september 2010

The New North American Division President

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Turn, Turn, Turn

"He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning." Dan. 2:21

e've all heard it said that there are certain historical moments that we connect with so deeply that we will always remember where we were when we heard the news. Where were you when you heard about the assassination of JFK? The death of Princess Diana? The horrible tragedy of 9/11? Be it one of these or some other moment, I am sure you have a memory of a significant moment and how you connected with it on an emotional level.

It will sound melodramatic, I guess, but it's true just the same, for me to say that I have such a connection to hearing the news of our president, Dan Jackson, being elected to the presidency of the North American Division. For months it had been a half-hearted joke around the SDACC office that maybe it would happen, but Dan emphatically said, "I'm not going anywhere," and we took comfort in that. Even the day before the election, as I chatted with him in the hall of the Georgia World Congress Center during the General Conference session, Dan again said confidently, "I am not going anywhere."

So, when the communications director for the NAD tapped me on the shoulder the next day as I sat with colleagues in the press box at the Georgia Dome (scrambling for any advanced gossip we could lay our hands on) and motioned for me to slip out into the hallway, I was genuinely surprised. "The recommendation of the nominating committee for president is Dan Jackson," he whispered. "Crystal, get your press release and photos ready. The report will be presented soon."

My heart sank, and the world tilted a little. It took a moment, but I got my game face on and did the job: called "the chief" to get the requisite sound byte, contacted my office for his official photo, and sat to write the breaking news. I'd had to do suck it up and do tough jobs before, of course. Many of the things I've written have been excruciating to express. But never before had I had to wipe my tears off my keyboard so I could type.

That was a month ago or so, and the world has righted itself somewhat. Talking more with Dan has made me sure that his election was nothing short of a direct call of God to the place where he is most needed. It had to happen, and I submit my will to God's. It helps, mind you, that we've gone and elected ourselves an incredible new president for the SDACC; I am convinced that Mark Johnson was called to be here where he is most needed, as well. Having long since stopped crying, I am now overjoyed and very excited by what lies ahead of us under his leadership.

I guess what I've come to realize anew through the presidential departures and arrivals of this summer is that it is easy to lament the ending of something good, to be afraid of change when the status quo was working for you. But, how much better it is to realize that God never lets us stagnate if we are open to His leading! His enormous plan is big enough to allow not only happiness for all, but our growth as well. He who created the seasons of nature that often change before we feel ready for it to happen also creates change in our lives that we may prefer to avoid, but the results are strength and colour and beauty.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS

TAKE 5 Cryptogram and 'The Back Pew'



Volunteer Smiles

ecently, I returned from a week-long trip to the Dominican Republic. My mission? To meet up with a group of CUC students and their sponsors who were volunteering with ADRA to help build a dental clinic. ADRA Canada has partnered with Sonrisas for over 15 years, providing reliable access to quality dental care and serving as a base from which community health promotion activities are carried out. With 10 perma-



nent and seven mobile clinics already established, Sonrisas is a proven model system that has delivered consistently excellent results over the last few years. This latest clinic will no doubt follow in that tradition.

When I arrived in the Dominican Republic, the CUC group had already been there for about four weeks digging trenches, mixing concrete and sweating a river. Two highlights of my experience stand out in my mind. The first is the impression the CUC students made on me. I don't think I have ever bonded so quickly with a group of people before. Their openness, honesty and acceptance inspired me.

My husband always says that being a member of the Adventist church means that you have family in every part of the world. And that's really how it felt. I was with family I didn't even know I had. They had so much love to give, and they were pouring it out on the small community where the clinic was taking shape. I could tell that the children in this community would miss them dearly when they left.

This leads me to experience number two: the children. It is really amazing how the truly poor can make so much of so little. The kids were everywhere, making toys out of every bit of scrap they could find, and friends out of every foreigner there. They ran around barefoot, anxious to help where they could. If one of us put down a shovel to get a drink or take a breather, you could bet one of the kids would pick it up to continue the task.

There is an account in the Bible (Luke 19:39, 40) where Jesus' followers rejoice and praise God for all the miracles they

have seen. The Pharisees are not impressed and ask Jesus to rebuke them, to which He replies, "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." One of my high school religion teachers once pointed out to us that if we don't do our jobs, so to speak, nature will advertise the glories of God and witness to His Name. I'd take it a step further and say it is a privilege for us to praise the Lord. It meets a vital need built into each one of us. I also think the same

principle applies to humanitarian work. God doesn't need us to help the poor and destitute. He could manage that on His own, using nature the same way He sent the ravens to feed Elijah. But He really wants us to benefit from the opportunity.

When I was a teenager, my father always insisted that I not spend my summer in idleness. If I didn't have a summer job, I had to go to summer school or work with my grandfather on his farm. I often thought my father was being overly strict, but I soon realized that he did it because he loved me. Every person needs to have a purpose in life. Without purpose, we become selfish and depressed. I think that this is the reason God gave us the responsibility to love one another (John 13:34). Love isn't just a word or a feeling; love is a verb. "As I have loved you, so you must love one another" is probably one of the most challenging commands we have been given, but it's also one of the most rewarding. The more love we give away, the more we seem to have. It is for my own betterment that God allows me to partner with Him in reaching out to those in need. Each time I do, I return with more than I had when I started. I feel confident that my new CUC friends would agree with me.

This project was made possible because of the support of our donors, the dedication of the CUC volunteers, the commitment to excellence of Sonrisas and the help from the children of the community. On behalf of ADRA Canada, thanks for participating!

Lauren Clarke is an IT support specialist for ADRA Canada

>> If you want to learn more about the December 5–15, 2010 ADRA Canada volunteer trip to Haiti, email connections@adra.ca or phone 1-888-274-2372. Deadline for submission of applications: September 15, 2010

tech-KNOWLEDGE-y









AN INTERESTING THING about

technology is that every one of us is trying to adapt to its continual changes and learn how to utilize its functions. Whether you are in the medical field, building construction, the restaurant business, or a church organization, technology keeps moving and evolving.

I recently read an interesting statement from a book called The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect. Throughout the book, the authors, Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel, comment on how technology is shaping journalism. Connected to the communication age we are currently living in and the interactive online technology available to us, the author says, "Today, people go from passive consumers to proactive assemblers of their own journalism and views of the world." Additionally, he states, "people have the ability to interact with the news itself as well as the professionals delivering it." Being able to interact with people on a global scale is the heart of online technology.

I recently had the privilege of talking with Gary McLain, the communications director for the Oregon conference, about some of the exciting ways they are using technology to connect and interact with people throughout their conference and abroad. They recently used the technology of live video streaming to broadcast the Pathfinder Fair that was held in Albany, Oregon, on May 16, 2010. "We had about 350 viewers," Gary said, "that added up to just over 9,300 minutes of viewing." Those viewing the event throughout the day were of all ages and from many different parts of the United States and Canada. "There were grandparents who went online to watch their grandchildren perform and many of the Pathfinders' siblings," said Gary.

Harold Reimche, the father of Pastor Al Reimche, president of the Oregon conference, told me that he watched his son speaking to the Pathfinders in Albany from their home in Kelowna, British Columbia.

But the most exciting story that unfolded as a result of streaming this event involved the Daisy Mae Yoder Award. This award is given to a Pathfinder or staff who had a tough time throughout the Pathfinder year but stuck with it. This year, Jacqueline McRae, a leader from the Bonanza Pathfinder Club, was chosen to receive the award. Even though Jacqueline could not be present at the Pathfinder Fair, she watched online from her home in Bonanza, Oregon, approximately 380 kilometres away. "She could receive the award even though she wasn't there," said Gary, "and she heard what they had to say." Gary said that he received positive feedback from those who participated in the live stream of

the Pathfinder fair and that "people said it was fun to be part of the event."

The next live video stream the Oregon conference is working on is called "Reconnect Weekend," an event prepared for the collegiate/young adults that will have been streamed live on July 16–17. And Sunnyside church will have streamed their "Super Sabbath" live that same weekend.

Another idea for live video streaming that Gary talked about was the possibility to stream a church service to those multichurch districts that get their pastor only once or twice a month.

I asked Gary his thoughts on how this technology can be used to lead people to Jesus, and he said this: "People who may never step foot into your church have this technology to watch online within the privacy of their own home."

Now that the cost of live video streaming has fallen within reach of smaller churches and conferences, this technology provides a way to engage your community as well as people abroad in your programs and events like never before. There are even free video streaming services available, such as "Ustream" or "Livestream," that are worth checking out.

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

Back to School T331Taik

I'm so excited for school to start this year. I'm going to an Adventist boarding school! What are some pointers that will help me while I'm there?

It is a great opportunity to attend and live at an Adventist boarding school. In a way, those who live at a boarding school together become close family. You make solid friendships for life. Some will marry fellow students later on in life.

By now some of you are experiencing dorm life and may be wondering, "what am I doing here?" You may find yourself saying, " I never have personal time." "There are so many rules." "Check-in by the Residence Assistant (RA) seems so confining. Everybody seems to know or need to know my business."

Think of it this way. Rules need to be made to give everyone a level of security and fairness. Where there are fewer people, as in a family unit, there are fewer rules. There are many students in the dormitory, so more rules are needed. Did you know that, in Canada, there are more rules for teenagers than any other age group in society? Look for ways to enjoy the areas where you have freedom, and think of the rules as a way to prove yourself trustworthy. Students who take personal responsibility to follow the rules tend to be trusted with more freedom.

There is also the issue of personal time and space. You want to be with your friends, but you need some down time. One place you can go is the chapel. It is a great place to rest, be alone and pray. Another benefit is, you might meet others who also value quiet time with Jesus.

Some days, despite having a great time meeting new people, being involved and getting to know the deans and teachers, you may still get homesick. Most parents want to know you miss them and value home life. It's OK to call Mom or Dad and say, "I miss you; send me some cookies." Keep a calling card handy or If you have a cell phone, text your parent. Hopefully, your parent can restore the confidence you need to continue. Remember, they want you to succeed.

Work with your roommate for creative ideas on how both of you can make your room the coolest room in the dorm. Keep it inexpensive, and remember to keep focussed on your studies. You are there to get an education.

Finally, you may be the shy type—not outgoing, not a sports buff or a spiritual leader. How will you cope in the dorm? My suggestion is to do your best to get out of your comfort zone for part of each day. Hang out with others in the student center, the gym, the chapel and in the classroom. Make yourself be friendly. Do something for another shy or homesick friend, and you will find your days a lot brighter.

Creation Corner cor Kids

"And, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds." Numbers 17:8

Stick Insect

Peering into the branches of a mostly dead shrub, I was surprised to find that the tree wasn't dead at all. It was alive with countless stick insects. It's no wonder a bird or lizard might overlook an easy meal of these creatures. They rarely move, and their camouflage is so convincing, they look just like dead sticks.

Dead sticks don't reproduce as stick insects can, however. More fascinating, though, is the fact that many types of stick insects can reproduce without males. The female simply lays an egg, the egg hatches and a new female stick insect begins its life. One species of stick insect is known to have only females, with no males whatsoever.

Think about it.

As unbelievable as it may seem, a creature that looks like nothing more than a dead stick can eat and walk and make more little stick insects. Aaron's rod was nothing but a dead stick. But God demonstrated His plan for erring Aaron when He brought the dead stick to life. His plan for each of us is that we, too, might become productive Christians. So, take courage. In God's hands you have great potential.

Doit.

You can make your own blossoming stick. Find a dead twig and stand it in a bottle or vase filled with sand. Cut tissue paper into 4x4 cm squares. On each square copy a Bible verse about fruitfulness. Or, you could write your favourite verse onto a sticky label and attach it to the bottle or vase. Here are some scriptures to start with: Galatians 5:22, John 15:5, Jeremiah 29:11. Set a pencil's eraser into the centre of a square and twist the paper around it. Dab a bit of white glue onto the paper and stick it on the twig. Repeat this process until you have as many tissue flowers on the twig as you like. You can find information about stick insects at www.teara.govt.nz/en/stick-insects/2.

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

he decision to fly to Afghanistan this spring and spend two weeks there on the ground was not an easy one to make. The mental image I had of that nation had been painted almost entirely by media reports during the previous decade. These reports, as we're all aware, had used excessive grey tones of animosity toward foreigners, bitter fighting, and tragic deaths to paint the picture I held. The purpose of the proposed trip, however, piqued my interest.

Eric Rajah, executive director for A Better World, a local humanitarian group, asked if I would join a team of four other people who were going to Afghanistan. The purpose of this team was to review some projects that had already

been financed by the organization, to conduct a needs assessment for additional work at those same sites, and to evaluate several new funding proposals. The latter goal was to focus primarily on providing educational opportunities for girls, something that, in the past, had at best been neglected and at times even forbidden.

All my life I'd reserved a special place in my heart for those who had been disenfranchised, downtrodden, or treated with inequity. And so, after prayerful consideration, and with my wife's blessings and a gracious concession from CUC's administration regarding my summer contract, I was on my way to Afghanistan. The other four members of the

team were Eric Rajah, Howard Smith, former CUC Associate Professor of Chemistry, and two April 2010 CUC graduates, Azalea Lehndorff and Jared Webb.

I'd be lying if I told you that I didn't feel apprehensive at all during the time we spent in Afghanistan. I did find it unsettling to learn that the suicide car bombing that killed 18 people, including a Canadian colonel, in Kabul on the day we arrived, took place just two or three blocks from the school we visited the following day. I was also somewhat anxious while talking to two self-proclaimed Taliban university students who wondered whether or not our mission in Afghanistan was similar to the Canadian military's in the Khandahar province. But in these and other situations, I sensed God's peace and abiding presence, largely due, no doubt, to the intercessory prayers of many people. And I'm thankful that my moments of apprehension are not the lasting, predominant impressions of Afghanistan that I hold.

Instead, my lasting impressions of the country are dominated by how genuinely gracious and hospitable its people are. This fact was highlighted during our stay in the northern city of Sheberghan, where an Afghan family literally moved out of their house and stayed with relatives so that we might have their home to ourselves.

Another lasting impression I have is how eager the young people were, everywhere we visited, to receive a good education. I still have images of hundreds of primary age children sitting on the hard ground in the open air because their village could

Lasting Impressions of Afghanistan

"The mental image I had of that nation had been painted almost entirely by media reports ... '

y Keith Levitt

not afford to build a school or because there were not enough classrooms in their school to accommodate all of the students. I was amazed at how village students in grades one to four were able to engage us in a simple conversation in English!

At another school, rows of old, tattered tents accommodated some 5,000 students in three shifts throughout the day. The first shift of lower elementary students began classes at 6:30 a.m., when the temperature was cooler, leaving the older students to attend when daytime temperatures rose to 35 or 40°C. The dry, dusty school grounds boasted no jungle gym or playground equipment, only a rusting Soviet tank, a

stark reminder of a previous foreign presence.

When we asked the university students we visited in Sheberghan what they needed to enhance their learning experience, I expected to hear them ask for things for themselves—textbooks, library books, personal computers —but instead, the first thing they asked for was better training for their professors. Wherever we went, I sensed that the people perceived the long-term solution to their country's problems to be a good education for all their children. I was blessed to play even just a small role in that solution.

Keith Leavitt is an associate professor in the School of Education. He has also previously served as a teacher and administrator for nine years in Pakistan.



Keith Leavitt with two of the yuards from our hotel in Kabul,

Keith Leavitt at a well that was funded by A Better World, These wells cost only \$1,000 to install,





With the teachers at Nisswan girls' school, where we attended the grand opening celebration. Suppertime with our host family in Sherberyhun, Northern Afghanistan.



cover story

By now it is likely that every Adventist Canadian knows that one of the main happenings of the General Conference session was the election of our own president, Dan Jackson, to the presidency of the North American Division (NAD). By accepting the call of God and the church to fill that position, he becomes the first Canadian ever to serve as NAD president.

Within hours of his surprising election, amidst the chaos and busy-ness that attended him during that transition period, Dan invited me to chat with him about some of the issues—both heavy and light!—that he would face moving into his new role.

The New NAD President Canadian, eh?

by Crystal Steeves

On staying "uniquely Canadian" in the U.S...

"We carry who we are with us wherever we go. And one of the things that is always a problem is that, wherever you are, people would like to shape you and make you into someone that they would like. That has been true with me in Canada, and I'm sure it will be true with me here. But I think you have to be, ultimately, true to yourself. And I think that goes beyond national boundaries.

I think you are who you are. If you ultimately allow yourself to be shaped into the person other people want you to be, you wind up being very miserable inside yourself, so I couldn't be that way. And it's not a matter of living in the US, Canada, India, Sri Lanka, Africa, wherever. It goes beyond nationalism. It's who you are. Your whole life is informed by who you are; why would you change it?"

September 2010 ${\cal M}$



On how he'll raise Canadian issues ...

"Here's the deal, and this is where there has been huge growth in spite of some glitches here and there, Don Schneider and Roscoe Howard both went out of their way to try to make Canada more a part of the North American Division. And I've watched that process because I've been in the middle of it as SDACC president.

As NAD president, I happen to be Canadian. The deal is that there are a million people down here... The preponderance of issues are going to be relevant to only the U.S., not Canada, and so sometimes Canadians sit in discussions and are not fully understanding or fully engaged because they have nothing to do with us."

What Canada needs to do at the NAD ...

"Canadians are timid. We have people on committees and boards who will sit there and not say anything. Canadians who are participating in NAD discussions need to participate in NAD discussions. You know, my philosophy has always been that if you paid \$2000 bucks to get me here, you deserve to hear what I have to say. People who are participating —Canadians, I mean—need to speak up. They need to participate. They need to make comments instead of silently sitting there thinking, 'This isn't relevant to Canada.' Right there, in the moment, we need to say, 'Wait a second. Don't send that to Canada because it's irrelevant.'"

Favourite moments from his SDACC presidency ...

"My favourite thing has been going from coast to coast and seeing not only the beauty of the land but the beauty of the people. That really has been my favourite thing, because there is huge commitment on the part of our laypeople. And that is something that needs to be empowered and that we still need to grow. But to see that is great.

Some of my favourite specific moments are funny stories. How do you summarize that? This is humourous: a lady in Newfoundland came up to me one time and took both of my hands in her hands and said, "We know that you have been very ill. We have been praying for you so much, Elder Schneider. We want you to know that you are in our prayers all the time." And I looked at her, and I laughed so hard. Finally, I was able to speak and I said to her, "Thank you so much, sister." And I just walked away. I didn't have the heart to tell her.

Another funny favourite moment was in BC committee, and I wouldn't name names here, but there was a departmental director who was saying in the meeting that several of his employees were out with STDs— meaning, of course, short-term disabilities. What else could that mean, right? [laughing]. There are so many stories! So many things that happen. Lots of good stories. You just can't help but laugh sometimes."

On how he will work with the new General Conference president ...

"I was there. I saw the level of support [Ted Wilson] got. There are two factors. One is that we prayed, we appealed to God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And number two, we have a democracy. To some extent it is a democracy; we've shaped it the way we think it should be shaped, but...He got an overwhelming amount of support in the nominating committee and the same on the floor.

I have never seen eye-to-eye with everybody, but there are some issues that we really have some common concerns about. The issue of the church studying and understanding what it believesthe 28 fundamental teachings of the church. They, to me, Crystal, always have been and always will be indispensible. I am not left-leaning when it comes to our teachings. I'm not. Never have been. Some people have thought I was, but I'm not. So I think he and I will find common cause in saying, "Let's ensure we get God's people into the study of God's word so they understand what they believe again."

Having said that, I will also say I'm not a person who is easily put into a corner and told, "Do this." And I try not to do that with other people."

How the church approaches 'hot' issues like the ordination of women to the ministry...

"I'll tell you, I have a strong belief. Here's my belief: the Church needs to mature. We need to recognize that culture informs the way we do church. The gospel needs to be planted in the soil of the culture and then emerge from that. And unity, real unity, needs to recognize the cultural needs of the regions. We can have unity in diversity.

I do not believe that unity means agreement on everything. I don't believe that. I believe that unity, true unity, is that I acknowledge that they dance in church in Africa. And that North American culture-in particular Canadian culture—would never dance in church. It would never happen. But if you go to the Ghanaian church in Toronto, they dance. They have a great time, but that's their culture. I would never want to impose in an Eastern European country the same understanding of grace that we have, because they don't think the same. And the reason is that their understanding is filtered through where they come from. So I am more than happy to say to the Ghanaians, "You keep dancing."

To me, this is my personal view, unity means the appreciation of one another to the extent that I can accept your diversity and that it doesn't break the fundamental unity of the church in the issues that we are totally united on, and that is the 28 beliefs."

On lifestyle ...

"The Bible says "Exhort one another to good works," not good works so you can be saved by them. But the issue of lifestyle is a very personal issue, and the way we help people is not by pounding them. We *can* hide their Tim Horton's coffee from time to time [laughing], but we can help them better other ways usually.

A church that I was called to pastor had disfellowshipped 12 people, all for different reasons. One lady for wearing slacks in the orchard. A man for attending hockey games. They'd disfellowshipped all these people, and I went there as the pastor. One night, while at a hockey game, I stood and called the ref a bonehead, and the guy sitting next to me said, "I agree with you. That was a dumb call." And so we started to talk. He said, "Where ya from?" I said, "I'm from Penticton." He said to me, "So what do you do in Penticton?" and I said, "I am the Seventh-day Adventist pastor." And the guy just sat and looked at me. He just stared. Then he said, "I was disfellowshipped from that church for going to hockey games, and you're the pastor and here you are." So I turned around to him, and I grabbed his hand and said, "Brother, I've been looking for you. I want to invite you to come back to church. Will you please forgive us and come back to church?" And he did. He came back to church and he came regularly and was a deacon there from then until the day he died.

We don't help people by bashing them. We really don't. Praying for people. Appealing to them. But first show yourself to be enough of a friend to put yourself in a position where you can influence and you can help."

His feelings as he leaves Canada ...

"I love Canada. Canada is my home and native land, and I won't make any bones about that. Canada is a great country, and the church in Canada is a great union. I will miss Canada, but I don't intend to divorce myself from Canada, either. I hope I'll still be acceptable. I hope people might invite me to come back from time to time."

Proclaiming God's Grace

Thousands of World Church Members Gather for the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta



Photos by: Bryant Taylor and Seth Shaffer





For the 59th time in 147 years, Seventhday Adventists from around the world met from June 23 to July 3 for the church's business session where world leaders were elected, reports of the work around the world were presented, and other items were discussed. Delegates chosen to represent their respective fields traveled from near and far to the Georgia Dome and Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) in Atlanta, Georgia, to participate in this process that will impact millions of Seventh-day Adventists for the next five years.

In addition to the election of world leaders, key discussion items included such topics as ordaining deaconesses, clarifying the language in the church manual regarding marriage, reinforcing the church's stand on creation, making church and church-related activities safer for children, and the desire to sce the inclusion of young people ages 18 to 30 as delegates.

While the business of the church was being discussed, many of the delegates'

family members and other visitors occupied their time with activities available to them in the GWCC and other locations. They had the choice of observing the business proceedings in the dome, visiting the exhibit hall, attending seminars, joining youth activities, such as IMPACT Atlanta, going on field trips as a part of the Day Camp geared for children, visiting the prayer room, and much more. There was something for everyone.

Fifty-nine times, Adventist church leaders and delegates have had the opportunity to reflect in this fashion on the church's progress in accomplishing its mission "to proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the Three Angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and to unite with His church, and nurturing them in preparation for His soon return."

So that we don't become complacent about the purpose of this significant event, perhaps it would be worth it to review the church's progress from time to time. Statistical reporting of the work of the Adventist Church began in 1863. At that time, there were six local conferences and missions, 125 churches, and 3,500 members. The first General Conference Session was held May 20, 1863, in Battle Creek, Michigan, with 20 delegates representing the states of New York Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota.

Since that time, the work of the church has progressed and the membership has grown tremendously. Slightly more than 16 million Adventists worldwide are worshiping in 68,225 churches and missions. The organizational structure includes 572 local conferences and missions, 112 union conferences and missions, and 13 divisions. The methods used to communicate to people is constantly becoming more and more sophisticated—a far cry from methods used back in 1863. People from around the world followed the events of the session via texts, cell phones, Twitter,



Facebook, iPhone apps, e-mail, podcasts, and Web sites, just to name a few. So, the medium for reaching out is there. The challenge is to embrace it and use it to advance God's work in a positive way.

For 13 days, the world church was showcased in magnificent fashion and culminated on Sabbath, July 3 beginning with the worship service that drew a crowd close to 70,000. But by far, the greatest reminder of the church's progress could be seen as the division reports were presented each evening and the during the Parade of Nations on the final night.

World church statistics reveal that, compared to the total membership, the North American Division is the sixth largest division (7 percent), being surpassed by Inter-American Division (20 percent), East-Central Africa Division (16 percent), Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (15 percent), South American Division (12 percent) and Southern Asia Division (9 percent).

Who knows how many General Conference Sessions will occur before Jesus Christ comes again. One thing is very clear from Scripture, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." -Matthew 24:14. While the Adventist Church has entered 203 countries in the world, there is still much work to be done. The reports of the progress of the church was good, but as the earth groans in pain and the wickedness of its inhabitants seems to be on the rise, it would be well for us to redouble our efforts and work to hasten His coming.

It was a delight to be on the mountain top, if only for a few minutes, but, what next? The newly elected world church president Ted Wilson shares some of his views in an interview conducted by Pat Humphrey, associate editor for the Southwestern Union Record. Wilson says, "One of the greatest challenges that we face is to try to humble ourselves before the Lord. We must ask the Lord to bring

us into a condition where we are revived and then allow a true reformation in our lives to set the stage for the latter rain. The Spirit of Prophecy has told us that our greatest need is a revival of true godliness. That's our greatest need! So I think that probably is highest on my agenda for the church itself."

The 59th General Conference Session is history. We've heard the reports. The delegates have spoken on the issues. We've visited with long-lost relatives and friends and formed bonds with new ones. Now it's time to get back to the business at hand "proclaiming God's grace" to every kindred, tongue, and people. Then, and only then, can Jesus come.

Ednor A. P. Davison is assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference and editor of the Atlantic Union Gleaner.

Statistics were provided by the Office of Media Relations at the General Conference World Headquarters. and the Office of Archives and Statistics.



canadians abroad

Just the



Have you ever had an ice cream cone without the ice cream? Most would say you're missing the point—it's all about the cream. Well, my students, recently back from our Mission Trip to Mexico would tell you that you're wrong—literally and metaphorically. And they do know their metaphors—I'm their English teacher!

by Loretta Knopp

resenting the mission trip idea to our first grade 12 graduating class wouldn't be too difficult—I thought. We decided to help our sister SDA school in Tesopaco in one of the poorest states in Mexico. They are planning to become a boarding school and we could help with the renovations, teach Vacation Bible School, and even English to the grade 1 students there.

We had two years to plan and fundraise. At first the students were very interested. I won't say excited, but visiting a foreign country with your pals and a week off school did look pretty good. But then things started to get more challenging. The cost was presented, and most thought it was pretty steep. Fundraising was time consuming and didn't get big results. Promises of hard work, cold showers, bugs, and hard floors didn't help. H1N1 hit. The trip was almost cancelled. Finally, there were endless amounts of paperwork, organizing, and planning. Deadlines would come and go, and less and less people would meet them.

Two months before the trip we had less than half of our grade 11 and 12 students signed up. With much prayer and encouragement from colleagues we decided we would still go, but we had hoped for so many more to join us.

It took 23 hours to get there. There were long waits in airports, and the bus ride went on forever on a little winding road with lots of potholes in the middle of the desert. Finally arriving at 2:30 in the morning, we were shown to the room where the girls would sleep only to find it infested with ants. I was horrified. I was so tired, but knew I could never sleep on that floor. I glanced around at the girls. Not one girl made a negative comment. After a quick prayer, I whipped out my bug spray and started spraying as the girls helped to sweep. Soon not an ant was in sight, and everyone settled in on the hard floor for a few hours sleep before construction began in the morning. Wow! I thought, as I began to nod off, were they just too tired to complain, or am I the only one who minds sleeping with ants? I had no idea how God was already beginning to work in each of our hearts.

The construction began and we started teaching the Mexican children. My students worked hard and always seemed to be smiling. Soon they were playing with the children in their few





spare hours in the evening, and I could see my students noticing how the children always seemed to be happy, though they had next to nothing. Their classrooms had bare cement floors and walls with big holes and peeling paint. There were very few books or supplies. Simple games were played outside that required no electronics or even much equipment, but everyone had so much fun.

Soon it was time for us to pass out the gifts we had bought. We pulled out our dollar store pencils, pens, notebooks, and toys. We gave away simple rubber balls and watched the squeals of joy and delight. How could they be so happy with such cheap and simple things? If only we could have brought more and better things for them. We felt selfish.

My students were starting to realize what they have. They were thankful. They could see that God had blessed them. They wanted to share. They were starting to realize that they had talents they didn't even know about. They were amazed. They were discovering that they did have a lot to give. And they knew they could give even more. They started to talk about what they would come back with next year and who they would bring with them. They also realized that the "cream" they'd thought so important-gathering stuff, becoming popular, and being entertained-had not brought them this kind of pure happiness. They didn't want to leave.

And then the Mexican children started giving us gifts. We had not expected this. One little boy ran to the corner store to get my students some ice cream cones. He did not have enough money to buy one for everyone, but he came running back with as many as he could, having spent all his money. He went down the line, giving one to each student, and finally he had one conc left without the ice cream. As he handed it to my student—a student we almost couldn't take due to his poor attitude—I could tell he did not want to take it. He felt bad. He knew that little boy had spent his last peso. He also knew, however, that the boy had tried his best to give him a precious gift. He reached out his hand, thanked the boy, and bit into the cream-less cone. The smile on both their faces proved to me that ice cream is really not necessary. There was pure joy in both of their hearts. I knew something big had happened here in Mexico. We had all changed. And a simple cone had never tasted so good.

Loretta Knopp, English teacher, Deer Lake School



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Alberta

news

Watchers on the Wall



Many times we take for granted the services that are provided to our communities, such as the Protective and Emergency Services. On March 13, 2010, the Sherwood Park church had the pleasure of hosting an appreciation day for members of the Protective and Emergency Services, as well as the mayor of Strathcona County, Cathy Olesen.

Pastor Adam Deibert presented plaques of appreciation to the members of the Protective and Emergency Services that were present. Pictured (L-R): Cpt. Glen Schofield (retired) accepted the plaque for the Edmonton Fire and Rescue Services, Chief Bob Wasylyshen (retired) accepted for the Edmonton Police Services, Cst. Paul Sagar accepted for the RCMP, and Lieut. Kelly Lehr and Cpt. Devin Capcara accepted for the Strathcona County Emergency Services.

These "watchers on the wall" only represent a miniscule number of those who put their lives in danger to help the community at large every day, and for that, we would like to say thank-you!

- Michelle Sevcik, member

Ontario

Editor's

Pick!

ADRA Spaghetti Supper

This is a story of two young girls who raised more than \$80 dollars for ADRA. The one girl is 12 and the other one is 10. They're from a small church in Elliot Lake, Ontario. It all started out with the little gift catalogue from ADRA. The 12-year-old girl said, "Maybe we could do this as a fundraiser." Their teacher agreed with her. From there, the idea became having a spaghetti supper to raise the funds. They decided they would raise \$35 to buy a fruit tree and school supplies. The supper was on Dec. 13, 2009. After the supper, the children announced that they had raised \$87, so they were able to buy a fruit tree, schools supplies, medical treatment and a sign language class.

> —[name withheld by editor], 12-year-old girl



40th Anniversary Celebration at Scarborough Church

Celebrate the Past, Claim the Future" was the fortieth anniversary celebration theme for the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist church which took place on May 21-22, 2010.

The celebration began on Friday with addresses by Margaret Best, member of Parliament for Scarborough-Guildwood, fire platoon chief Mike Johnston and keynote speaker Daniel Jackson. Sabbath morning program included reflections when the church was organized in 1969 up to the present. The mid-day service keynote speaker was Matthew Feeley. The celebration ended on Sabbath evening with a concert featuring members of Scarborough and guest artists.

It was joyous event and we welcomed many visitors from near and far, including some charter members and those who joined when the church was organized. As we rejoiced in celebrating our past,



Scarborough Church welcomes guests who came to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

we continue to hold fast to the hope that God with be with us as we claim the future with His Divine leadership.

- Melanie Whyte, communications secretary

Newfoundland and Labrador

Adventist Writer Wins Awards



By the Rivers of Brooklyn, by Adventist writer Trudy Morgan-Cole, of St. John's, Nfld, won an Ippy Silver Medal Award from the Independent Publisher's Book Awards, sponsored by the Jenkins Group,

Inc. By the Rivers of Brooklyn was the runner up for Best Regional Fiction (Canada: East). The novel was also short listed for the prestigious Best Atlantic Published Book at the Atlantic Book Awards.

A historical novel, *By the Rivers of Brooklyn* is a multigenerational story about a family of Newfoundland women. The narrative stretches from Newfoundland to New York and spans a time period of eighty years.

Always humble about her talent, Morgan-Cole reacted: "It is always an honour to win or be nominated for an award, but the greatest satisfaction for a writer is always to hear that someone has read and enjoyed your book."

Morgan-Cole has been featured on CBC Radio's Weekend Arts Magazine and on the Hope Channel. Her latest book Lydia: A Story of Philippi is now available through the Adventist Book Center and Amazon.com. She has also written Esther: A Story of Courage, Daughter of Grace, The Violent Friendship of Esther Johnson and Deborah and Barak. In addition to maintaining her active writing and freelance career, Morgan-Cole teaches English and World History at the Murphy Centre in St. John's.

For more information about Trudy Morgan-Cole and her work visit her blog www.hypergraffiti.com. A more detailed interview with Trudy Morgan-Cole is available in the February 2009 issue of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. ■

-Lori MacDonald, member

SDA Church in Canada

Mark Johnson Elected SDACC President



In a July 19 meeting of its Board of Directors, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) elected Mark Johnson as president of the denomination's national headquarters. Johnson, 59, has served the church in Canada in various capacities for approximately 15 years. He comes to the SDACC headquarters from the Alberta conference of Seventh-day Adventists, where he has served as president for approximately two years. Prior to that appointment, Johnson was a vice president in the British Columbia conference. He has also held other administrative and pastoral positions in British Columbia, Manitoba-Saskatchewan and Ontario.

Accepting the Board's vote, Johnson commented, "I am excited about the possibilities of the church in Canada," he said. "I am excited by the diversity and the opportunities for ministry across the country. I look forward to being fully involved in each aspect of the work in Canada." Johnson and his wife, Rebecque (Becky), have three grown children and two grandchildren. They are wrapping up their work in Alberta by keeping several scheduled speaking engagements and hope to relocate to Oshawa in late August.

The SDACC presidency was left vacant last month when Dan Jackson accepted a call to lead the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Jackson, still transitioning to his new position, returned to familiar territory to chair the meeting of the Board which would name his successor.

Commenting on the vote, Jackson said, "Mark is a good guy and an excellent administrator. He will serve the church in Canada very capably and with the Lord's leading."

ADRA Canada Announces New Program Director

Earlier this year, ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) Canada welcomed Analynn Bruce as its new program director.

Bruce has served in a number of mission related fields, including several ADRA programs overseas. Most recently, Bruce was the Grant Monitoring and Management Advisor for the Laos Environment and Social (LEnS) Project under the Environment Protection Fund which is a project of the Laos Prime Minister's Office. She has over 13 years experience in international development work at senior managerial and technical levels in Asia and Africa.

"I started my international development work at ADRA Sudan about 15 years ago as a volunteer and have been with the ADRA network for a number of years. It was in Sudan that I came to know the Adventist faith and was baptized in the Nile River, after almost a year of working with ADRA. Joining ADRA Canada is like a homecoming to me. I consider ADRA my home (work-wise), and it always feels good to be back home. There is much to learn and much to do. I look forward to learning and working with the ADRA Canada team."

Ronald Kuhn, Executive Director of ADRA Canada, adds "ADRA Canada is proud to welcome Analynn Bruce to the office family. Analynn blends an approachable, friendly and humble personality with professionalism and academic quality. Her many years of field experience in diverse countries with different international humanitarian agencies make her a very good fit for the program needs of ADRA Canada."

Bruce's family will be moving from Laos in November. Originally from the Philippines, she is married to Todd Bruce, a Canadian. They have two girls, Teresa and Angela.

An entity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, ADRA is an internationally recognized humanitarian agency working in more than 120 countries to improve the quality of life of those in need. For more information about ADRA Canada, visit www.adra.ca.

announcements

Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (nonprofit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Lori MacDonald Imacdonald @sdacc.org or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at www.sdacc.org/messenger.
- The Messenger assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about Messenger announcement policies, go to www.sdacc. org/messenger, click'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

New Members

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Betty Blair, Lynne Hossay and Chris and Sandy LePoidvin were baptized on July 17, 2010, in Okanagan Lake, B.C., by Cam Koronko. Betty and Lynne are now members of the Armstrong church, and Chris and Sandy are members of the Enderby church.

ALBERTA

Blair Brunner, Emron Cenac, Kewrina Cenac, Kristal Clarke-Malaykhan, Bethany Game, Elshaddai Game, Michaeline Joseph, Yogita Master-Brunner, Abina Miller, Dieudonne Ndikumana, Shanice Pierre Antoine, Caleb Quaye and Mugishe Richard were baptized on May 29, 2010, in Edmonton, Alta., by Terrence Horrell. They are now members of the West Edmonton church.

Morgan Haley Rose Horvath, Rodney Krenzler and Audrey Krenzler were baptized on April 17, 2010, in Benrley, Alta., by Peter Ford. They are now members of the Bentley church.

ONTARIO

Johanne Hemeon was baptized in Cochrane, Ont., on Dec. 5, 2009, by Daniel Linrud. She is now a member of the Cochrane church.

MARITIMES

Katalin Arbeau and Curtis Gjertsen were baptized May 8, 2010, in Moncton, B.C., by Ron Nelson. They are now members of the Moncton church.

Margaret Rose Kelly was baptized on May 15, 2010, in Bridgewater, N.S., by Leroy Corkum. Margaret is now a member of the Bridgewater church.

Rebekah Loxdale and her sons, Isaac and David Tingley, were baptized May 8, 2010, in Dartmouth, N.S., by Pedro Graça. Glenn Loxdale and Elwood Williams were accepted by profession of faith on the same day. They are all now members of the Dartmouth church.

Births

Mindy Ruth McCann was born March 3, 2010, to Amber Lennox and Justin McCann of Fox Point, N.S.

Anne Marly Alexis was born March 19, 2010, to Roseleine and Sylvio Alexis of Edmundston, N.B.

Weddings

Meghan Hubley and Jason Smith were married June 8, 2010, in Tantallon, N.S., and are making their home in Timberlea, N.S. Meghan is the daughter of Ray and Glynis Hubley of Tantallon, and Jason is the son of Roger and Veronica Smith of Shag Harbour, N.S.

Anniversaries

Jennie and Daniel Straub celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 10, 2010 in Calgary, Alta. It



was celebrated as a family reunion. The Straubs have four children: Don (Juanita) of Kelowna, B.C., Diana (Dan) Clarke of Calgary, Carolyn (Dave) Good of Chase, B.C., and Darlene (Ron) Blaney of Rocky Mountain House, Alta. They have 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Gilbert Bechthold was born Dec. 21, 1919, near Beiseker, Alta., and died May 24, 2010, in Beiseker. Surviving: wife, Helen; son, Gene (Delilah) of Williams Lake, B.C.; daughters, Gail (Barry) Grabo of Beiseker and Laura (Allen) Pauls of Kelowna, B.C.; brother, Harry of Edmonton, Alta.; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Eva (née Link) Bignell was born March 12, 1925, in Ft. Frances, Ont., and died June 22, 2010, in Creston, B.C. Eva is predeceased by her husband, Ray, and her brother, Paul. Surviving: sons, Robert (Shirley) and Everett (Debbie); daughters, Mildred (Alfred) Isele and Karoline (Conrad) Bloedel; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Marion Bush was born March 19, 1928, in Oshawa, Ont., and died June 11, 2010, in Calgary, Alta. Marion is predeceased by her husband, Melville. Surviving: son, Raymond of Calgary; daughter, Linda Singh of Hot Springs, Ark.; and four grandchildren.

Maria "Alice" (née Leal) Chaves

was born Oct. 19, 1927, in Lisbon, Portugal, and died June 7, 2010, in Richmond, B.C. Maria served as the Portugal Union Office bookkeeper and junior high school director in Africa. Surviving: husband, João Chaves; son, João "John" of Los Angeles, Calif.; daughter, Maria Teresa (Henrique) Baptista of Los Angeles; stepdaughter, Jocelyne of Los Angeles; sisters, Ruth Porchet and Irene Verfaillie, both of Switzerland; and one grandchild.

Barbara (née Dalaya) Drieberg was born Jan. 1, 1924, in Poona, India, and died June 6, 2010, in Penticton, B.C. Surviving: husband, Cliff; sons, Glenn (Kim) of Vancouver, B.C., Dale (Liz) of Aldergrove, B.C., and Russ of Sheffield, England; brothers, Rudy of England and Stanley of Australia; sister, Daphne of India; and three grandchildren.

Martha (née Bodrug) Klam was born Dec. 16, 1916, near Macrorie, Sask., and died July 1, 2010, in Lacombe, Alta. Martha served as Junior Sabbath School leader in Saskatoon and College Heights. She also worked at the post office on the campus of Canadian Union College and for Parkland Furniture. She is predeceased by her husband, John, daughter Ellabelle, brothers, John, Joe and Dave, and her sister Mary. Surviving: son, Norman (Marlene) of La Center, Wash.; sisters, Rose (Glen) Ross of Springfield, Ore., and Esther Murphy of Portland, Ore.; four grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Dorothy (née McCrie) Paddock was born Sept. 14, 1914 in Scotland, and died May 13, 2010, in Yorba Linda, Calif. Dorothy served as the secretary for the Maritime conference office. She is predeceased by her husband, her son and one sister. Surviving: daughter, Lenetta Paddock Gee; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Jack Rutz was born March 26, 1920, in Estuary, Sask., and died May 20, 2010, in Meadow Lake, Sask. Jack was a charter member of the church in the Meadow Lake area. He is predeceased by his wife, Edith. Surviving: sons, John (Brenda) of Makwa, Sask., and Robert (Heather) of Meadow Lake; daughters, Marie (Peter) Penner of Saskatoon, Sask., Betty (Dan) Scriber and Dorothy (Barry) Madsen, both of Lloydminster, Alta., Marla (Murray) Bishop of Meadow Lake; 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Andrew Tarangul was born Nov. 29, 1930, in Derwent, Alta., and died May 26, 2010, in Salem, Ore. Surviving: wife, Eleanore (nèe Berndt).

Tributes

Vermont Cleghorne, men's ministry leader for Immanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church, graduated from Tyndale University and Seminary in May 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Religious Education (BRE).



Vermont would like to thank the church board and members for their support in helping him to reach this milestone. Vermont's goal is to become a chaplain and will continue his studies in Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education (CAPPE). To God be the glory. (09/10)

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Send us an email (to messenger@sdacc.org) with your contact information, the name and location of your church, and approximately 300 words about what is so great about it. Churches chosen will be profiled on our website and in an upcoming issue of this magazine. WWU Alumni e-Newsletter: Walla Walla University is starting an enewsletter to communicate with alumni. It will go out once a month beginning June 2010. To sign up to receive the e-newsletter, please visit the website at alumni.wallawalla.edu. (10/10)

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		40	D	41	С	42	н	43	F	44	В	45	D			46	G	47	В	48	F	49	G	50	L	51	J			52	1	53	D	54	J			55	С	56	1	57	J	58	D
59	D	60	J			61	K	62	J	63	Н	64	E	65	1	66	G	and a second	-	67	В	68	G	69	G	70	F	71	G	72	F	73	J	74	G	75	В			76	D	77	С	78	B
79	L			80	A	81	В	82	J	83	K			84	F	85	A	86	E															-									-		

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- A 13 24 32 27 85 18 80 To the midpoint
- B 67 81 34 47 75 3 78 44 Handout
- С 55 41 31 20 7 33 77 Not so gloomy
 - 40 53 76 37 58 59 45 Winded
- E 1 35 86 12 21 26 64 Restraint
 - 70 25 48 84 72 43 15 29 Canine protector

- G 66 74 68 69 46 49 71 Sign of congestion
- H 17 63 39 42 5 23 14 "I Will __ " (disco hit)
 - 52 56 19 4 10 8 65 Carter, Clinton or Gore
 - 60 82 51 54 62 57 73 **Novelist Flaubert**
 - 6 22 9 61 38 83 36 Provide some solace to
 - 16 79 28 30 2 50 11 Brings into town

Cryptograms are simple-substitution ciphers where every letter of the alphabet has been switched. Your I task is to use pattern recognition and your grammar and vocabulary abilities to decipher the hidden quote. Hint: (1) Start with the 1, 2 and 3 letter words, (2) remember that the most common letters in the English language are E-T-A-I-O-N, in roughly that order, and (3) note that only blackened squares, not line breaks, signal the ends of words. Good luck!

F

not for having faults, but having faults "Criticism is the disapproval of people,



0

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