonder if the eruption of emotion in the universe is anything like the shout that an entire nation heard when a certain hockey team scored the winning goal on the last day of the Winter Olympic Games.

There is one major difference from the CTV review of the 258 Olympic medal winners. In the heavenly records, there are millions of stories, but only one real Hero. In the great controversy, Jesus is the only *one* who is worthy to receive any of the praise for each personal or team victory. When the crowds of heaven erupt with the words "He won, He won again," they will be referring to the one and only Lord of lords and King of kings. Every single saint will shout, "The Lamb of God is worthy." Every attempt to honour our efforts, any golden awards given to the victors, will soon be cast at the feet of Jesus:

"They sang a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation . . . Then I looked and heard

the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!'"

Revelation 5:9-12 (NIV)

What are the heavenly cameras revealing every time there is a victory in our life? Will the recording messengers be able to focus in on our praise for the real Champion? When our books are opened, will our words and actions provide the universe with endless praise for our wonderful God? ■

Gordon Pifher is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in British Columbia.



Photo: Insignia Photography.

YOU + ADRA = HOPE

IN THE DESERT

It's very hot. Perspiration drips off my skin, and the hot air, like a thick blanket, weighs heavily on my head and shoulders. Beneath a cloudless, pale blue sky, the landscape is a monochromatic sea of tawny-coloured sand. A mirage shimmers in the distance where a few scrubby trees dot the horizon, and nearby, the undulating ripples become large drifts where the sand pushes persistently against a manmade structure. Built and plastered with mud and straw, the ADRA project field office in Um Jawazir, North Sudan, blends perfectly into the landscape.

Stepping through the door with my colleagues, I immediately feel several degrees cooler, and as my eyes adjust to the shaded interior, I see that we are not alone. A slender young girl shyly greets us with "as-salamu alaykum" (traditional Arabic greeting meaning "peace be upon you"). In the midst of this bland landscape, Kalila's bright red dress, yellow head scarf and green flip-flops are like a colourful feast for the eyes.

Our interpreter, Ramsan, explains that Kalila and her little brother, Sadiq, are alone in the building. Normally they would both be in school at this time of day, but it's the month of Ramadan and school is not in session. Their father, responsible for maintaining the diesel-powered water pump that provides water to irrigate the fields of vegetables, is doing an inspection and won't return for an hour or more.

The children fade quietly into the shadows as Ramsan guides us through the building. He speaks passionately about the challenges of working in the desert and about the ADRA wells and agricultural training that have improved lives so dramatically. He tells us that before the nomads learned to farm the desert, the children grew wild—like little animals. Poor hygiene caused frequent, debilitating illness, and constant relocation allowed no opportunity for education. Females of all ages were viewed as instruments of labour and possessed few social skills and no confidence.

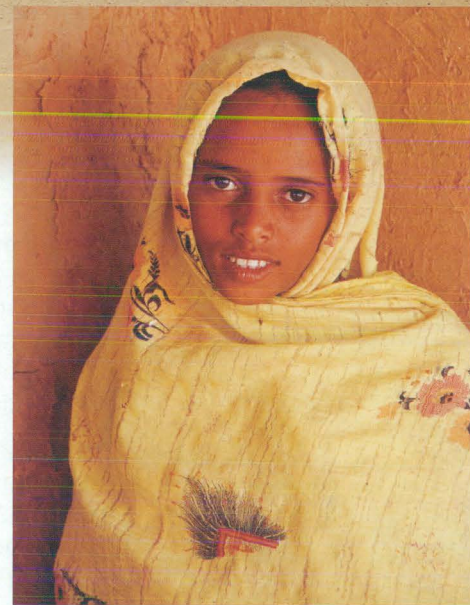
The desert farming project that first brought hope and began changing lives 15 years ago continues to thrive. The nomads now raise crops that feed their families and

animals. This ready supply of food and water means there is no need to travel for survival. With less time spent on survival, more time is available for other things—like education. Education brings knowledge, which results in better hygiene, less sickness, more gender equality, more confidence, better social skills and better jobs.

As Ramsan finishes his explanation, Kalila enters the room and softly asks if we will allow her to prepare tea for us, her honoured guests. It is such a natural, gracious gesture, I don't think anything of it, but as we're leaving, Ramsan reveals that a few years ago, before education was available, we would not have received this invitation from Kalila. He is justifiably proud of the fact that in less than one generation, the attitude of raising children like "little animals," has changed to an attitude of recognizing the importance of education and the improved attitudes and skills that come with it. It's exciting to see girls like Kalila blossoming into confident, healthy young women because of ADRA education projects like the one in Sudan.

Lives improve dramatically wherever knowledge is increased. Somalia now, too, has a new education project in place, and it is creating quite a stir among ADRA donors for an additional reason: because of a partnership with ADRA Germany, ADRA Norway, ADRA Somalia, Relief International and the European Commission, every dollar donated to ADRA Canada for the Somalia project is matched to an unprecedented degree, effectively \$60 to \$1! Imagine what this will mean to children in Somalia!

For 25 years, ADRA Canada has been empowering people to improve their lives through education. Thank you for the support that makes this possible. You + ADRA = HOPE! ■



Elizabeth Horniachek is a donor relations assistant at ADRA Canada. www.adra.ca

Bad Stuff, Good Place

T33nTalk

**With all the drugs and pressures we face,
why doesn't God just eliminate all the bad stuff
or better yet come back already?**

You aren't the first to ask this kind of question, and you won't be the last. Let me break it down into two parts. First, why all the bad stuff? I mean, it would be way easier to be good without all the temptations, right? But if we go back to Genesis, we find that God placed the tree of temptation in the garden and stuck it right in the middle. The point? Following God is a choice, and you can't choose unless you have options, right?

Second, as disasters, troubles and temptations (like drugs) increase, the question lots of people are asking is: "God, why don't You just come back already?" I love the answer to this one! "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9, NKJV). In other words, God isn't slow or delayed. He hasn't forgotten to come, nor is He too busy. There is only one reason that Jesus hasn't returned in power and glory: mercy! God knows there are still some who aren't ready who will get ready. He knows that if He comes today there will be less saved than if He comes later.

So what do we do? We ask God for the faith and strength to walk past the trees of temptation in our lives and for the ability to love what He loves and hate what He hates. Then we help others to know Him so they can embrace His promises and live for Him, too. Doing these two things, we can try to make it come soon (2 Peter 3:12, CEV).

May our lives be like that of Joshua—"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" (Joshua 24:15).



OCTOPUS

A scientist diving near the Mediterranean island of Stromboli, which has an active volcano, noticed octopuses swimming away in a big hurry. Then the volcano erupted, throwing rocks and rubble into the water. Slower-moving animals like crabs and lobsters were crushed by rocks that were hurled into the water, but the octopuses were safe.

People cannot predict when earthquakes are about to happen or when volcanoes are about to erupt, but it seems that octopuses can. The octopuses living around Stromboli have learned that the low rumble only they can hear is a sign that they must flee to safety.

Creation Corner for Kids

Do it.

There are many ways to share the gospel with those around us. Living an obedient, righteous life is a positive witness. Some kids I know carry tracts around with them wherever they go and give them out to people or leave them in places they can be found. BibleUniverse.com cards (available from Amazing Facts) are easy to give out and invite people to do Bible studies online. You can add a link to your favourite Bible site on all your outgoing email messages or invite your Facebook friends to explore the Bible with you. However you witness, always remember to pray that God will bless your efforts and use you to lead others to Christ.

I'd love to hear how you witness to others. Email me at tammie.burak@gmail.com.

Want to see the amazing volcano octopuses? Search "octopus volcano" on Google or go to <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=338953171174008035#>.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."
Matthew 24:14

Think about it.

The octopus can recognize a signal that warns them of an eruption. Jesus clearly told us of the signs of His soon return and of the end of the world. Jesus will soon be on His way to this earth. Some people will be saved. Some will be destroyed. You and I can join together and warn the world of the danger to come.



ADVENTIST CHURCH CONNECT

DID YOU KNOW that in 1995 there were approximately 18,000 websites available online and today there are approximately 206,675,000?¹ In today's technically connected society of social networks, blogging sites, video posts, cyber chat, more and more people are relying on the information highway to connect, to find and to share. It reminds me of a Bible text in Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (NIV).

The Internet has become a place to bond and belong. If that's where today's society is at, if that's where people are going to *ask*, *seek* and *knock*, then we must find ways to connect and provide the information that will *lead* them to Jesus.

Unfortunately, if your church or business is not on the Internet, to most people, you simply don't exist. That is why, amongst those 200 million websites online today, there is one especially for your Adventist church or school. Let me introduce you to the Adventist Church and School Connect content management system. It is a powerful website management tool that the North American Division is providing free of charge to every Seventh-day Adventist church and school in Bermuda, Canada and the United States. The North American Division has contracted AdventSource to provide customer training, support and marketing for Adventist Church and School Connect for the approximately 3,600 church and school websites.

Many people are intimidated by the word "website" because it gained a reputation early on for being a complicated and highly technical procedure. Well, that is not the case anymore. With ACC's content management system, you don't have to know a website programming language like HTML or PHP to add content and photos to your website. You can edit pages as you would in a word processor, similar to Microsoft Word.

Denis Prescott, a member of the Merritt Seventh-day Adventist Church, has been maintaining his church's ACC website for four years. I recently spoke to him about his experience and thoughts regarding the ACC platform, and this is what he said: "The ease of adding and editing information makes for an awesome tool."



ADVENTIST CHURCH CONNECT FEATURES

There are many useful features available with ACC websites, such as

- Built-in member, author, editor and administrator user levels,
- A prayer request feature that allows site visitors to submit prayer requests,
- Dynamic RSS content such as daily devotionals,
- A calendar that allows departments to enter and categorize their own events,
- and Adventist Church news from the North American Division, Adventist News Network and *Adventist Review*.

Next month, I will give you a more detailed review of the most useful ACC features and share some examples with you.

Also, let's not forget that with the rapid increase of mobile Internet devices, it is important that these devices can process and display your church website content. That is why all ACC websites are now mobile device friendly. When a mobile device accesses an ACC website, a custom mobile template is activated with the content and sent to the mobile display.

SIGNING UP FOR AN ADVENTIST CHURCH CONNECT WEBSITE

To sign your church up for an ACC website, visit www.adventistchurchconnect.com/accsignup.php.

To sign your school up for an ACC website, visit www.adventistschoolconnect.com/ascsignup.php.

ADVENTIST CHURCH CONNECT SUPPORT

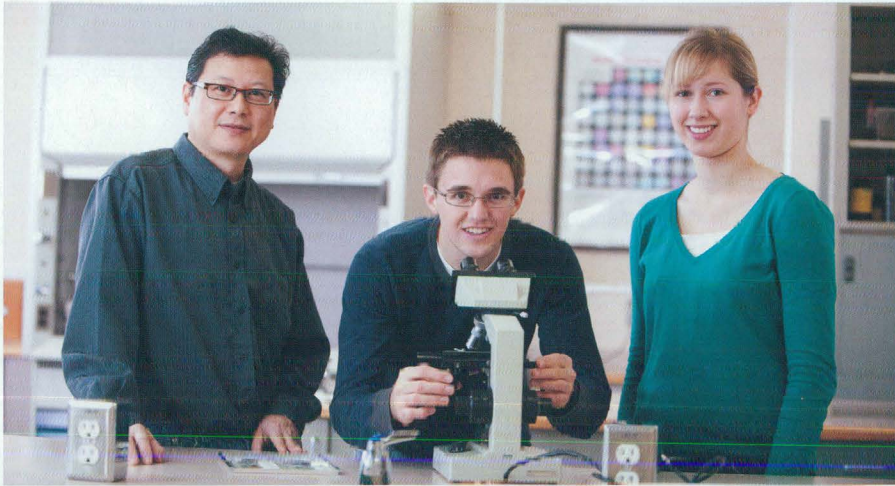
Remember, you are not alone when it comes to maintaining an ACC website. AdventSource provides training and support free of charge. There are many helpful resources available on the ACC help website, such as live online video training, archived video tutorials, information about local training events, e-mail support and step-by-step how-to guides.

The help website is located at <http://help.adventistchurchconnect.com>. ■

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

¹ Statistics are from netcraft.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ADVENTIST CHURCH CONNECT, VISIT [HTTP://ADVENTISTCHURCHCONNECT.COM](http://ADVENTISTCHURCHCONNECT.COM).



Dr. Laurence Wong, Professor of Biochemistry, with science students, Marcus Heisler, fourth-year Biology major, and Andréa Lealst, first-year Biology major.

Creation Statement

The Board of Trustees of Canadian University College acknowledge and support the action of the General Conference Annual Council of 2004 on origins and in so doing identify their full support of the fundamental belief of the Seventh day Adventist Church on creation. While recognizing the complexity of the issues surrounding this topic and the importance of students understanding a broad range of positions on origins, Canadian University College will ensure that faith in creation as understood by the Seventh day Adventist Church is affirmed and nurtured.

For more information contact us at info@cauc.ca

Faith-Filled Classrooms

As students start to make their way into the classroom, Colton Greenlaw, a third-year Secondary Education major, finds a seat and prepares to receive the day's lesson. For a busy upperclassman, moments of quiet and reflection seem harder and harder to find. But somewhere between the Theories of Development and Learning and the methodologies of Integrating Technology into Education Instruction, Greenlaw finds that peace and reflection—faith and learning.

At Canadian University College the experience extends beyond academics.

CUC is a place where growth happens academically as well as spiritually.

This balance of faith and learning enables students to be successful in their university experience and beyond. While this spiritual growth can be traditionally found in extracurricular activities such as Campus Ministries, at CUC the integration of faith and learning extends into the classroom. According to Loren Agrey, Vice-President for Academic Administration, this is one of the chief reasons CUC is here to serve our young people. "As a Seventh-day Adventist Christian faith-based institution, Canadian University College exists not only to provide excellence in academics but also to present opportunities for examination of subject matter from a faith perspective through the process of the integration of faith and learning. Faculty members provide mature spiritual influences both inside as well as outside the classroom and intentionally interface their faith with their discipline."

This provides a grace-filled context for education; the students can be confident that faculty members have not only a command of their respective disciplines but also a faith that provides a foundation for class presentation and personal interaction.

For Greenlaw, this atmosphere that is intentionally nurtured in each classroom provides the support both for his academics and for his spiritual well-being. "The atmosphere that is in the

classroom shows that the teachers care not just about your grades but also your faith." Greenlaw continues, "With Mr. Leavitt [Keith Leavitt is an Associate Professor of Education] it is more than just a worship. The ideas he presents are very well thought out and unique. He isn't just picking up a devotional book and reading it. It really makes it sink in when it is more than just a daily read. A lot of days the thoughts we share, talk and pray about in class are just what I need to hear to get me through a particular challenge."

Noble Donkor, Professor of Biology, has attended and presented at faith and learning conferences and emphasizes that integration of faith and learning is process. "Through these conferences, I have a clear sense of what integration of faith and learning should be; that is, a deliberate and systematic process of approaching the entire educational enterprise from a biblical perspective." This systemic process includes identifying in advance key issues and themes that will connect faith with the academic lessons.

For June Fiorito, Professor of Education, passing on the theme of faith and learning to the next generation of educators is part of the curriculum. "Faith-focused teaching and learning will incorporate Christian teachings in subjects such as Science and Math, subjects where people have their doubts as to how these subjects can be taught." Fiorito adds, "students make it their practice to bring in faith-based applications to their lessons." Greenlaw hopes to take the same lessons he has learned at CUC to those he will be teaching in the near future. He exclaims, "There is too much benefit not to have that faith experience in the classroom. It enhances my ability not only in the classroom but in life as well." ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director for Canadian University College



Feast or Foretaste?



IT IS WRITTEN PARTNERSHIP WEEKEND

*L*ike most people, I did not jump at the invitation to a free weekend getaway sponsored by It Is Written Canada. I had questions.

Was it right to use money donated to finish the Lord's work for me and my wife to enjoy a weekend at a top-class Toronto hotel? Was there a catch? Was I even reading the material right? Was free really free? What happens at these It Is Written Partnership Weekends anyway? Journalistic curiosity got the better of me.

When my wife and I arrived at the

Marriott Toronto Airport hotel, I had with me a suitcase full of clothes, some lingering doubts and an impressive appetite. First, I checked the room. There were no mints on the pillows. Otherwise, everything was first class. Downstairs, dinner was arguably the most balanced, delightful and delicious vegetarian repast anyone could expect on this side of glory.

When we finished eating, the real feast began. I was soon convinced that an It Is Written Partnership Weekend was, above all, an invitation to "taste and see that the Lord is good." There were the

musical and informational presentations projected onto some of the largest screens you would see at an indoor venue. There were the live performances by a selection of God's singers.

We started with Isabel Santos and the group Majesty on Friday evening. Things reached a crescendo with the words, wit and wisdom of pastor, singer and musicologist, Wintley Phipps, the sole presenter at a concert on Saturday night. And how can I forget "I Was There," sung by Rebecca Santos? Or my favourite: "I Then Shall Live," done by Pamela Lister and her daughter

Christina? Or Pamela's closing call to "look for me, for I will be there too"?

Everywhere was evidence of the professionalism of It Is Written Canada. Rev Miller sat in the hallway rehearsing for her introduction of Robert Folkenberg, former Seventh-day Adventist General Conference president and main speaker for the weekend. She did so with a seriousness reserved by most speakers for preparing major speeches of their own. Her diligence did not go unnoticed. Elder Folkenberg joked, "that introduction was so good, I can't wait to hear what I have to say."

He did have a lot to say. His 90-minute sermon, the most comprehensive and the longest I have heard, took a "big picture" view of worship, obedience and the plan of salvation, and eschewed a narrow doctrinal approach. I went to bed remembering his warning against attempting to place God in a box and against reducing the Adventist message to a few pet doctrines.

I also left the Friday night meeting aware that the call for us to confess Jesus as Lord is an integral aspect of our path to salvation. Based on 1 John 2:3, Folkenberg explained: "Works [for example, confessing Christ to our neighbours] is not a contributing factor to your salvation; they are the evidence of your salvation. And the evidence is not to impress God to help you to be saved; that's legalism. The evidence is not to impress your neighbours; it's none of their business. It is to . . . inform us about whether or not we're playing games with God."

Other sermons included a presentation by Williams Costa, Jr., associate communications director of the General Conference. He illustrated how It Is Written Canada fulfils the call of Nehemiah 8 to reveal the Word to those ready to receive it. Then there was the Sabbath midday sermon by It Is Written Canada's speaker/executive director, Bill Santos himself.

In his usual disarmingly simple, humble and straightforward manner, Santos delivered a sermon about which an attendee commented, "I've just heard one of the most powerful and important messages of our time." He

further suggested that each It Is Written partner be given a DVD of the sermon to watch along with friends and family in their homes and their local churches. "If that does not move them," he said, "I don't know what will." His sermon, together with Folkenberg's and most of the weekend's presentations, is, in fact, available on DVD from It Is Written Canada.

The spiritual feast also included live and DVD presentations that unveiled a picture of It Is Written Canada as an organization taking the news of salvation to hard-to-reach corners of Africa, South America and North America. One DVD featured Castanzalinho, a remote Brazilian village accessible only through driving that is dangerous by day and almost impossible by night. Pastors and evangelists don't visit often. But the residents, including the 104-year-old village matriarch, keep alive their hope in the soon coming of Jesus. They do so thanks, in part, to the antennas that bring programs of Novo Tempo, It Is Written Canada's main partner in Brazil, to the village.

Teixeira Vinte of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division of the Adventist Church thanked Pastor Santos and It Is Written Canada for overcoming obstacles to hold a successful evangelistic series in Angola. Rick Roethler, regional director with the Southern California Conference, enriched the weekend with his report on the evangelistic series conducted by Pastor Santos in Lancaster, California. The three-week series, he said, led to the baptism of 113 persons. They ranged from the 35-year-old son of an Adventist pastor to former members of the Catholic, Assemblies of God and Jehovah's Witness churches to "some who knew nothing of Jesus."

Automotive engineer Robert Greaves traced his life from his immigration to Canada as a 21-year-old newly married Adventist and his career-influenced backsliding to the time he resumed attending the Barrie Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario just to make his young wife "look good" in the eyes of her church family. Then It Is Written Canada came to town and transformed Greaves from a stubborn backbencher

to an active church member who now watches the It Is Written broadcast each Sunday if only to hear Santos remind him and other viewers that we shall not live by bread alone. "Now," he said, "I have a good life, both physically and spiritually. And it all started because It Is Written ministry took the time to do an evangelistic series in a small community up north called Barrie."

This is just a sample of the corporate and personal testimonies of the value and effectiveness of It Is Written Canada. No wonder Pastors, Folkenberg, Costa, Vinte, Roethler and others encouraged participants to continue and even increase their giving to the ministry. Pastor Phipps evoked loud laughter by sharing the words of an old lady to a successful businessman who was not a very cheerful giver. "Son," she had told him, "the God you serve is an honest God. If you give too much, He'll give it back."

Those who had given "too much" at previous Partnership Weekends got it back in the form of the impressive fruits of the ministry. During the weekend, as Pastor Santos was getting ready to preach, the weekly broadcast of It Is Written on CTV was launched. This occurred as a result of a series of divine interventions and through contributions, in many cases from those who have attended previous Weekends. Now, most English-speaking Canadians, regardless of their time zones, can see the telecast on CTV at 11 every Saturday morning. Requests for Bible studies have increased ten-fold compared to the same period a year earlier.

So you can understand why I left Toronto satisfied that my questions had been answered and that these Weekends are about more than tasty food and a nice hotel. They are a foretaste of heaven and represent money well spent. I hope you make it to Partnership Weekend 2010 and, more importantly, to that great feast where Jesus Himself will sit at the head table. In either case, look for me. By God's grace, I will be there too. ■

Frank A. Campbell, a writer and editor, is a member of the Nepean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ottawa, Ontario.



My African Adve

I got back from Africa a week ago. As I walked through the door, I instantly recognized all of the things that have been so familiar to me my entire life, but suddenly they looked so foreign. Standing there, I looked around, feeling somewhat detached—a part of readjusting I was told would happen. Earlier as I began my three-and-a-half-day journey back to Canada from Khartoum, Sudan (my last stop on a 17-day journey), I had felt utter joy and excitement over seeing certain everyday things that we usually don't give a second thought to in our lives. With each airport, I stepped off the plane feeling like a child who had discovered the most amazing thing; there was an utter feeling of safety and relief seeing that roll of toilet paper and the ceramic toilet rather than just a hole in the ground in some shed. Now I was back in Canada, no longer in the villages of Africa.

Adventure

with ADRA

by Naomi Striemer



For the next two days, when I wasn't bedridden with the virus I picked up, I tried to get back into a somewhat normal and familiar routine. I always felt incredible emotions on the verge of surfacing. Tears seemed to be at the very tip of my eyelids at all times. But I was home, I was safe, I was back to normal now, I had made it back to civilization and I had succeeded, but a piece of me felt like a deserter. Sitting in the house, I looked around trying to imagine removing the kitchen, the bathroom(s), furniture, heater/cooler, electricity and all remaining rooms until I stood in one of the smallest bedrooms of the house. In it, I imagined taking away the door, large window, ceiling and roof until there was just a very small peephole and a door-less entrance to the room, with dried reeds or crusted mud (even cow dung) for a roof, and then inviting my entire family into that room, where we would eat, sleep and live for the rest of our lives.

I had left the Winter Olympics in Vancouver (where I was involved in the Youth Summit) to fly straight to Kenya to meet with the ADRA team to shoot some video footage. What a world of difference between the streets of Vancouver and the streets of Nairobi! However, after traveling as much as I have, not too many landscapes shock or surprise me. Instead, it is the culture, the environment and the people that make the world of difference. I noticed right away the lack of basic necessities for living in Kenya. Don't get me wrong, we could have paid the big bucks and stayed at the five-star hotels in Nairobi and never noticed any difference at all. But that

was not what we were there to experience, and fortunately, that is not how ADRA spends their money.

A red switch on the wall to turn on the hot water for a shower, a small single cot with a foam mattress (which I loved from the very first night), warm humid air that drifted in through the open slots high on the cement walls, and the familiar mosquito net tied and hanging above the bed—all hidden behind the safety of a gated compound with friendly guards standing and watching throughout the night.

On our first day, we flew to an area called Kisii in a Cessna airplane. The airport was nothing more than one landing strip, made of a dirt road in the middle of a field, with children standing and gathering to watch almost as though they were the air traffic controllers. We hopped out of the plane and into two vehicles, and I was immediately introduced to the dirt roads of Kenya. Pot holes a foot deep and two feet wide, throngs of woman walking along the side of the road carrying 40-pound water jugs or banana cloves on their heads, children in flocks (some on their way to school, others tending to errands) and men looking for their day's work.

We arrived at the Nyaburi Integrated Primary School (and Dormitory) for the Physically Handicapped, only miles away from where Barack Obama, Sr., (yes, the father of the forty-fourth President of the United States) had been raised. Looking at the mountain in that direction and back into the eyes of the children (all of whom were at various stages of handicap and physical challenge), I couldn't help but wonder, "do they have any idea what that kind of opportunity looked like?" I decided that the answer had to be yes, because to them, they



were living in the greatest opportunity of their lives. In this area, children who were born with disabilities were looked upon as cursed, a sin unto their families, so they were hidden away, sometimes in a shed or a closet so that no one ever saw them. I noticed the staff was overworked and the facility was in need of repairs; yet, the workers were giving these children something they had never had before this program: a real life and a dream . . .

I met a young man who had been at the program for just two weeks. He was 22 years old and had never been outside or interactive with other people before arriving. I couldn't even imagine what an existence that would be and what a difference the program must have made for him—being born into a world of discovery at 22 years old.

This place made the kids feel at home, safe and “normal,” that they fit in and were accepted, not only by the other kids like them but also by the community children who attended the school.

With the help of physiotherapy (something we take for granted in this country) and a few surgeries (provided to certain children whose conditions could be improved), along with daily care, a few of the youth would go on to lead productive lives in their communities while others would depend on care for the rest of their lives.

Almost every day, we went to a different program site, and on day two we embarked on a controversial subject, one I had hand-picked from the list of possibilities. A few years earlier, I had read about female genital mutilation (FGM) in a popular women's magazine and made a mental note that I had to help this situation in whatever way I could one day. I knew this might be my only chance. Our translator, the project manager, was our main source of information. He was working closely with the community to change their way of thinking, to inform them of the health and safety risks associated with female genital mutilation, and put an end to a long-lasting superstitious tradition. I'm sure that like me, most of you have already cringed over simply reading the

name of this practice, but learning the details was that much more horrific. Some would say it's inappropriate to talk about, but if we don't talk about it, how will it ever stop?

We learned that even though FGM has been banned in the country as an illegal practice, the tribes and village people are still insisting it be done behind closed doors for ritualistic reasons, a “coming of age” practice. For generations, they've been told it will make a young girl fertile, that it will bring the girl

what can happen when humans begin to tamper with God's design. It was a long day, and I felt frustrated.

The dawn of a new day came, and I learned that in most parts of Africa even a primary (grades one to eight) level of education could secure someone and their family an honest living. To get to attend secondary school (high school, grades nine to 12) and then on to a vocational training was invaluable, something so many can only dream of. We visited many schools that taught

“...somewhere in the world
children are being told they
won't be getting a meal today”

and her family good luck and that it will keep her “pure.” So, mothers and grandmothers take their daughters (between the ages of 5 and 15, roughly) into the hills behind huts around 3 a.m. (so the body is still numb from sleep) or to hospitals under the guise of malaria to have the procedure done. If it is happening, pray that it takes place at the hospital by a nurse “under the table” for money, because if it is done by a traditional “surgeon” in the hills, there will be no pain killers, no disinfectants or any other standard procedure for surgery, and the job of cutting off the very tender organ of the female body will be done by a one-inch razor blade or a dull handmade knife like the one I was given by a retired FGM “surgeon” that could barely slice a tomato. I almost asked the man to stop describing the procedure for fear I would vomit. That's what merely listening to the details of the stories did to me; I couldn't imagine what it had done to the girls who had survived the experience personally because, aside from the procedure itself being ghastly, the patient must deal with the many health risks and complications that often arise. I shuddered to think of

children of all ages, including a “work for school” program, where orphaned youth worked to get through school and on to secondary school or a vocational program. Their duties included after-school gardening and farming. This program impressed me because it was enabling the youth to learn life skills that they could use to succeed in addition to the educational program itself. They shared with me their stories of losing parents and many ending up on the streets at a very young age only to be saved by someone who was familiar with the ADRA program and brought them to the school they were attending now. One young man dreamt of becoming an engineer. I listened to his story and felt that one day he truly would become an engineer.

Sabbath came like a sweet relief as we entered the Masai Mara Safari in the south of Kenya. I was riding in the backseat of an off-roading 4x4 driving along grass paths, seeing the Animal Planet unfold in front of me. I was surprised to see all of the wild animals living in harmony together: the elephants with the giraffes, gazelle, monkeys and wart hogs, all eating and playing. A few

feet away were the water buffalo, and across the road was a hippo. We drove a little further to discover a leopard hanging out in a tree, and around the corner lay two lionesses with their four cubs crawling all over one another. The peace of the safari was seemingly so distant from the places we had been just hours before.

Later that evening, as I listened to the sounds of the hippos in the river, I had a visitor come by my tent. I must have held my breath for several minutes as I stared into the face of a large male elephant, his three-foot tusks and playful nose inches away from my entrance. After the initial shock wore off, I lay in bed listening to him and watching him eat some leaves, knowing I was experiencing a moment of a lifetime, one I'd never forget.

We anxiously awaited word to find out if we would be entering the country of Sudan or not. Our visas had been in process for four months and still had not arrived with approval. Three days after our original flight day scheduled, we were on the plane to Sudan, each carrying a camera in our luggage to avoid drawing too much attention to our camera man. Getting off the plane, we immediately noticed that the atmosphere was much different from the one in Kenya or Tanzania. Tension filled the air, and it was obvious that every eye was locked on us "Americans." I quickly covered a "Jesus" logo on my t-shirt as we waited to clear customs.

That night, I took my head scarf out of my suitcase and wore it for the remainder of the trip. It was much more comfortable to have it on than off, I realized. The energy was always as though you never knew when something might happen. It became apparent at one point that we had narrowly escaped being arrested in the city of Khartoum for having cameras on a Sabbath afternoon boat ride. As I look back, there is no doubt in my mind there had been a team of angels constantly watching, guiding and protecting us.

The first program we visited was in North Sudan in a place called Umjawasir in the Sahara desert. It was a desert

farming project. Strange, I know, but 500 feet beneath the Sahara desert is a body of water so large that the whole desert could be turned into farm country. Bore holes (wells) had been put in, and nomad animal herders were learning how to grow crops and farm. It was one of the most enjoyable sites we visited. Seeing lush green fields with a backdrop of nothing but sand and desert was phenomenal. I enjoyed the people so much, all of whom were Islamic but were so kind and welcoming. They invited me to ride one of their camels and, later in the day, a donkey as I gathered water at the well with some of the ladies (which reminded me of so many Bible stories). We slept under the millions of stars and left this program feeling very refreshed.

The last site we visited in Kosti, Sudan, was by far the most difficult for me. We went to an Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) camp. They had been refugees in their own country for 22 years. They had fled the south fearing for their lives and had never been able to return to their homes or leave their makeshift desert refuge. Upon entering the camp, the first thing I saw was a boy, very thin, boiling a pot of water over a small fire. We asked if we could open the pot to see what he was cooking, and when we lifted the lid, we saw six baby minnow fish, no bigger than the size of my small finger. I looked at his bony limbs and knew that that was his dinner and perhaps the only meal he would have all day.

These people had been surviving on aid for clean water (from the White Nile) and food for their children at school, but all aid had recently been halted, and I heard talk that attention and funding had shifted to the disaster in Haiti. I looked at camp after camp of thousands of people waiting, just waiting for some kind of savior to come help them. It was an extremely difficult ending to the trip.

At the close of the trip, I knew it would take a very long time to process all that I had seen. I realized that I am just a messenger of information, not a

missionary like so many children dream of becoming. I sat and watched the missionaries (or in modern terms, aid workers) and had to commend them for their courage and sense of adventure, but mostly for their compassion and selfless lives. You see Christ in these people who sacrifice every day to help others. People who, when funding is being cut, say, "we cannot leave these people, we cannot just walk away, we must do something even if it is just two of us going out with a welding gun to help repair school benches." And you think, these are special people. People we must support in whatever way we live our lives here in Canada. We can still make a difference.

You think of ADRA probably in a way that I did, that they are an indestructible organization that has been around for decades and will be around through the rest of time. The truth is, when the economy buckled, it hit them hard as well. They survive on donations, and when personal family budgets are chopped, usually aid relief is one of the first things to go. This means that somewhere in the world children are being told they won't be getting a meal today at school (which means they probably won't get a meal at all), and maybe tomorrow there won't be a school to go to, or there is no more money for the physical therapy that could help one child walk one day and live a normal life. Maybe you've become like I was, growing too comfortable with seeing the ADRA logo and the Sabbath morning videos in church, thinking, "I'm glad they have a community of donors taking care of this and doing so much good work," taking for granted the opportunities being given and God's work being done. If the young community doesn't embrace this as our mission—something we're in together—ADRA may become something we learn about in Adventist history books. Let's make sure that doesn't happen, together. ■

Naomi Striemer is a recording artist and was featured in our February 2010 issue.

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Ontario



Ken Dryden, Member of Parliament



Dennis Uffindell, Immanuel's first pastor

Celebrating 25 Years

"Honouring the Past . . . Embracing the Future" was the theme of the 25th anniversary for Immanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was with thanksgiving for the past, joy in the present and hope for the future that Immanuel's pastors, Vasilij Osadchuk and Garth Dottin, and church members celebrated the occasion. Several of the church's former pastors and members came from far and near to join in the March 5–6, 2010 celebrations.

Immanuel was officially opened and dedicated to the Lord on March 2, 1985. Immanuel is one of our most multicultural Adventist churches in Canada. The church's membership of more than 400 people is comprised of individuals from more than 50 countries.

Included in the roster of special guests for the anniversary celebrations was the local Member of Parliament, the Honourable Ken Dryden, who commended the church for its diversity. Other special guests included Mansfield Edwards, our Ontario conference president and Daniel Linrud, executive secretary.

Former pastors who participated in the program were Antonio Bueno, Manuel Silva, Clayton Stanwick,

Marian Kossovan, Dennis Uffindell and Terry Sparks. The congregation also received greetings from former pastors Barry Hubley, Evert Potgieter, Gregory Arutyunyan and Omn Liang, who were unable to attend. Uffindell, who served as Immanuel's first pastor and now resides in the United States, was the special guest speaker for the church service.

A variety of talented singers and musicians added to the joyfulness of the occasion. Among them were Larisa Pavlioglu, Sharon Foreman, Luidmila Mazur, Len Cameron, the special anniversary and children's choirs conducted by Daniella Kuchurivski, and a host of other musical tributes.

The weekend of celebrations concluded with a musical concert, followed by a social and more time for Immanuel members and former members to reminisce about their shared past. Yes, the past informs the present and the future. As we celebrate our past and embrace the future, we do so with the confidence that our God who has led us in the past will continue to lead us. Immanuel . . . God with us! ■

— Shirley Fowlin,
communications leader

Ontario Camp Meeting—Empowered Living

May 29, 2010 at the International Centre in Mississauga, Ontario

Speakers: Dr. George Brown, Retired President, Inter American Division; Dr. Hyveth Williams, Professor of Homiletics, S.D.A. Theological Seminary, Andrews University, Michigan

"This is Your Season"

The Ontario Women's Conference 2010



"It was my life she was talking about!" was a comment heard from many of the 300 women who attended the April 9-11 Ontario Women's Conference in Oshawa. At this conference, women learned that it was their season to deepen their understanding and relationship with God, to thank Him for successes and to be open, honest and trusting of Him during the trials. They were reminded that God doesn't intervene in many situations in our timing, but He is always working out the mystery of His plan for our lives, saying, in essence, "I am with you, and I will use you the way you are!"



Carla Baker

The weekend event was packed full of seminars and workshops that covered topics relevant to women of today: self-esteem, relationships, forgiveness and spirituality from the feminine perspective. Each session aimed to help listeners not only draw closer to God but to each other as well. Carla Baker shared a timely presentation about getting along with colleagues and Sandra Silva shared a step-by-step process for learning to do door-to-door witnessing. Pastor Janice De-Whyte spoke to the young women about making good relationship choices, self-esteem and building a relationship based on God's principles.

Keynote speaker, Heather-Dawn Small, world leader of Adventist Women's Ministries, moved her listeners to laughter



**Heather-Dawn Small,
World leader of Adventist
Women's Ministries**

and tears as she shared her personal testimony. She shared struggles that she has faced: being a woman in a man's world, suffering from severe depression and other debilitating health challenges, her near-divorce and the loss of her young son who was mauled to death by a dog. She focused on the fact that she didn't receive immediate answers to her overwhelming question—"Why did this happen?"—and talked of the importance of waiting, that even suffering has a purpose. Throughout her talks, Small encouraged her listeners to be proactive, to claim the promises of God in prayer, and to work hard at building and maintaining a solid relationship with Christ. "It is God first, and then all the rest," she said with emphasis.

A highlight for many of the attendees was Yvonne Rodney's session "Forgive? Yeah Right!" Rodney, author and director of the Career Centre at the University of Toronto, drew on her own personal experiences and shared key points about learning to forgive those who have hurt us, and how important it is for us to forgive for our own spiritual health and healing. So useful and relevant was this session that many women returned to the second presentation to hear the information a second time. One visitor told her friend, "The Forgiveness workshop that I attended had a major impact. I was shocked to discover things that I didn't know about myself and I am applying the advice given in that seminar to my life."

Attendees were very blessed by the whole weekend experience. One new member said, "the acceptance and the enthusiasm is amazing for me. I have never seen a group of women who held me up, who have accepted me." Someone else shared, "This weekend has been a powerful experience. God has shown grace, restoration and love to me, but also to each woman who has opened themselves up to receive it." Over the delicious lunch served on Sabbath, Natalie Downer spoke, "The sessions thus far have been powerful, and I have been truly blessed. I am so glad that I came."

This event was co-sponsored by the Women's and Health Ministries departments of the Ontario conference. ■

Southern Ontario Camp Meeting

June 12, 2010 at the Norfolk County Fairgrounds near the Simcoe Adventist Church in Simcoe, Ontario

Speakers: Dr. Mansfield Edwards, President, Ontario Conference of S.D.A.; Glenn DeSilva, Assoc. Director of Camp Frenda and Men's Ministries, Ontario Conference of S.D.A.

North American Division

Prayer Congress Directs Youth to “Salvation and Service”



Photographer: Billy Wright

Though she was hundreds of miles away, 9-year-old Veronica Slack, who attends Capital Memorial church in Washington, D.C., decided to be baptized after watching, over the Internet, the Just Claim It 2 (JCI2) youth prayer congress in Columbus, Ohio. While it is impossible to say how many others were similarly impacted by the five-day event, thousands of young people from around the North American Division (NAD) stood ready at JCI2 for “Salvation and Service.” With prayer at its core and youth leading in many aspects, the NAD Youth Ministries event was designed to train young people for effective ministries of their own. JCI2 combined the Youth Ministries Leadership Summit, the Just Claim It 2 Prayer Congress, Ignition—GODencounters for Young Adults and the Children’s Worship Festival sponsored by the Ohio Conference.

Calling the different activities at the congress “filling stations for spiritual growth, training, motivation and encouragement,” pastors James Black Sr., NAD Youth Ministries director, and Manny Cruz, NAD associate Youth Ministries director, noted that delegates filled “their spiritual cups through prayer initiatives, community mission projects, evangelism outreach, teen preaching/testimonies, mass choir/orchestra, workshops/seminars, recreation and a Sabbath youth rally and parade.”

Lindsey Gibbons, 13, came all the way from the South Hampton church in Bermuda looking to fill her spiritual cup with knowledge. “I really enjoyed the workshop on diversity,” she said. “In a lot of our churches in Bermuda we tend to put people in boxes, and I want to take what I learned here to make my church a better place.”

Matt Teller and his wife, Mayda, from the New Haven church in Kansas City, Kansas, took several of their Midland Adventist Academy students to the event. “Some of the kids were really enthusiastic about outreach,” he observed.

One of his students Jordan Wiles, 16, also a member of the New Haven church said although getting out of school was an added benefit “I wanted to witness to others and thought this would be a nice way to learn how.”

Dayna King (17), Tevin Carter (17) and Kellie Dehm (18) all members of Miracle Temple in Baltimore, found a service session reaching out to juvenile offenders life changing. King noted that he could have been one of those offenders had he not accepted Christ.

Understanding that a strong prayer life leads to strong service, Ann Roda, Family Ministries pastor at Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md., coordinated various prayer experiences while in Columbus. One of those experiences included placing four massive boards in the convention center for young people to write their prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. “Most people need to feel, touch and hear Him before God becomes real,” she said.

Rogers Johnson, pastor of three churches in Texas (New Beginning in Athens, Cariker Street church in Nacogdoches and North Lufkin church in Lufkin), can already predict what youth will do with the training they received. He taught the hands-on street ministries seminar. “I’ve been doing this seminar for 10 years,” he said. “I’ve seen participants become more active in their churches and become youth leaders and youth directors. One guy even started a church.”

Guest speaker Eddie Hypolite summed up the week’s meetings in his Sabbath sermon when he warned leaders not to make the church’s doctrines a yoke and burden. “We are teaching the traditions of men ... as commands of God. But the centrality of who we are is Jesus. Jesus is not a doctrine.” ■

—Taashi Rowe, *Columbia Union Visitor*

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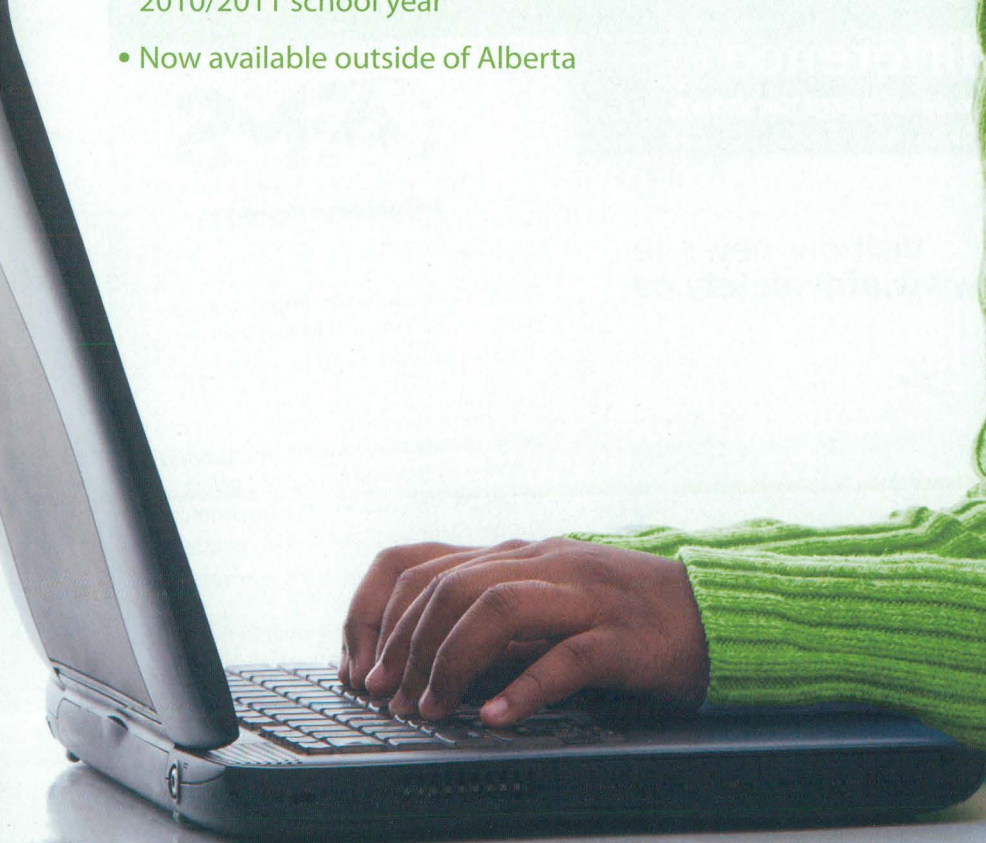


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■ **Announcements**

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Lori MacDonald 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.
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■ **Announcements**

Planning on attending the General Conference session in Atlanta, June 24–July 3? Start training for the Adventist Race for Health on June 27, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. Details found at www.adventistraceforhealth.org.

2010 German Campmeeting: June 4–5 (Friday to Saturday) at Camp Hope Youth Hill, 61855 Lougheed Highway, Hope, B.C. Featured speaker: Lothar Reiche, former president of the East German Union. Bring your German Bible; musical instruments and special music for blessings in worship; and delicious German food for the potluck. For room or camping reservations, call 604/869-2615. For more information contact Reiner Kupperts at 604/826-0300; email rkupperts@telus.net.

Celebrate our NAD Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) Day on Sabbath, May 15, 2010. Theme: Whole In Jesus! The purpose of Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) Sabbath is to focus on inclusiveness—to help everyone feel accepted, wanted, included, heard and involved. Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) Sabbath is an opportunity to listen to the desires

and dreams of all members and explore together how your church can facilitate their realization. Download materials to celebrate this important day on our website: www.adventistsingleadultministries.org

The Toronto Hungarian SDA Church is pleased to host this year's annual Bible conference of Hungarians across North America on July 16–18, 2010 at Kingsway College, Oshawa, Ont. All services will be bilingual and all are welcome to attend. To reserve accommodation and/or meal tickets, you may contact Katalin Kis: katalin.sandor@hotmail.com; 905/239-3290. Plan to be there.

■ **New Members**

MARITIMES

Christian Chauvin and **Devin Dobson** were baptized in a brook near Sussex, N.B., on Aug. 5, 2009, by Jacques LeBlanc. They are now members of the Maranatha church.

Tim Dennis was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2009, by Jacques LeBlanc. He is now a member of the Saint John church.

Jeb Kelly was baptized in Hampton, N.B., on Nov. 28, 2009, by Jacques LeBlanc. He is now a member of the Maranatha church.

Jim Hebb was baptized in Bridgewater, N.S., on Dec. 19, 2009, by Leroy Corkum. He is now a member of the Bridgewater church.

ONTARIO

Ken Polyak and **Zsigmond Kolcze Jr.** were baptized on Feb. 27, 2010, at the Toronto Hungarian church by Karoly Nagy. They are now members of the Toronto Hungarian church.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ever and **Sandra Castillo** and **Azlan Nelson Williams** were baptized in Aldergrove, B.C., on Dec. 13, 2010. The Castillos were baptized by David Jamieson, and Azlan was baptized by Derek Richter. They are all now members of the Aldergrove church.

■ **Births**

Lacey Elizabeth Babbitt was born March 9, 2009, to Melanie (née Armson) Babbitt of Leduc, Alta.

Isabella Brynn Boyd was born Jan. 2, 2010, to Christy and Alex Boyd of Fredericton, N.B.

Abigail Anne Walker was born Jan. 22, 2010, to Gina and Jeremy Walker of Hubbards, N.S.

■ **Weddings**

Devin Dobson and **Christian Chauvin** were married Aug. 15, 2009, in Hampton, N.S., where they are making their home.

Melita Pujic and **Brandon Pazitka** were married Oct. 19, 2009, in Wasing Park, Reading, England, and are making their home in London, England. Melita is the daughter of Miroslav and Esti Pujic of St. Albans, England, and Brandon is the son of Larry and Marilyn Pazitka of Courtice, Ont.

■ **Anniversaries**

Carol and **Angus Harvey** of Windsor, N.S., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 15, 2009, at King's Edgehill University.

Ida and **Wilfred Kenzle** of Red Deer,



Alta., celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in Feb. 2010.

Dot and **Jack Smith** of Hampton, N.B., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 2, 2009, at the Lighthouse River Center.

■ **Birthdays**

Mike Kotanko of Langley, B.C., celebrated his 95th birthday on Feb. 24, 2010. He has four children, 15 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.



■ **Obituaries**

Heinrich (Henry) Breault Litke was born March 6, 1916, in Beausejour, Man., and died Feb. 8, 2010, in Middlechurch, Man. Henry served as deacon, elder, and speaker for church services in the Winnipeg German church and the Morden and River Hills churches. He worked with the Stimme Der

Hoffnung radio program and sang with the Melody Singers. Henry is predeceased by his wife, Clara Litke; sons Dennis and Wilfred; brothers, Adolph, Ronald, Frederick, Edward and William; sisters, Olga McGregor and Martha Chew. Surviving: wife, Marie Breault; son Earl (Doris) Litke of Winnipeg; daughter Darleen (Rudolph) Dixo of Toronto, Ont.; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Esther (née Wetter) Littman was born April 6, 1911, in Leduc, Alta., and died Dec. 21, 2009, in Leduc. Esther was an active worker for the Dorcas Society. She is predeceased by her husband, Reinhart; son, Marvin; brother, Herb; sisters Racher Drustling, Elsie Steinke, Dorothy McLean; and grandchild, Twyla Littman. Surviving: daughters, Eunice (Art) Kruger of Leduc and Bettyann (John) Boucher of Calmar, Alta.; sisters, Beatrice Steinke, Ruth Thorvaldson and Maxine Hagerman; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mary (née McConnell) Owen was born May 19, 1918, in Davidson, Sask., and died Feb. 11, 2010, in Ponoka, Alta. Mary and her husband, James, were founding members of the Fairview church and Lacombe Community church. She also taught Sabbath School children's programs. Mary is predeceased by her son James, her great-granddaughter Montana and six siblings. Surviving: husband, James; son Glen (Lois) of Williams Lake, B.C.; daughter, Judy (Yvon) Caza of Ponoka; daughter-in-law, Cheryl of Ponoka; eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Nicholas Revega was born Oct. 3, 1925, in Oshawa, Ont., and died Feb. 28, 2010, in Calgary, Alta. Nicholas was a charter member of the Calgary Central church, where he served as elder, deacon, Sabbath School teacher, personal ministries and community services leader. He is predeceased by one sister. Surviving: son, Mark of Calgary, Alta.; daughter, Mindi Ganson of Red Deer, Alta.; one brother and five sisters; and three grandchildren.

Judy (née Lomon) Walper was born Oct. 10, 1922, in Penticton, B.C., and died Jan. 25, 2010, in Osoyoos, B.C. Judy was an educator for 25 years in B.C. and Ont. She served as dean of women at Kingsway College, and as a missionary in Sarawak, Malaysia. She is predeceased by her husband, William; brothers Frank and Curt. Her sister, Sharon, died shortly after Judy. Surviving: sons, Daniel of Toronto, Ont., and James of Burnaby, B.C.; daughters, Bonnie and Cyndi, both of Oliver, B.C.,

and Della of Calgary, Alta.; brother Hunt (Della) Lomon of Maple Ridge, B.C.; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Raymond Wagh was born March 10, 1924, in Bucovina, Romania, and died March 13, 2010, in Yuma, Ariz. Raymond taught in B.C. and colported most of Canada, including the Northwest Territories. He volunteered for Maranatha and Mission Church Builders. He is predeceased by his sisters, Frieda Hauser and Claudia Grunvall. Surviving: son, Dan (Tricia) of Martinsburg, W. Va.; daughter, Sylvia (Joilo) Barbosa of Walla Walla, Wash.; and five grandchildren.

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Grandview SDA Church and North Okanagan Junior Academy would like to invite all former pastors, members, teachers, students and supporters to join us in celebrating our 100th anniversary. There will be a weekend of special services and programs commemorating the event, as well as a look at our history. Come join us Sept. 17–19, 2010. More info and updates can be viewed at www.grandviewadventist.ca. (08/10)

Andrews University is searching for a qualified candidate to join our School of Education as a Leadership and Educational Administration professor. Must have an earned doctorate degree and demonstrated leadership skills. For additional information and to apply, please visit: www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi. (05/10)

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Amateur Radio Operators: the quinquennial business and fellowship meeting of the Adventist Amateur Radio Association International will be held June 27, 2010, at 2:00 p.m., in room B-317 (building B), in connection with the General Conference session in Atlanta. All radio amateurs are welcome to attend. Visit us during the session in the exhibit area, booth 1738, Adventist World Aviation. Submitted by Jim Hoffer, KW8T, secretary-treasurer, www.aarai.org. (05/10)

Save \$4.50 May 1–31, 2010! ABC Deal of the Month: *Witness* by Jack Blanco. Regularly \$17.99, *sale* \$13.49. This fresh, unified narrative arranges the fascinating stories and heartfelt letters of the apostles in chronological order. Available at your ABC, at www.AdventistBookCenter.com or by calling 800/765-6955. (05/10)

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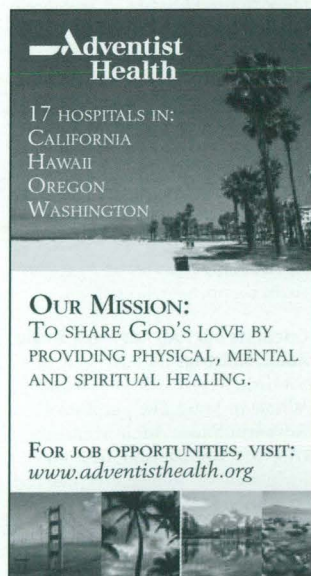
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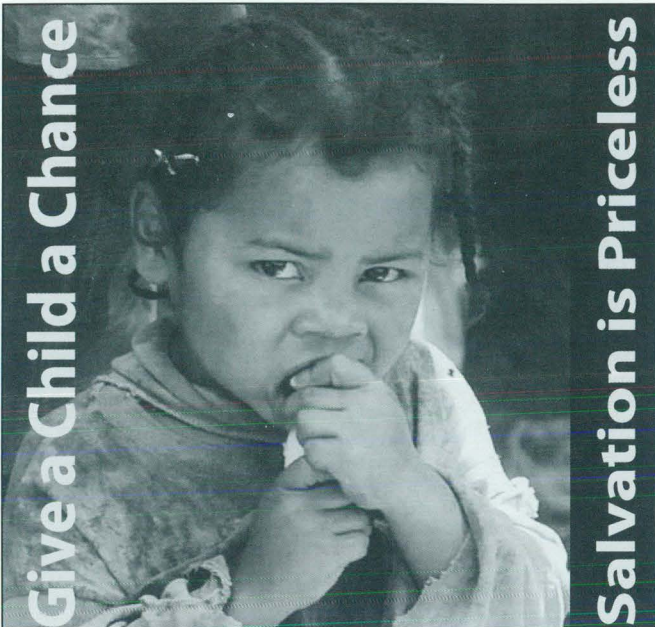
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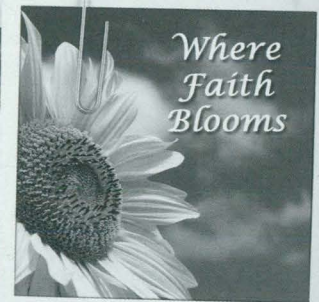
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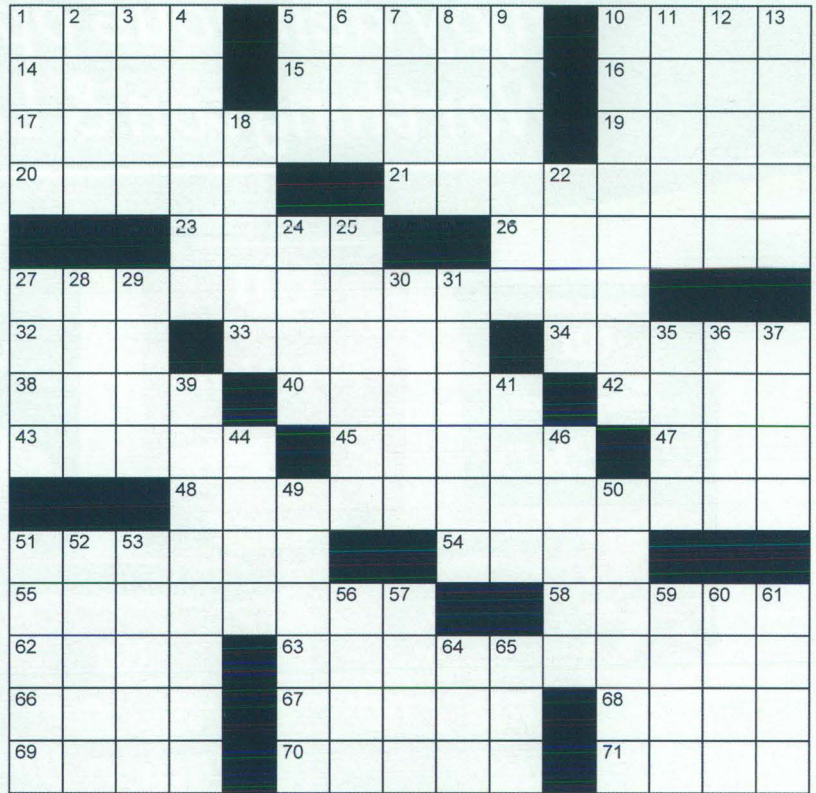
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Across

- 1. Unless, to Cicero
- 5. Twig sweeper
- 10. Boring
- 14. McGregor of "The Island"
- 15. Rachmaninoff opera
- 16. Tug-of-war need
- 17. Car engine measure
- 19. Assembly hall in Berlin
- 20. Finger opener
- 21. More imperfectly made
- 23. Holder of billiard balls
- 26. Maxima maker
- 27. Predicament
- 32. Biblical verb suffix
- 33. Follow behind
- 34. "Metamorphosis" author
- 38. Raleigh's state: Abbr.
- 40. Smooth and easy
- 42. Cord contents
- 43. Larcener
- 45. Childish comeback
- 47. Atty. grp.
- 48. Mobile home
- 51. Site of Cleopatra's defeat
- 54. Aspen gear
- 55. Word describing a panda
- 58. Southwestern plain
- 62. French girl's name.
- 63. Camp David Accords figure
- 66. Black, in a sonnet
- 67. City in SW New Hampshire
- 68. Neophyte: Var.
- 69. Summoned, as a servant
- 70. Times Roman feature
- 71. What a ring lacks

Down

- 1. Pop brand
- 2. Victor's excited cry
- 3. Variety of quartz
- 4. Newspaper advertising section
- 5. Bill Clinton's relig. affiliation
- 6. Band with the hit album 'A New World Record'
- 7. Works on a sampler
- 8. Approve
- 9. Latter-day Saints' angel
- 10. Ex-gridder in "Failure to Launch"
- 11. Robert ___ Stevenson
- 12. Cop ___ (negotiate for a lighter sentence)
- 13. Author Lafcadio ___
- 18. Give a big boost
- 22. Frisbee, e.g.
- 24. Witty Bennett
- 25. Teddy bearlike marsupials
- 27. Superman Clark
- 28. Write with acid
- 29. Spicy Asian cuisine
- 30. Italian for Rijeka
- 31. Spark makers
- 35. Filly or colt
- 36. South Honshu city
- 37. Month in Israel
- 39. Putting back on the payroll
- 41. Nerdy type



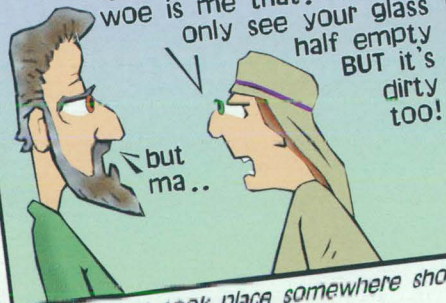
- 44. Not fair
- 46. Coin reverse
- 49. Eskimo boats
- 50. Misses the boat
- 51. More skillful
- 52. Silk-cotton tree
- 53. Hawk's grabber
- 56. Deep ___ bend
- 57. Washstand item
- 59. Possible tennis score before a game-ending ace
- 60. Ginseng herb
- 61. Western Indians
- 64. "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace" boy
- 65. Striped official

SOLUTION



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Jeremiah.. I am sick and tired of you moping around. Everything is gloom and doom. No wonder you can't keep any friends.. it's woe is me this, and woe is me that. You not only see your glass half empty BUT it's dirty too!



A scene that took place somewhere shortly after **Jeremiah 15:10**.. maybe

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