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PLUS Speaking in Strange Tongues (p. 2)
Celebrating Adventist Education (p. 10)
Launching ADRA Connections (p. 20)

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Speaking in Strange 'Tongues'

*'Oure fadir þat art in heuenes halwid be þi name; þi reume or kyngdom come to be. Be þi wille don in herþe as it is downin heuene. yeue to us today oure eche dayes bred. And foryeue to us oure dettis þat is oure synnys as we foryeuen to oure dettouris þat is to men þat han synned in us. And lede us not into temptacion but delyuere us from euyl.'*¹

Used to think language was the epitome of permanence. I have spent a lot of time glorying in the pages of the dictionary where the meanings of hundreds of words are set down with finality and authority in black ink on white pages never to be changed. There is comfort in the notion of constancy and stability in language, but such is only a myth. In reality, the only thing constant about language is change. Standards of spelling, grammar and punctuation have dramatically changed over the last few hundred years alone, and words that meant one thing just yesterday mean something entirely different today. (Consider: "bad" often means good; "sick" is the new "cool" which was the new "neat-o" only a couple of decades ago; "sweet" has done more than describe a flavour for almost 50 years already.)

Now I know and accept that language is not about permanence, authority and order but about conveying meaning and connecting people to each other. Looking at it from this perspective puts rules and linguistic tradition somewhere behind people and meaning when it comes to importance. And it only stands to reason that if language is meant to convey meanings between people, it **must** change as people (individually and as a community) change. There can't be finality and permanence in a system designed for humans, who are constantly developing and changing.

This makes me think about another system designed for humans that we try, wrongfully, to make authoritative and permanent: religion. The tomes produced to define the various brands of religion available to mankind are even more stout and impressive than the OED, but they, too, sit dusty on the shelf because, like "proper" English, religion has given up relevance in favour of permanence and authenticity in favour of authority. Like language, religion functions to convey meaning to an ever-changing people, and as language must change, so must religion. I've grown weary of the attitude that requires people to fit our way of doing church as opposed to changing the way we do church to make it more accessible to the people. We need to remember that God did not write our order of service nor the doxology with His finger on Mount Sinai. He did, however, model the need to subvert tradition when it stood to separate individuals from their salvation.

I know that promoting change to Seventh-day Adventists is dangerous territory, but I have stood here before and will again. You see, I refuse to believe that God is so fragile that some adjustments in our practice could endanger His will or His supremacy. He is "the Word" (John 1:1) from which all words spring and the ultimate meaning which all our words are not sufficient to express. He has not changed nor has the truth, but our methods of worshipping him and telling of His truth must. ■

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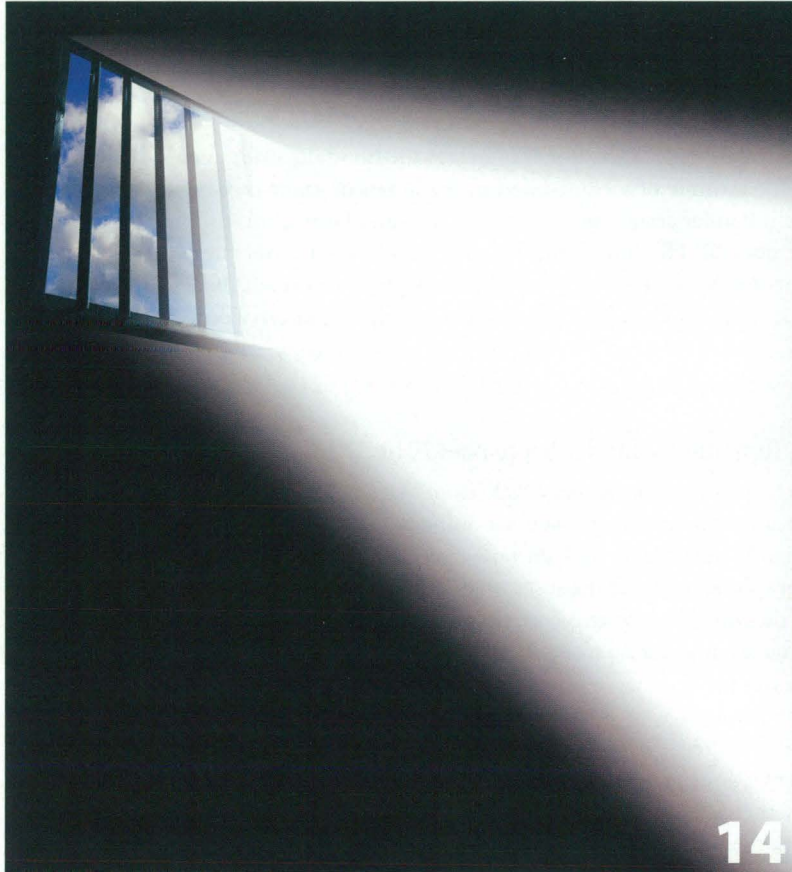
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¹What a shame that we too often obscure a beautiful message with outdated traditions! To the world around us, the practices of our religion make about as much sense as this verse of Middle English makes as printed, and people go unblessed when saving truth is at their fingertips. (Matt. 6:9-13)



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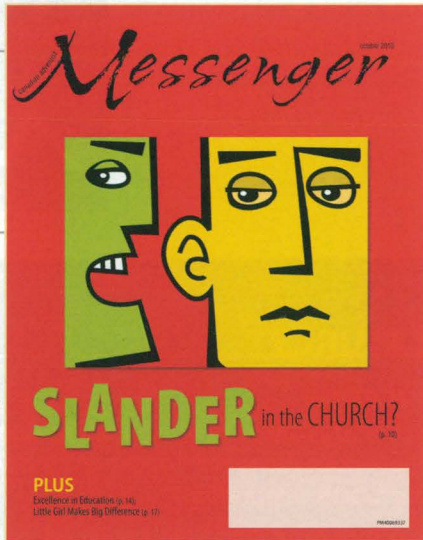
FEATURES

- 10 EDUCATION**
Celebrating Adventist Education in Canada—
“What about Adventist education? Is it some-
thing worth celebrating?”
- 14 COVER STORY**
From Murderer to Missionary—The story of
Glenn Flett, a man who has walked the road of
deliverance from murderer to missionary.
- 17 NEWS FEATURE**
Initiative to Eliminate Childhood Obesity.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2 EDITORIAL** Speaking in Strange ‘Tongues’—
“Like language, religion functions to convey
meaning to an ever-changing people . . .”
- 4 YOUR WORDS** Letters to the editor.
- 5 PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE** Windows of
God—Every Adventist will remember the
familiar words of Malachi, . . .”
- 6 TEENTALK** Boring?—Why is the Bible boring?
- 7 CREATION CORNER** Mountain Pine Beetle—
As Christians we must be completely honest
with ourselves and others.
- 8 ADRA CANADA** Have you identified the right
tree? —“These are not the right trees! These are
men’s trees, not women’s trees!”
- 9 TECH-KNOWLEDGE-Y** Five Free Online Tools
for Ministry—Part 2.
- 12 CUC** Unity in Diversity—“We want to help
pastors nurture unity in their churches.”
- 18 NEWS** Reports from the British Columbia and
Ontario conferences, and the SDA Church in
Canada.
- 21 ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 27 TAKE 5** Sudoku puzzle and “The Back Pew”

Email comments to steevesc@sdacc.org. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Not all letters will be published.



RE: "Slander Between Siblings, Physical and Spiritual," cover story, October 2010

David Brattston's article has observed that slander and the legal response is most often between siblings in the family and it appears to be prevalent among fellow church members. He raises the question on whether or not equality among the members of a group (Church) naturally facilitates jealousy.

- Mr. Brattston raises an interesting question from his experience however he leaves the reader with a question that seems to lead to a "logical" conclusion. I am not comfortable with that conclusion as a member of God's family, because:
- With the presence of equality of all believers before God and among the members of the church there is also the modeling and teaching of Jesus that we take the attitude of

Your Words

“ I see the attitude of servant-hood in the hearts of many of God's children.”

servant with each other. Equality in servant-hood does not encourage jealousy. I see the attitude of servant-hood in the hearts of many of God's children. If there is slander among us as members of God's family, it is not because we are family members in His church but because there is a sin problem.

The encouraged lifestyle of the followers of Jesus and result of His presence in the life is servant-hood and encouragement of others, not envy or jealousy.

—K. Corkum, president,
Newfoundland and Labrador mission, St. John's, Nfld.

RE: "Turn, Turn, Turn," editorial, September 2010

It's late to be commenting on an article from September's *Messenger*, but I have just read it. I really appreciate what you are doing. I recently became a student with the Long Ridge Writers Group and am now looking at writing and writers in a new way. The tender spot is your paragraph starting, "My heart sank . . ." Thank you for writing, "Many of the things I've written have been excruciating to express." I'm currently feeling God's nudge on my second assignment and know I am in for a wild ride.



Thank you for pushing on through the tears and authentically sharing yourself. I pray that God will keep at me until I honour him with the same integrity you displayed in "Turn, Turn, Turn."

Thanks for being there.

—L. Birmingham, via email

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"I'm on welfare. There is no food in the house, and the welfare cheque is still two weeks away. What do you say?"

Windows of God

Windows have the distinct feature of allowing light to enter an otherwise encased, darkened room or building. Unlike some places where temperatures are constantly warm and windows are simply openings, the windows in our climate are transparent panes of glass, letting sunlight through while keeping cold air out. Spiritually, at least in one instance, windows are God's portals through which He pours His blessings.

Every Adventist will remember the familiar words of Malachi, that for those faithful in returning tithes and offerings, God will "open the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it" (Mal 3:10).

It was my final year of high school at Canadian Union College. A friend, having read Malachi chapter three, challenged me with the thought that perhaps we should claim God's promises literally—maybe put Him to the test as He invites us to do. I struggled with the thought; after all, money was scarce, school bills were high and all I had was a \$5 bill to my name. Those were the days when you could buy a whole tank of gas or 10 cafeteria meals with \$5, but the idea of taking a risk with God excited me. Unbeknownst to anyone, I decided to take the plunge.

After much prayer, I determined that the next Sabbath would be my leap of faith. That God could honour a teenager's faith was no question, but whether He would was a different matter. These were modern times, not Bible times. This was affluent Canada, not the mission field. This was meant for struggling adults, not a teenager.

Following through with my plan, I was now penniless, totally dependent on God's promise. Nothing happened that

Sabbath afternoon, or on Sunday. Even Monday was uneventful. But Tuesday evening was different. From my mailbox I pulled a letter with an unfamiliar return address: Kamloops, B.C. An aunt, not an Adventist, with whom I had not communicated since I was a little child had sent a letter and enclosed a \$5 bill. I could hardly contain my exuberance. God had fulfilled His word for a teenage boy even in modern-day Canada! My faith in a Creator God was reaffirmed and blessings were being poured through the windows of heaven.

Years later, as an intern pastor, I was conducting home Bible studies with Mrs. Ouellette, an elderly woman in Toronto, Ont. The lessons systematically led through Bible topics, eventually covering "tithes and offerings." She listened politely as I appealed for her to trust God even in returning one-tenth to the Lord. Without a word, she rose from her chair, threw open her cupboard doors and said, "What do you see?" Truly, I saw nothing; a few dishes, but certainly no food. She continued, "I'm on welfare. There is no food in the house, and the welfare cheque is still two weeks away. What do you say?"

What do you say? This was a new twist. How could I be faithful in delivering God's message and yet be empathetic? That's when I remembered my \$5 story. She listened patiently as I recounted it; then I prayed with her and left. As far as I could tell, nothing would become of these studies with her.

Months later, while I was studying at the seminary, my wife pulled a letter with a strange return address from the mailbox, this time Toronto, Ontario. Mrs. Ouellette's five-page letter brought tears to my eyes and is one of those you keep forever. Here are some excerpts, in some cases paraphrased for brevity's sake:

Dear Pastor Wiebe,

Remember the time you told me about when you were in college and about the \$5, and you told me to try it and let you know what happened? Well, I've been going to Willowdale church every Sabbath since you left. . . . One Sabbath I . . . had \$1.30, so I thought I would put the 30¢ in the offering, but instead I put the dollar in and on the way home I found a dollar bill on the street, and that isn't all. On Sunday I went to see my friend . . . and on the way there I picked up a \$20 bill. . . . Two days later I got a letter from my daughter and there was \$5."

The letter goes on to list several other unique incidences and ends with an expression of faith, trust and gratitude in her Heavenly Father for His many blessings. Evidently, the window of heaven was again the portal through which God poured His blessings to a faithful daughter in modern times. ■

Ken Wiebe is the president of the Alberta conference in Red Deer, Alta.



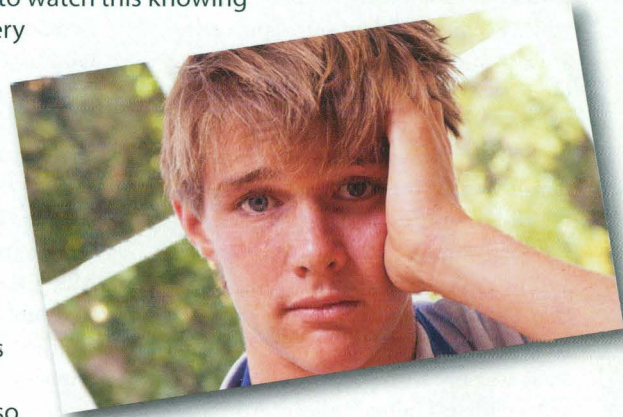
Boring???

T33nTalk

Why is the Bible boring?

That is a great question. My immediate answer is that the Bible only seems boring.

The hype of the Super Bowl is over now, but the game of football is a great analogy. Players line up and run into each other and before one team can control the ball long enough, they kick it away to the other team and the process starts over. If you were to watch this knowing nothing about the game, you would find it very confusing. And what about the scoring system? Two points for a safety (whatever that is), three points for a field goal, seven points for a touchdown (well actually six and an extra point for a kick afterwards, unless of course you try for a two-point conversion). A person who doesn't know the game would find even the most exciting game of the season boring and confusing. Similarly, the reason the Bible seems boring is that we are so far removed from the stories behind the weird names and strange places, so it is hard for us to relate ... unless ...



You see, I've been where you are. I used to read the Bible because it was my Christian duty, and other than a few stories, I found most of it quite boring. There was so much I would skip over. But now, I absolutely love the genealogies—you know, so-and-so begat so-and-so and lived so many years and died. In fact, I now purposely dig through the parts of the Bible I used to skip and find some amazing things. In Adam's genealogy in Genesis, I discovered (using my math skills) that Adam was still alive when Noah's dad, Lamech, was born! So, Lamech didn't need to read some boring textbook to learn about the Garden of Eden; he could talk to Adam himself! How cool is that?

In Exodus, where I skipped over all the information about how to build the sanctuary, I went back and discovered that the mercy seat was not a little seat on top of the ark; it was actually the whole cover. That means that God's mercy covers everything! I could go on and on, but I hope you're seeing my point. The Bible only seems boring when we are far removed from it. When we take the time to get familiar with the characters and what they faced, suddenly the people in tents in the desert thousands of years ago become people like you and me, struggling to understand God and the issues of life and learning little by little that the God of Adam is trustworthy still.

And here is some advice about another aspect of your life. Look around your classroom. Some of the individuals you think are boring and not cool or popular are actually pretty awesome. You just haven't discovered it yet because you need to dig a little deeper.

This month's contributor is Dan Wilson, pastor of the Halifax and Fox Point churches in Nova Scotia. If you have a question for him or any of our Teen Talk writers, email us at messenger@sdacc.org.

“Good people are guided by their honesty; treacherous people are destroyed by their dishonesty.”
Proverbs 11:3

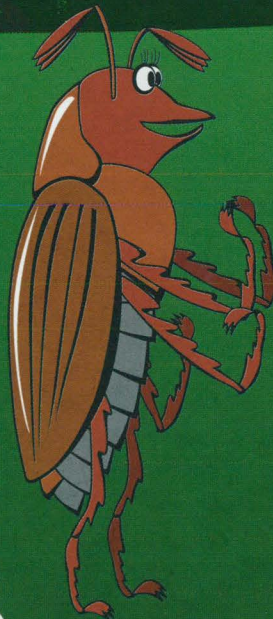
Mountain Pine Beetle

Large forests of old pine trees all over British Columbia and Alberta are turning red and dying, because of the mountain pine beetle. Little piles of sawdust and holes—as little as the size of pencil tips!—in the tree’s trunk are the telltale sign of the mountain pine beetle’s undercover work.

These tiny beetles, not much bigger than the eraser on a pencil, bore holes into mature pine trees and lay their eggs. When the larvae hatch, they cut tunnels under the bark. Then the tree can no longer transport water to its canopy or carry food from its needles to its growing parts. The tree dies.

Think about it.

A very tiny beetle is able to destroy strong, mature trees. Dishonesty is often thought of as being a little sin, but it’s as destructive to our Christian experience as the pine beetle is to a pine forest. We sometimes use cute words to describe dishonesty, making it seem unimportant. People talk about “little white lies,” “fibs,” “tale,” and “fish stories.” The Bible tells us, though, that the devil is behind all types of dishonesty, but Jesus is the truth (see John 14:6). As Christians we must be completely honest with ourselves and others. Being honest with ourselves means we don’t think more of ourselves than we ought to (Romans 12:3), we don’t cover over our sins and make excuses for our bad behaviour (Proverbs 28:13) and we pay attention to our thoughts, bringing them into subjection to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5) because the heart is deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9).



Do it!

Ask Jesus to help you see the truth about yourself and how dishonesty could be hurting your relationship with Him and with others. He can help you become a person of integrity.

You can find more information about the mountain pine beetle at www.mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/biology/index_e.html.





by James Astleford

Have You Identified the Right Tree?

The problem in the community was a lack of firewood for the women to cook the family meals. We in Canada can switch on a convenient gas or electric stove, but these people were in serious trouble. The women in particular, who carried the age-old responsibility of feeding their families, spent many hours a day scouring the countryside for fuel. Therefore, the villagers were delighted when ADRA arrived and agreed to partner with them in tackling the problem.

A six-year project began with the villagers planting many trees. Halfway through the project, a mid-term analysis examined how the project was going. At first, it looked like everything was a success—the villagers had planted many trees, even more than planned. The men in the village were delighted with the success and proudly pointed to the healthy tree plants.

However, as the evaluation dug deeper, gradually the voices of the women were heard: “These are not the right trees! These are men’s trees, not women’s trees!” In the local culture, the people differentiated between different kinds of trees: big, tall trees were for

men for construction and similar needs; smaller, “bushy” trees were useful for women because they made good firewood. It became obvious that the tall, “men’s” trees had been planted which delighted the men but frustrated the women—adding insult to injury was the fact that the women were largely responsible for planting and tending the tree plants!

ADRA Kenya staff shared this story at the recent ADRA Canada-sponsored Gender Equality Workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand, in January 2011. Under the direction of Carole Houlihan, an experienced consultant from King City, Ontario, ADRA staff from seven country offices wrestled with the challenges of improving projects to ensure that men and women benefit. The workshop was a component of the ADRA Canada program conducted in six countries with a 3:1 match from CIDA (the Canadian International Development Agency). ADRA Canada is committed to ensuring that we use your donations wisely and effectively so that people’s lives are improved. Responsible development means ensuring that we listen to people and

understand their culture and needs.

So what happened to the Kenyan community and their trees? ADRA staff helped women and men select the appropriate trees for their different needs. Soon the villagers planted nurseries for the right saplings. Eventually, they planted the right trees. Fortunately, the right trees for the women took less time to grow than the original ones planted. By the end of the project, the women were harvesting firewood trees and cooking the meals. The problem of the firewood shortage is now over. Not only that, the men in the villages also have the benefit of the trees they needed even though they were not the object of the original project!

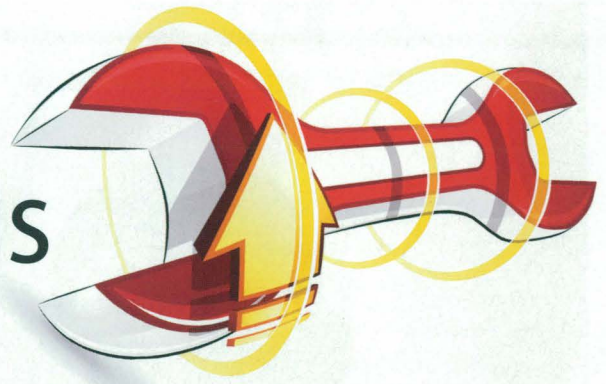
When you support ADRA Canada, the humanitarian ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, and give donations for its work, you can be confident that your agency is working intelligently to find lasting solutions. We all want to find the right tree! ■



James Astleford is the
donor relations director
for ADRA Canada

www.adra.ca

5 FREE Online Tools for Ministry



In the last issue, I began sharing five extremely useful and powerful online tools that can help you more effectively manage your work, church, ministry and life in 2011. And, the best part about these online resources is that they are all absolutely free. In Part One of this article, I featured two of the five tools: Google Docs and Dropbox. Here are the remaining three: Facebook, Bible Gateway and Picnik.

FACEBOOK

I am confident that most of you have heard of the social networking website called Facebook. What you may not know is that, as of December 2010, Facebook has approximately 500 million active users, more than 6 million page views per minute (37.4 trillion per year), 2.5 billion images uploaded every month, and 46.2 years of YouTube videos watched on Facebook each day.

Personally, I am not a huge fan of a few things about Facebook, one being the many hours of time people waste on it. However, it is obvious that Facebook is very popular. And it does provide an excellent resource for connecting with people and sharing information online.

One of Facebook's features is the ability to create "pages" and "groups." In order to create a page or group, you first need to be a registered Facebook user.

The finer details of pages and groups are beyond the scope of this article, but I will say that they both provide the ability to connect, share and even collaborate on a topic or idea with other Facebook users. Overall, each allows the administrator to send mass emails and publish news/information to its connected

members. Groups provide a few options that pages don't: event inbox messaging and the ability to restrict access.

By creating Facebook groups and pages, churches can do things like send out event reminders, share photos, present and answer questions about God, share related websites or video links, or respond to prayer requests, just to mention a few.

BIBLEGATEWAY.COM

BibleGateway.com (www.biblegateway.com) is currently owned by Zondervan and is a free online service for reading and researching Scripture.

Whether you want to look up a Bible passage, search a keyword or topic, Bible Gateway makes it easy and quick. With a searchable online Bible in over 100 versions and 50 languages, there are plenty of translations to choose from and compare. Also available online are multiple Bible reading plans that send a daily email with a link to your daily Scripture reading, six English versions of the Bible in audio, Bible dictionaries and devotional content.

I use Bible Gateway to read and compare texts when preparing sermons or devotionals each week. Another thing I enjoy about Bible Gateway is the mobile Bible Gateway version, which provides a mobile-friendly web experience on my iPhone.

PICNIK

A question that many people ask me is, "How do I crop and resize my photos for email?" Well, the first thing I ask in response is, "What operating system are you using?" Their answer to that question has a lot to do with my response.

On Microsoft Windows, you could use ImageResizer or Paint; on Mac OS X, you could use Preview or iPhoto. And of course, there is the over-priced and extremely complicated Adobe Photoshop.

Well, last on our list of great free online tools will solve the problem of image editing and what operating system you do or don't have. Picnik (www.picnik.com) is a free online photo editing service purchased last year by Google. No registration or download is required to start using it. Picnik works through your computer's web browser on any operating system (Mac, Windows, and Linux).

Picnik allows you to grab your photos from many online photo storage sites like Flickr and Facebook or upload directly from your computer. Once a photo is loaded into the online system, you can crop, resize and rotate your photos in real time. Also, fix blemishes and change colour with the help of special effects and advanced controls.

Picnik is a great service to resize photos for your church website or to do some touch-ups and adjustments for the church newsletter.

There are, of course, many other online tools that are both very useful and free. Don't be afraid to explore them and discover how they might benefit you. And always be prepared that new, better resources may arise overnight and change how we do things, hopefully with even greater efficiency and ease. ■

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



Celebrating Adventist Education in Canada



The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* defines the word “celebrate” as follows: “to mark a significant time or event with an enjoyable activity; to honor or praise publicly.” Dictionary.com defines it as: “to observe a day or commemorate an event with ceremonies or festivities.”

The Bible provides several examples of individuals celebrating significant events. Miriam, the sister of Aaron, led the women of Israel in dance to celebrate the victorious crossing of the Red Sea (Exod. 15:20); King David and the Levites celebrated the return of the Ark of the Covenant to the City of David with shouts of praise, singing and dancing (1 Chron. 15:25–29); the father of the Prodigal Son killed the fatted calf and held a party to celebrate the return of his son (Luke 15:11–24). These biblical characters celebrated important events in thankfulness to God for His favour toward them.

Today, we celebrate birthdays, baptisms, weddings, anniversaries and graduations. We choose to celebrate these special events with family and friends to recognize their importance. What about Adventist Education? Is it something worth celebrating? Ellen G. White, the visionary architect of our educational system, wrote: “Nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children and young people.”ⁱ This statement suggests to me that Adventist education is something of value that merits celebration.

There are at least four good reasons why we should celebrate Adventist education in Canada. **FIRST**, we have a long, rich history. Our first elementary school started in 1884 in the sanctuary of the South Stukely church, Quebec, with 20 students. Miss Mary Cushing, the treasurer of the Quebec conference, was the first teacher. ⁱⁱ Three decades later, by 1916, elementary and secondary schools were established in all the provinces of Canada.ⁱⁱⁱ Currently, our school system includes one university (Canadian University College, with an enrolment of 493 students), and 46 K–12 schools (two boarding academies, eight senior academies and 36 elementary schools and junior academies). Total K–12 enrolment in 2011 is 3,338 students.

SECOND, Adventist education is holistic: it caters to the intellectual, spiritual and physical needs of children. Unlike public school education, we educate our children to live successfully as citizens both in this world and in the world to come. “True education,” states Ellen G. White, “is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.”^{iv} Demographic studies conducted throughout Canada in 2004^v and 2009^{vi} have indicated strong customer satisfaction with our holistic educational program.

THIRD, we have a strong academic program that stretches children to perform beyond their tested cognitive abilities. In 2006, Dr. Elissa Kido and Dr. Robert Cruise, Professors of Education at La Sierra University, in collaboration with the North American Division (NAD) Office of Education, conducted the historic study known as CognitiveGenesis. This longitudinal study (four years) undertook to assess the academic performance in Adventist schools in the NAD and to provide answers to questions about the academic quality of Adventist educational programs. Reporting the findings of CognitiveGenesis in the *Christian Science Monitor*, Dr. Kido stated that in each subject category, students attending Adventist schools scored higher than the national average and higher than their expected achievement based on assessment of individual ability, and that the more years a student attended an Adventist school, the more his or her performance improved.^{vii}

FOURTH, we should celebrate the fact that we are part of a global school system recognized as the second-largest parochial school system in the world, with 7,597 schools and 1,545,464 students.^{viii} This connection provides our students with opportunities to expand their educational horizons as student missionaries and to participate in special mission projects. Also, as part of a global family, the NAD Office of Education oversees the accreditation of our schools by a bona fide accreditation agency to ensure that program quality is maintained.

These are only a few of the many reasons to celebrate Adventist education. An opportune time to do so is Sabbath, April 16, 2011. This Sabbath is designated as Adventist Education Sabbath by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Office of Education. This is a variation from the NAD-scheduled date of the fourth Sabbath of April, which falls this year on the Easter Weekend. All churches are encouraged to promote and celebrate Adventist education on April 16 through the media of music, sermon, testimonials, drama and special awards.

Our educational system is established on the principle of a threefold partnership with the home, the church and the school. The effective working of this partnership is crucial for the continued growth and development of Adventist education and, indeed, for the church at large. Adventist Education Sabbath provides the perfect opportunity for all three entities to join hands in celebrating the value and benefits of Adventist education. ■

by Dennis Marshall is the director of Education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

i Ellen G. White, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1913), 165.

ii *Canadian Union Messenger* 41, no. 21, October 30, 1972, 342.

iii Mike Lekic, *Perceptions and Attitudes of Selected Adventist and Non-Adventists Parents of School-Age Children toward Adventist Schools in Canada* (PhD diss., Andrews University, 2005), 45.

iv Ellen G. White, *True Education* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 2000), 9.

v Mike Lekic, 2005.

vi Dennis Marshall, “An Investigation into the Issue of Low Enrolment in Seventh-day Adventist Schools in Canada” (unpublished paper), 2009.

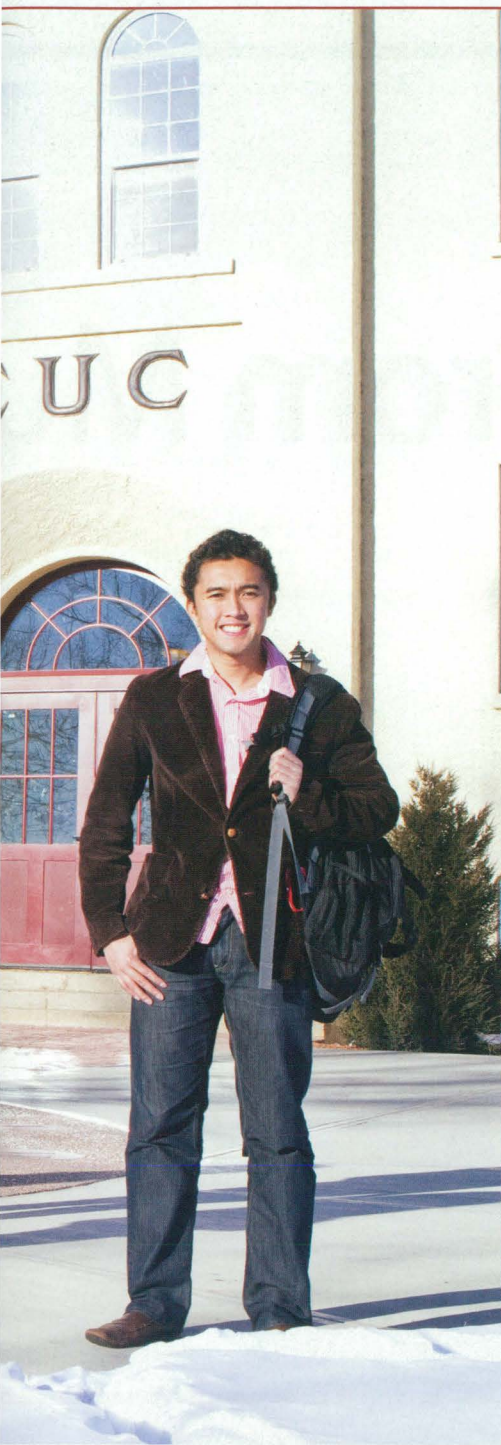
vii Elissa Kido, “For Real Education Reform, Take a Cue from the Adventists,” *Christian Science Monitor*, November 15, 2010, www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2010/1115/For-real-education-reform-take-a-cue-from-the-Adventists.

viii *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, 2010, 4.



Donovan Diminyatz, second-year Religious Studies major; Ted Baggassien, fourth-year Religious Studies major; Faith Sereti, third-year Religious Studies major

Unity in Diversity



John Masigan, first-year Religious Studies major.

ersity



The Religious Studies program at Canadian University College is designed to provide students with a broad introduction to the various sub-disciplines of the field of Religious Studies, with an emphasis on Christian

religion. While many classes cover core material that has been taught to many generations, the challenges of current pastors show that current topics need to be introduced in the classroom.

As the Religious Studies graduates travel to their various posts as pastors all over Canada, they will be introduced to a number of ever-growing cultures—some very different from their own. “We want our graduates to be able to pastor a broad spectrum of different kinds of churches,” points out Bruce Boyd, associate professor of Religious Studies and chair of the Religious Studies department. At the kick-off retreat to the school year, the Religious Studies students were introduced to...the challenges of ministering to the aboriginal peoples of Canada. According to Boyd, the response from students was positive. “They appreciated the fact we are sensitive to peoples of various cultures,” said Boyd. The weekend was just an introduction to the importance of training the university college’s pastors on how to relate to the various peoples that will come into their churches. Teddy Baggassien, a soon-to-be graduate of the Religious Studies program and current president of the Theology Club, understands the importance of relating to different cultures. “If you want to be able to minister to them, you must see and understand the differences and respect them. The principles we got from the weekend we can learn from and apply to other cultures,” says Baggassien.

As Baggassien looks back on his time at CUC, he reflects on how the campus has helped his view on multiculturalism. “Being on this campus is a great asset. We are multicultural and different. When I first got to CUC, I thought all I needed was a degree. I knew it all. Now as I come to the end of my time here, I have grown and the main thing that I have learned is that I don’t know anything at all. I’m learning all the time. I’ve learned to experience the rich diversity we have. God loves diversity!” states Baggassien.

For the many students like Teddy Baggassien, the professors of the Religious Studies department work hard to impart their years of experience. But after all the Greek and Hebrew classes, there are a few specific ideas that these professors want to impart to their students. “I want them to be genuine Christians, open and sincere. . . . We want them to have all the skills they need as pastors, but underneath that we want them to have a genuine connection to Jesus and grow openly,” remarks Boyd.

In this ever-growing, multicultural world, the idea of togetherness and unity stands out. For Doug Matacio, professor of Religious Studies, unity is the key. “We want to help pastors nurture unity in their churches. To be able to deal with conflict creatively and to teach them how to build unity amongst the people in the church—because out of unity, the mission will be accomplished. That mission is dependent on unity because Jesus said: “That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:21, NIV). ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director for Canadian University College

From Mu

"The most courageous thing I ever did was to get down on my knees and ask God to forgive me."

Those words come from Glenn Flett, a man who has walked the road of deliverance from murderer to missionary.

by Samantha Sarra

Orderer to Missionary

AT AGE 11, HE BEGAN SHOPLIFTING; BY 13, HE WAS DRINKING; AND BY AGE 16, HE WAS SELLING DRUGS. “It wasn’t until I turned 19 that I went to prison,” recalls Flett. “That was for stabbing a store detective who caught me stealing. I spent nine months in prison, and once released, I just became even more entrenched in my criminal life.”

One lady who never gave up on Flett was Mrs. Emma Smiley. She used to bring him to church when he was a child and continued to support him through his turbulent teen years. “She had a big impact on my life. I failed her all the time, but she was always a huge supporter of mine. I would think, ‘you know lady, you don’t know me at all, but I am glad you’re buying me dinner.’”

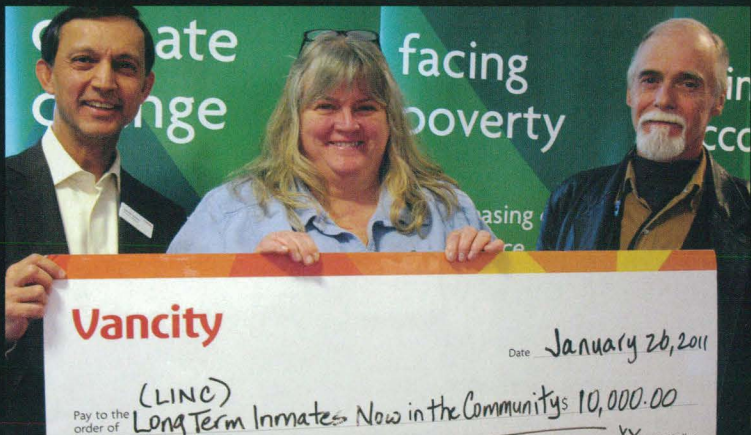
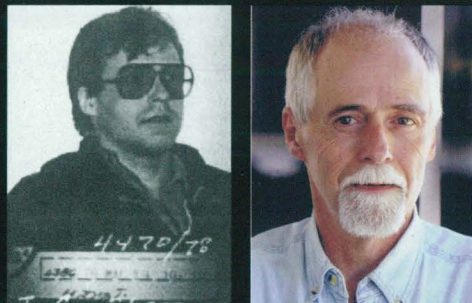
Mrs. Smiley’s memory would stay with him always, but it wasn’t enough to keep him out of trouble. On April 27, 1978, Flett shot and killed an employee in a store he was robbing. He was convicted of murder and sent to prison on a life sentence. “I could see that my way of life was causing a huge amount of problems. I wasn’t very happy with myself. Life was all about death,” says Flett, who began searching for something better.

“I was living a pretty messed-up life, and a friend of mine on the inside had become a Christian. In prison, it’s hard to become a Christian because it’s seen as a cop-out and you are viewed as a chicken or even an informant. I went to the prison library and began doing research on Jesus; I was quite amazed by all the material on Him. As I studied, I had a kind of epiphany. I thought maybe this will work and I needed to change my life. I decided to get down on my knees and try praying. I had been so dishonest for so long—I was lying about everything. Finally, I started to be honest with somebody, God.”

Right: Flett's mugshot from 1978.

Far right: Flett today.

Below: Flett and his wife, Sherry, receiving a cheque from Shabir Amarshi, VP of VanCity, for L.I.N.C.



In 1982, Flett, from the inside of a prison cell, gave his life to Jesus. Within six months, he had a job at the prison church. It had just undergone a chaplaincy change, and the men who took over had never done prison ministry before and saw Flett as a natural leader. "I taught them about prison and they taught me about Jesus."

"When I became a Christian, I was really being challenged by what Jesus was telling me," explains Flett, "I tried to apply it every day. I started looking at people the way I thought God was looking at me. I started to be more concerned with other people."

It wouldn't be long before Flett's new way of life was put to the ultimate test. Someone had broken into the home of his beloved friend Mrs. Smiley, robbed her and beaten her to death. To make matters even more difficult, the 18-year-old who had committed the crime was sent to the same jail as Flett. "The old me would have killed him," recalls Flett. "God put me in a spot where I had to trust Him. I was a Christian now and I had to forgive him." Flett eventually looked out for the young offender, even saving his life after other prisoners were ready to kill him and eventually tutoring him through the prison's education program.

Flett became the caretaker of several different chapels in the various prisons where he was incarcerated and made a habit of helping prisoners any way he could. One day, his best friend in jail asked him to attend a group for black inmates. A woman from the local university also came to the group, and she and Flett were the only Caucasians to attend. They began a

letter correspondence, and years later, she came to visit him in prison. "When she sat down, I looked into her eyes and I saw Jesus," Flett recalls fondly of the woman, Sherry, who would later marry him while he was still behind bars.

In 1992, Flett was paroled, and along with his wife, Sherry, founded the organization L.I.N.C. (Long-term Inmates Now in the Community). From his home in Mission, B.C., Flett now works directly with former inmates, helping them transition back into society. He has helped hundreds of people get to know the Lord and begin new, meaningful lives.

"My life is as rich as it ever was, and that richness comes from God. Every day, He renews my faith. No matter how bad the coming wave looks, you do not get washed off the ship—God holds you," explains Flett, whose faith has continued to be tested since his release.

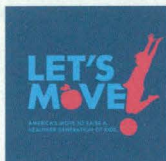
"In a two-year period, I lost 12 people to death. My best friend from prison came to me and said he was really struggling and was going to kill himself. I told the authorities, but they released him and within a week, he slit his throat and hung himself. It really challenged me and my faith, but I decided to just trust God. After living all those years in fear, I have come to know that I am in His hands and He is able. I have come to see what a huge gift life is and that one of God's desires for me is to honour life."

Flett lives every day with his crime that took another man's life, but he also lives with the forgiveness and love granted to him by God. Flett and his wife have visited the gravestone of the man he killed and even met with the man's daughter in the spirit of reconciliation and healing.

While in prison, Flett received Seventh-day Adventist Bible studies, and since being released, he has shared his testimony in many SDA churches. "I have committed my life to Jesus today. It's not about that day in 1982 when I gave my heart to the Lord—it's about this morning. I am born again every day," declares Flett.

"It isn't me who has changed, but Jesus who lives in me. Tears flow down my cheeks from the gratitude I have for God's great love and His truly amazing grace. So often, I have felt overwhelmed and thought I cannot go on, but Jesus is my reason. No matter what I face, I know He is with me and that He has faced so much more and given it His all. The things I do today are about responding to that great love. I don't do what I do because I have to, but rather I want to do it because I feel loved. One thing I have learned about darkness: if we open our hearts, the light is always stronger." ■

Samantha Sarra is a writer and a member of The Restoration Project, a Seventh-day Adventist faith community in Vancouver, B.C. She is a new mom who thanks God every day for the blessing of her daughter.



Initiative to Eliminate Childhood Obesity

On November 29, 2010, Maria McClean joined other Health Ministries Directors across North America in a conference call with Mrs. Michelle Obama to launch Let's Move Faith and Communities. The First Lady is inviting faith-based and community groups to partner with her in combatting the epidemic of childhood obesity in the United States. In her speech, Mrs. Obama observed that according to statistics, one in every three children is overweight or obese and that this problem can be corrected if “all of us—governors, mayors, doctors, nurses, businesses, non-profits, educators, parents . . . tackle the challenge once and for all.” She acknowledged that faith-based leaders play a vital role in people's lives: “You don't just focus on the spiritual aspects, but you also focus on the physical and emotional aspects as well. . . . You all know how to inspire [people] to make positive changes in all aspects of their lives.”

The major goals of the program are to

- walk a total of 3 million miles
- present 500,000 President's Active Lifestyle Awards or launch new exercise programs
- host 10,000 community gardens or farmer's markets
- open 1,000 new summer feeding sites for children

Pastor Ted Wilson,

General Conference president, who represented the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the White House meeting, registered the church's commitment to partner with Mrs. Obama and other leaders in this initiative. Following are excerpts from his response:

“Seventh-day Adventists applaud Michelle Obama's initiative, Let's Move, to reduce obesity in children.

“The Let's Move initiative is consistent with our church's approach to ministering to people physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. It has been shown that Seventh-day Adventists live longer because of their healthy lifestyle. Seventh-day Adventists have extensive educational and health systems in which we promote better health through practical, healthy lifestyles. . . . We will promote balanced and helpful vegetarian meals for children and young people in our schools and summer Vacation Bible Schools, walking programs for young people, and possible use of periodic local produce markets on church properties.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a great promoter of

better health and will do its part to sensitize this country and the world regarding proper eating habits and lifestyle for children as well as their parents.

“From a communications standpoint, we will utilize our Adventist News Network to alert church members and the public to these initiatives. We invite our First Lady, Michelle Obama, to appear on the Seventh-day Adventist international television network, the Hope Channel, to share her vision for a healthier America.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church will do its part to fulfill God's wish found in 3 John 1:2 which indicates that God wants us to be in physical and spiritual health.”

Katia Reinert, the new Health Ministries Director for the North American Division (NAD), replacing Dr. DeWitt

Williams, is supporting Pastor Wilson's commitment by encouraging fellow directors to promote the following:

1. Walk 1 million miles through InStep for Life and other exercise initiatives. Health Ministries will aim to motivate 100 churches walking 10,000 miles a year and at least 10 people per church walking 2.5 miles a day.
2. Encourage churches and schools to establish vegetable gardens in their communities and

have pathfinders and students engaged in that activity. Goal: at least one garden per conference.

3. Encourage youth to receive the President Active Lifestyle Awards—at least one award per Adventist school in NAD.
4. Establish summer feeding programs through Vacation Bible School, summer camps and community service outreach initiatives.

Childhood obesity is a medical concern in Canada as well. According to Statistics Canada, poor eating habits and insufficient physical activity are largely responsible for the alarming increase in obesity among Canadian children and adolescents. Given the seriousness of the problem, my prayer is that all Adventists in the Canadian Union will commit to raising healthy children now and in generations to come. ■

Maria McClean is Director of Health and Children's Ministries for the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Health Liaison for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.



Official White House Photo by Samantha Appleton

First Lady Michelle Obama talks with students during a “Let's Move!” event at New Hampshire Estates Elementary School in Silver Spring, Md., May 19, 2010.

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

British Columbia

800 and Counting



Sparling's sweaters have been distributed by ADRA and others for use by people all over the world.



Alma Sparling has knit more than 800 sweaters from the lobby of her retirement home in Penticton, B.C.

On Sabbaths, Alma Sparling is conspicuously absent from the lobby of the retirement facility where she lives. Any other day, she sits there knitting and chatting to visitors, residents and staff who pass by, but on Sabbaths she is at the Penticton Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In the last few years, Alma, who is well into her 80s, has knitted more than 800 children's sweaters. Some are sent to ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) and warehoused until needed, while others are taken overseas by local missionaries, where they are proudly worn by Luo, Peruvian, Ovamban and Jamaican children.

The most recent recipients of Alma's handiwork were Angolan refugees in Sauyemwa, Namibia, site of a ShareHim series. Most of the refugees live in shelters made of sticks pushed into the sand and held together by strips cut from inner tubes. Mud daubed on to fill the largest cracks and grass for the roof complete the dwellings, which have no furniture.

In addition to about 60 sweaters, Alma sent several knitted caps for newborns. Even the suitcase that contained the sweaters was given away to the oldest man in the settlement. He beamed as if he had won the lottery.

Alma, who suffers from arthritis, says she loves knitting as the exercise keeps her hands mobile. In addition, seeing her sweaters distributed to those who have practically nothing gives her the incentive to knit more. ■

—Elfreide Volk, member

Langley Baptisms

The Revelation of Hope Seminar began on Friday, October 29, 2010, at the Langley Golf and Banquet Center. Justis St. Hilaire, the conference evangelist, shared a message of hope with approximately 275 people on the opening night, approximately 125 of

whom were guests from the community. Many who attended the series were thrilled with the clear, in-depth preaching of the Word of God that easily answered questions they had had for years.

When the series concluded on Sabbath morning November 27, 2010,

14 people were baptized and three more joined the church through profession of faith. There are others who are still considering baptism. ■

—David Jamieson, pastor

Ontario

Community Services at Work in Kingston

"Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40.

For the past fifteen years, a dedicated group of individuals of the Calvin Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kingston, Ontario, have strived to fulfill Christ's commission to feed and clothe those in need. Every Tuesday afternoon, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., the clothing depot is open while the kitchen is a beehive of activity as preparations are under way for a nutritional, delicious, vegetarian meal served to as many as 30 people between 4 and 5 p.m. Leftovers are packaged to be taken home and groceries are also available to those who need them. At 6:00 p.m., prayer meeting begins for those who wish to stay. Over the years, six people have committed their lives to God directly because of this ministry.

Thanksgiving is a special celebration with Pioneer Hall decorated in fall colours and a meal to fit the occasion. Homemade pumpkin pie tops off a delicious vegetarian loaf with mashed potatoes, peas and a gourmet salad. Afterwards, the guests give testimonies of thankfulness how God has blessed them throughout the year.

Christmas is truly a joyful event with Pioneer Hall decked out in a festive fashion. The workers, dressed in the holiday mode, serve mock turkey with all the trimmings, a homemade, three-

tiered fruitcake and a Black Forest cake.

Last Christmas, 70 individuals received a gift bag containing warm clothing (hat, mitts, and scarves), toiletries, goodies, a spiritual book, and memento. The folks were especially impressed with the personalized card that each received.

The community service workers are grateful to local businesses that donate goods at cost or free of charge and other volunteers who make homemade goodies and donate fresh fruit as it is a challenge to provide this level of generosity every week.

A barbeque in June ends the busy year for the workers as they take a well-deserved break until September finds them hard at work again serving the community.

So what is the response from the guests? Typically, they state that the



Some of the many volunteers of Kingston church's community services department.



Because of the services offered, many who would otherwise go hungry are able to eat.

most important reason for coming is the love, acceptance, and warmth of fellowship. However, each community service worker can testify to the words of Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." ■

—Dorothy Knapp, member

SDA Church in Canada

ADRA Canada Launches New Initiative!



ADRA Canada has just launched its new ADRA Connections initiative. Connections provides Canadians the opportunity to participate in short-term humanitarian trips that offer long-term results through life-changing experiences.

With the help of its donors, ADRA Canada has been changing the lives of impoverished children, adults, and communities for more than 25 years. Now, you are invited to witness these changes for yourself! Join a team of participants for travel to an ADRA project. Meet families and experience communities who are struggling with real poverty. Experience the culture, see the faces, listen to the stories, and get to know the

people ADRA serves. See community development work in action and learn how ADRA transforms lives.

Work beside community members as change takes place. Perhaps you'll build a house for a family without one, construct a dormitory so rural people can attend skills training workshops, give attention and hugs to an orphan, visit and encourage an impoverished family, or help plant a vegetable garden. Whatever the task, you can be sure that your presence will make a difference; not only to others, but also to you! Come see for yourself the impact of poverty and the amazing potential of partnership and hope to change lives. ■

Learn more about ADRA

Connections online at

www.adra.ca/connections, by

email at connections@adra.ca

or by phone at 905/433-8004

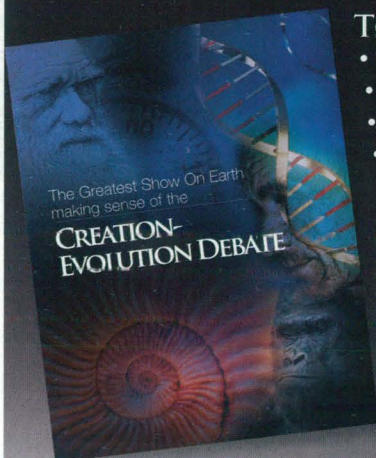
ext. 3101; toll-free at

888/274-2732 ext 3101

The Greatest Show On Earth: Making sense of the CREATION-EVOLUTION DEBATE

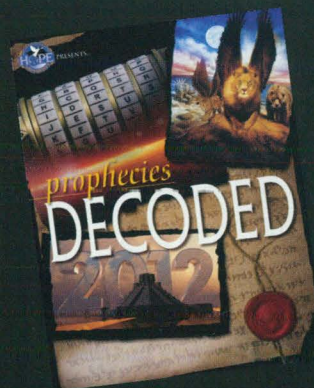
May 4-8, 2011 • 7:30-9:00 p.m. ET

A scientist, Timothy Standish, Ph.D. and a practical theologian, Ron E.M. Clouzot, D.Min. present evidence you cannot miss!



TOPICS:

- The Way We Were: A Look at Deep Time
- The Life of Creatures: Wonder and Trouble in Paradise
- Genes and Genies: What We Know and What We Don't
- The Flood and the Fossil: Radiometric Dating and Hard Questions
- Father God or Mother Earth: History, Presuppositions, the Problem of Evil and a Loving God
- Broadcast live on the Hope Channel
- Video streamed live at www.hopetv.org
- Plan to use this NET 2011 preparatory event to reach the community



prophecies DECODED

CAN THE PAST REVEAL YOUR FUTURE?

September 30-October 29

REGISTRATION

To register online and for resources visit <http://Host.PropheciesDecoded.com> or call 855-NET-2011

■ **Announcements**

PROCESS:

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

■ **Announcements**

The 57th Toronto Junior Academy /Crawford Adventist Academy Homecoming Alumni Weekend.

May 27-29, 2011. Honoured classes are: TJA Grade 10 Classes of '76 and '71; CAA Grade 12 Classes of '01, '96, '91, '86 and Grade 11 Class of '81. Please confirm your attendance to Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement at 866/960-2125 ext. 234. dhall@tadsb.com, Judy Gamez Ext. 248 jgamez@tadsb.com www.tadsb.com (6/11)

2011 German Camp Meeting—

May 6-7 (Friday to Saturday) at Camp Hope, 61855 Loughheed Highway, Hope, British Columbia. 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. (04/11)

■ **New Members**

ALBERTA

Kennedy Belinsky and **Anthony**

Lavala were baptized in Medicine Hat, Alta., on September 25, 2010, by Virgil Covel. They are now members of the Medicine Hat church.

Fillider and **Victor Cardona** and **Lucero Solorzano** were baptized in Calgary, Alta., on October 2, 2010, by Samuel Manzano. They are now members of the Calgary Central Spanish church.

Austin and **Dion Cross Child** were baptized in Medicine Hat, Alta., on September 19, 2010, by Virgil Covel. They are now members of the Medicine Hat church.

Jeremy Hetland and **Kyrie Leming** were accepted into the church by a profession of faith in Leduc, Alta., on September 18, 2010. They are now members of the Leduc church.

Maison and **Sierra Leitch** were baptized in Medicine Hat, Alta., on September 11, 2010, by Virgil Covel. They are now members of the Medicine Hat church.

Alixandra McKay and **Karyn McNeill** were baptized in College Heights, Alta., on September 4, 2010, by Moises Ruiz. They are now members of the College Heights church.

Shirley McLaren was baptized in Grande Prairie, Alta., on September 25, 2010, by Shawn Brummund. She is now a member of the Grande Prairie church.

Flora Mhehe and **Amanda Romeo** were baptized in Calgary, Alta., on September 11, 2010, by Reynold Ferary, and **Banis Dessin** was accepted into the church by a profession of faith. They are now members of the Calgary Bridgeland church.

Obed Ndlovu was accepted into the church by a profession of faith in Calgary Alta., on September 18, 2010. He is now a member of the Calgary Bridgeland church.

Justin O'Neill was baptized in College Heights, Alta., on July 10, 2010, by Paul Antunes. He is now a member of the College Heights church.

Claudia Otero and **Jose Renderos** were baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on April 26, 2010, by Julio Morales. They are now members of the Edmonton Renacer church.

Brian Otieno, **Mohamed Sesay** and **Tim Turpin** were baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on May 15, 2010, by George Ali. They are now mem-

bers of the Edmonton Mill Woods church.

Eddie and **Pia Pasadilla** were baptized in Calgary, Alta., on May 15, 2010, by Leo Launio. They are now members of the Calgary Southside church.

Russell Pedersen was baptized in College Heights, Alta., on June 19, 2010, by Moises Ruiz. He is now a member of the College Heights church.

Andile Pfupa and **Ronald Selon** were baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on April 24, 2010, by George Ali. They are now members of the Edmonton Mill Woods church.

Colton Pilipchuk was baptized in Bonnyville, Alta., on May 8, 2010, by Robert Pohle. He is now a member of the Bonnyville church.

Shanoi and **Travonne Pinnock** were baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on September 16, 2007, by Terrence Horrell. They are now members of the Edmonton West church.

Kelcey Pollard was baptized in College Heights, Alta., on March 13, 2010, by Moises Ruiz. She is now a member of the College Heights church.

Henry Quay was accepted into the church by a profession of faith in Edmonton, Alta., on September 25, 2010. He is now a member of the Edmonton West church.

Doreen Rauch was baptized in Medicine Hat, Alta., on September 8, 2010, by Virgil Covel. She is now a member of the Medicine Hat church.

Karen Ricci was baptized in Grande Prairie, Alta., on May 29, 2010, by Shawn Brummund, and Charlotte Fitchett was accepted into the church by profession of faith. They are now members of the Grande Prairie church.

Courtney, Kristen, Noel and **Vanetta Richard**, and **Jonathan** and **Renee Skoreyko** were baptized in Lac La Biche, Alta., on May 8, 2010, by Dario St. Louis. They are now members of the Lac La Biche Company.

Debra Rogers was baptized in Medicine Hat, Alta., on September 17, 2010, by Virgil Covel. She is now a member of the Medicine Hat church.

Dean and **Denise Rottacker** were baptized in Smoky Lake, Alta., on March 3, 2010, by Dario St. Louis. They are now members of the

Smoky Lake church.

Ana Sanchez was baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on July 10, 2009, by Julio Morales. She is now a member of the Edmonton Renacer church.

Ginette Sanchez and **Martha Salamanca** were baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on May 9, 2009, by Julio Morales. They are now members of the Edmonton Renacer church.

Jennifer Sherman was baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on May 30, 2009, by Ian Bramble. She is now a member of the Edmonton South church.

Ken Smith was baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on April 10, 2010, by Ian Bramble. He is now a member of the Edmonton South church.

Stanley Tribe was baptized in Medicine Hat, Alta., on October 2, 2010, by Virgil Covel. He is now a member of the Medicine Hat church.

Lim Pal Thokbuom and **Lual Thorpal** were baptized in Calgary, Alta., on June 29, 2009, by Ishmael Ali. They are now members of the Calgary Garden Road church.

Germene Tsafack was baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on July 24, 2010, by George Ali. She is now a member of the Edmonton Mill Woods church.

Mathew Turgott was baptized in Grande Prairie, Alta., on March 13, 2010, by Melbourne Turgott. He is now a member of the Lighthouse Company.

Stephen Uffindell was baptized in Ryley, Alta., on January 9, 2010, by Roy Uffindell. He is now a member of the Ryley church.

Joy Umulisa was baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on May 8, 2010, by John Wesley. She is now a member of Edmonton Central church.

Ruth Urban and **Erison Sosuan** were baptized in Edmonton, Alta., on June 26, 2010, by Toby Wong. They are now members of Edmonton Central church.

Alyce Worthington was baptized in College Heights, Alta., on July 3 2010, by Ron Sydenham. She is now a member of the College Heights church.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Jared Jamieson was baptized in Aldergrove, B.C., on Dec. 25, 2010,

by David Jamieson. He is now a member of the Aldergrove church.

■ Legal Notices

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador

Notice is hereby given that the eleventh (11) constituency meeting (quadrennial) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador will convene at the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church at 30 Aldershot St., St. John's, Nfld, between Friday, June 3 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 5 at 4 p.m.

The session is called for the purpose of: 1) Receiving reports covering the past four years of Mission operations, 2) Electing Directors of Departments (Mission Officers are elected by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—scheduled for the next SDACC Session, September 2011), 3) Electing members of the Board of Directors for the next four years, 4) Considering any proposed changes to the bylaws, 5) Considering any other business that may properly come before the Session.

Representation from the Newfoundland churches: The Bylaws of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador provides that each Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Mission is entitled to one delegate without regard to numbers and one additional delegate for each twenty (20) members or major portion thereof. Regular delegates to the session are appointed by the local churches.

Delegates for the Organizing Committee: Each church is entitled to having one representative attend the Organizing Committee and one additional member for each 200 members or major portion thereof. The Organizing Committee is scheduled to meet at the St John's church at 30 Aldershot St. at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 3. (The primary work of this Committee is to recommend to the Session members of the Nominating Committee and members of the Standing Bylaws Committee) (04/11)

Maritime Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the forty-seventh Regular Quadrennial Members' Meeting of the Maritime Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Inc. will be held at the Moncton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 161 Salisbury Rd., Moncton, N.B., starting on Friday, May 13, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m., AST and running through Sunday, May 15, 2011, ending at 4 p.m. AST.

This meeting is called for the following purposes: election of a Board of Directors, election of a Standing Bylaws Committee and a Standing Finance Committee, election of Officers and Departmental leadership of the conference, consideration of proposed changes in the Bylaws of the conference, transaction of other business as may properly come before a Regular Members' Meeting.

Delegates who are members of the Organizing Committee are asked to meet at the place of the session on Friday, May 13th at 5:30 p.m. AST.

■ Obituaries

Christine Fenton was born June 23, 1921, in Cowdenbeath, Scotland, and died Jan. 10, 2011, in Stoney Creek, Ont. Christine is predeceased by her husband, Arthur, and her parents, James and Janet Bowman. Surviving: son, Robert Ian of Valrico, Fla.; daughter, Janet (Donald) Upton of Nampa, Idaho; brother, James (Margaret) Bowman of Winnipeg, Man.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Max Fisher was born Nov. 25, 1923, in Innisfail, Alta., and died June 15, 2010, in Lacombe, Alta. Max touched the lives of students and teachers alike during his many years of service as a bus driver and custodian at the College Heights Christian School. He is predeceased by his wife, Dorothy; and his brothers, Harold, William, Ernie, Vaughn, Borden, John, Roy and Nelson. Surviving: daughter, Linda (George) Messing of Fresno, Calif.; two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Sharron (née Schaber) Francisco was born Nov. 12, 1954, in Calgary, Alta., and died Dec. 22, 2010, in Portland, Ore. She is predeceased by her parents, Roy and Hilda. Surviving: husband, Patrick; and brothers, Donald (Elaine) of Beiseker, Alta., and Burton (Maureen) of Harrison Hot Springs, B.C.

Charles Hawes was born Feb. 13, 1918, in Enderby, B.C., and died Dec. 20, 2010, in Armstrong, B.C. Charles served as school board chairman for North Okanagan Junior Academy for 20 years and as head elder of Grandview church. He is predeceased by his wife, Evelyn; his daughter, Patsy; his parents, Frank and Mary; and his brother, Duncan. Surviving: sons, Robin, Barrie, and Brian; daughter, Marion; brother, Douglas; sister, Clara Flindt; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Evelyn (née Searle) Hawes was born July 9, 1917, in Duck Lake, Sask., and died Nov. 7, 2010, in Armstrong, B.C. Evelyn was an active member of the Grandview church and was involved in sending Christian literature overseas for many years. She is predeceased by her daughter, Patsy; her brothers, Earnest, Clarence, and Roy; and her parents, Wesley and Petra. Evelyn's husband, Charles, died Dec. 20, 2010, soon after she passed away. Surviving: sons, Robin, Barrie and Brian; daughter Marion; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Gertrude "Trudy" (née Rigby) Hay was born Aug. 25, 1919, in Kamloops, B.C., and died Dec. 21, 2010, in Langley, B.C. Trudy and her husband, Jack, a doctor, worked in Africa, Singapore and Trinidad, as well as participated in several Maranatha trips. She served as a deaconess, greeter, and prayer ministry and visitation committee member at the Aldergrove church. Trudy and Jack's conversion story and call to Africa were chronicled in the books *Judy Steps Out* and *Judy Goes to Africa*, both by R.E. Finney, Jr. Trudy is predeceased by her husband, Dr. Jack Allenby Hay; her brothers, Joe and John; her sisters, Mary Piper and Ella Carell; and her parents, James and Jane. Surviving: sons, Dr. Michael (Linda) of Daniel Island, S.C., and Rob (Brigitte) of Surrey, B.C.; daughters, Karen of Redlands, Calif., and Lesley (Michael) Harrison of Bellbrook, Ohio; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mabel Hillock was born April 20, 1924, in St. John's, N.L., and died July 9, 2010, in Lacombe, Alta. She is predeceased by her husband, Emerson, her daughter, Bette; and her brother, Bill Davies. Surviving: sister, Margaret (Glen) Sandness; brother, Bob (Payton) Davies; son, Robert (Melinda) of Paradise, Calif.; daughter, Barbara (Rick) Hillock-Stevens of Yucaipa, Calif.; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Anne (née Johnston) Hudkins was born Sept. 4, 1937, in Camrose, Alta., and died Dec. 26, 2010, in Lacombe, Alta. Surviving: husband, Ron; son, Darren (Cindy); daughters, Lorrie (Doug) and Debbie (Terry); nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Roland Johnston was born Aug. 25, 1923, in London, England, and died Oct. 20, 2009, in Vernon, B.C. Roland is survived by his wife, Mary.

Martha Klam was born Dec. 16, 1916, in Macrorie, Sask., and died

July 1, 2010, in Lacombe, Alta. She is predeceased by her husband, John; her daughter, Ellabelle; her brothers, John, Joe and Dave Bodrug; and her sister, Mary. Surviving: sisters, Rose (Glen) Ross and Esther Murphy; son, Norman (Marlene) of La Centre, Wash.; four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Doris Lavinia (née Harder) Litke was born Sept. 15, 1950, in Langley, B.C., and died Nov. 19, 2010, in Lacombe, Alta. Doris was a partner in the ministry of her husband, Pastor Earl Litke, and ran her own text messaging ministry. She also accompanied and assisted her husband while he served as an ESL teacher in South Korea. Doris is predeceased by her father, David. Surviving: husband, Earl; sons, Kevin of Edmonton Alta., and Jason of Red Deer Alta.; brother of Calgary, Alta.; mother, Mabel; brothers, Daniel of Ponoka, Alta., and Lyle (Carol) of Sandpoint, Idaho; sister, Lenna (Terry) Percheson of Edmonton.

Donovan H. Shepard was born May 15, 1928, in Saskatoon, Sask., and died Aug. 17, 2010, in El Dorado, Calif. Donovan graduated with a degree in dentistry from Loma Linda in 1939 and practised for 23 years. He served on two mission trips to First Nations communities in B.C. and worked as a sales manager at Maracle Press for 11 years. Donovan is predeceased by his first wife, Evelyn; his sister, Florence; and his parents, Hiland and Ramona. Surviving: wife, Arlene; son, Larry (Karen) of Kingston, Ont.; stepdaughters, Kimberly (Emil) Dolezal of Visalia, Calif., and Kristy (Daryl) Plata of Rice, Wash.; brother, Charles (Lois) of Hesperia, Calif.; and five grandchildren.

Clarence Wombold was born on May 18, 1932, in Olds, Alta., and died July 17, 2010, in Ponoka, Alta. Clarence is predeceased by his parents, Jacob and Martha; his sister, Alice; his brothers, Donald and Loren; his nephew, Darcy; his step-father, William Krenzler; his step-sisters, Alice, Evelyn, and Marvella; and his step-brothers, Willard, Gary and Warren. Surviving: wife, Alice of Lacombe, Alta.; sons, LeRoy (Bev) of Clinton, Mo., Doug (Denise) of Kelowna, B.C., Glenn (Anna) of Ponoka, and Richard (Marcie) of Seattle, Wash.; brothers, Ron (Lorraine) and Sid (Ann); sister, Alysse (George) Frazer; step-brothers, Gordon (Doris) Krenzler and Darrel (Lynda) Krenzler; step-sisters, Darline (Boyd) Mattheis and Sheila (Frank) Minardi; and 10 grandchildren.

Advertising Policies

PROCESS:

- All advertising should be submitted with local conference approval.
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- The Messenger assumes no responsibility for typographical errors, nor liability for the advertisements. Acceptance of ads does not constitute endorsement of the products or services by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

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Deadlines

April issue: **February 1**
 May/June issue: **March 1**
 July issue: **May 2**

Advertisements

Washington Adventist University Alumni Weekend 2011 (Columbia Union College, Washington Missionary College) April 7-10. Alumni, friends and former faculty and staff are invited. Honoured Classes are '31, '41, '51, '61, '71, '81, '86, '91 and '01. For more information visit the website at wau.edu/alumni, email alumni@wau.edu or call the alumni office at 301/891-4133. (03/11)

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Apr. 7-10, 2011. Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to homecoming on Apr. 7-10, 2011. Honour classes are 1941, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991, and 2001. For more information contact the alumni office at 402/486-2503 or 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu. (04/11)

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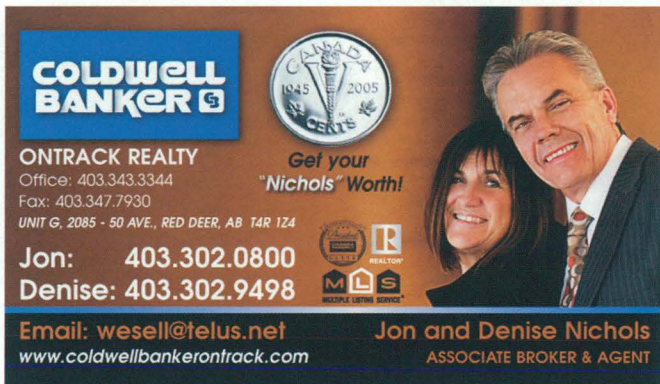
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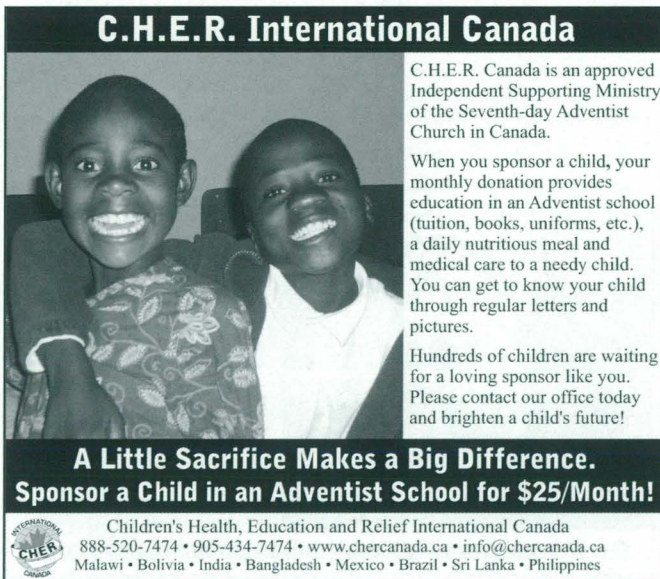
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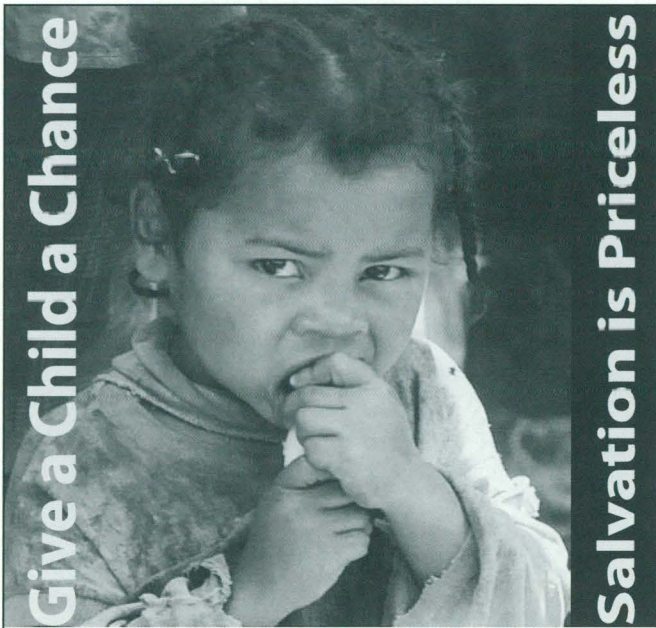
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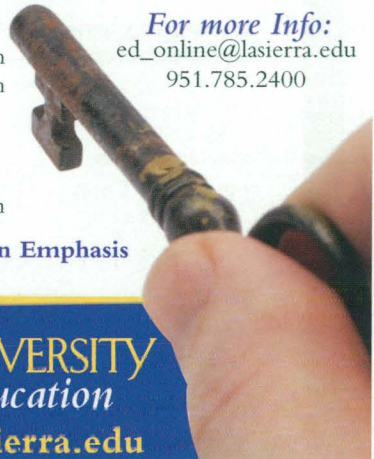
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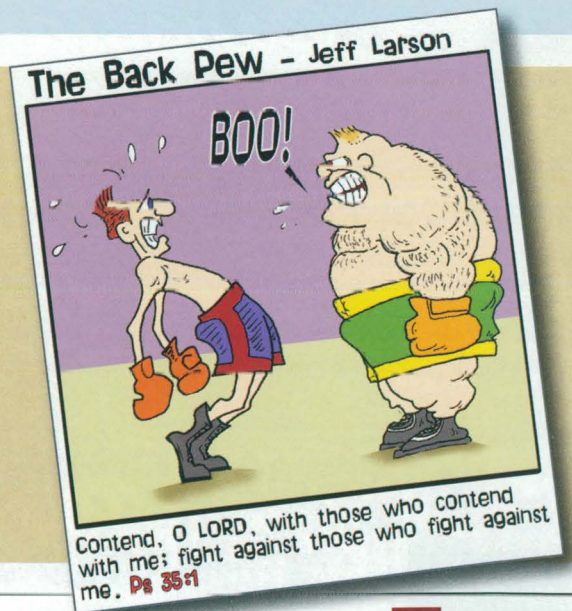


Sudoku

	6							
		1		8		7	9	
8	3			4	5		1	
			7			1		
7			8				4	
	9			1				
			3	2		4		9
		3			4		8	
5		9	1	6				

SOLUTION

2	7	3	7	2	4	9	1	6	8	3	7	2
1	8	6	1	5	7	3	8	9	4	2	5	1
9	1	8	6	3	2	7	4	5	9	1	8	3
3	9	8	4	1	2	5	6	7	3	9	8	4
7	1	2	8	5	6	9	4	3	7	1	2	8
6	5	4	7	3	9	1	2	8	6	5	4	7
8	3	7	9	4	5	2	1	6	8	3	7	9
4	2	1	6	8	3	7	9	5	4	2	1	6
9	6	5	2	7	1	8	3	4	9	6	5	2





*it's about your University experience...
it's about where you can feel at home...*



it's where you can grow academically, physically, and spiritually...



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it's where you belong...

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