

canadian adventist

Messenger

march 2013



SAGE

On a mission

PLUS CAM catches up with Lester Carney (p. 10)
Tia Lawrence goes to prison (p. 14)
Another Free Speech Precedent (p. 26)

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“We need a lot more practical insight and perhaps less of the theoretical.”



My 7 Weeks in Scripture

I've just finished reading through the Bible from cover to cover. It took me just 49 days and I've been deeply moved by the experience. Now, in my personal study time, I'll examine passages I noticed on the way through. I have purchased notebooks to jot down my discoveries in the days ahead.

Several things came into focus for me over the past seven weeks. Here they are:

- Starting your day in Scripture changes your outlook for that day—"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Ps. 119:11, ESV). How we relate to people, what we do with time, how we spend money, are all influenced by the perspective God's Word introduces into our day.
- The Bible speaks realistically about life. It shows how sin breaks people and their relationships. We ought to be learning from the experiences of those who have gone before us. "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come" (1 Cor. 10:11, ESV). We need a lot more practical insight and perhaps less of the theoretical.
- Scripture is very focused on the problem that sin creates. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21, KJV). We avoid talking about sin, but God does not. It is the key issue in the universe right now.
- God has chosen a destination, the new earth. The second coming is real. It will happen, and soon. "No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him" (Rev. 22:3, ESV).

So again, I invite you, make time for Scripture. It will revolutionize the way you live. It alone will help us find direction in our surroundings. It is "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105, NASB). Read it through this year. ■

Mark Johnson is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

Messenger

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Cover photo: SAGE Member Amanda Anderson at East African Mission Orphanage (EAMO) in Kenya. What's Inside photo, top: Stan Jensen at EAMO. Photos by Leon Hilder.



Your Words

“May we all follow your lead by being an inspiration to others and a Christ-centered Adventist messenger to everyone we meet.”

RE: September 2012

I just have to tell you that I am currently reading through the September issue of the *Messenger*. For the first time in as long as I can remember (and I have a good memory), I didn't know which page to read first. They were all *very* interesting. You folks are doing a mighty fine job.

—Karen Ritchey, Alberta

Thank you for a magazine that Canadian Adventists can feel proud of. I write though about one small issue I'd like to see addressed.

The September feature article, “FACEing AFRICA,” contained no contact information. People may contact Marta Roffey, by phone: 613/259-5545, email: facekidscharity@yahoo.ca or mail: 1338 French Line Road, Lanark, ON K0G 1K0. An email contact, or reference to the FACE advertisement in the *Messenger*, at the end of the article would have addressed the omission. Some information appeared for “Notebooks, Not Bullets for a Better World” (October issue) and “Goya's Dream” (May issue), but people still needed to do an Internet search to find contact information. I scrolled more than two pages to find the A Better World website. Small charities like FACE compete in search engines with organizations like Facebook and take even longer to find. Please give us a more time-efficient option.

—Lilian Birmingham,
Port Hardy, BC

RE: Miscellaneous

Thanks for your encouragement and the good news about the “Best in Class” recognition. I often meet people who tell me how much they enjoy the column and they always seem a little disappointed when I tell them that I take no credit for the wonderful illustrations that bring the stories to life. I think that's what's most impressive, and the *Messenger* staff always does such a great job with the graphics.

Thanks to everyone at the *Messenger* who breathes life into the text on the page!

—Tammie Burak, Mildred, SK

Just a note to tell you what a great job you are doing with the *Messenger*. I especially enjoyed the November issue. Gone are the days when we could have no colour on the inside pages and rarely could have coated stock. What an improvement! You have some interesting features.... Congratulations to you and your team.

—June Polishuk, Oshawa, ON

I appreciate Mark Johnson's column each month. Communication from our Canadian church president to the church body is imperative. God has placed Mark as our leader, and it is important for us

to have this communication from him, showing us how God is leading him. Thank you for the inspirational and Christ-centred *Adventist Messenger*. May we all follow your lead by being an inspiration to others and a Christ-centred Adventist messenger to everyone we meet.

—Ann Marie Vallier,
Napanee, ON

RE: October 2012

Thank you for putting me on your October 2012 cover! Everywhere I go, people recognize my face. Thanks also for offering to send me a plaque of the cover. I shall hang it proudly in my living room.

—Simone Samuels, Toronto, ON

RE: July 2012

Just to say the picture of the two guys kissing Miss Alderson at the time were my long-time friend, Mike Hamilton, and I. When I saw the picture, fond memories of that 1984 graduation class and the years spent at Kingsway will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you for the reminder and the lady with class!

—Jeff Adema, Dundas, ON

Email comments to jensen.stan@adventist.ca or mail them to Editor, *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8. Be sure to include your name, contact information, and the name and date of the article(s) you are referencing. 200 words maximum. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Not all letters will be published.

Time and Again

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

Have you ever caught yourself using the same phrase over and over again? That happened to me just recently. Our Maritime pastors and Bible workers spent a few days together in our office enjoying several training sessions on how to do small groups, as well as receiving devotional messages. Janice and I had the privilege of hosting our guest speaker from the North American Division Evangelism Institute in Berrien Springs, Mich. And this is when I caught myself beginning so many of my sentences with "And what I find interesting is that ...". Try as I may, I seemed to have been caught in some weird speech vortex that had me reverting back to this same phrase over and over again. After a while I became so self-conscious that I would deliberately think through what I wanted to say before I spoke.

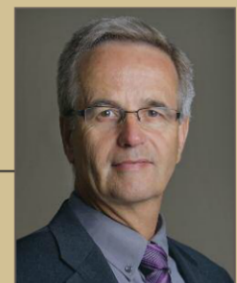
Another example of such interesting idiosyncrasies is when the preacher has his congregation turn to his "favourite passage" in the Bible or reads his "favourite statement" from the Spirit of Prophecy. After so many Sabbaths, have you ever thought of counting just how many passages or statements turn out to be "his favourite"? While the human mind can be both fascinating and intriguing, it doesn't always function in a rational way.

But what if there was something that you feel would be worth repeating over and over again? From your perspective, what would that be? Is there something that you can think of that, you would say, deserves to be replayed time and again?

I can think of one. John the revelator describes for us the ministry of the four beasts in Revelation 4:8: "And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy,

holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." Imagine spending every day and night repeating this phrase thousands of times and never tiring! I would have to wonder just what they were experiencing that they should have no other interest, no desire, for anything else.

Could we experience the same unwavering fervor? Inspiration gives us the following thought: "In your search for knowledge, climb higher than the standard set by the world; follow where Jesus has led the way The crowning glory of Christ's attributes is His holiness. The angels bow before Him in adoration, exclaiming, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." ... He is declared to be glorious in His holiness. Study the character of God. By beholding Christ, by seeking Him in faith and prayer, you may become like Him" (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 402). I have to say, if there is one theme above all others that is worth constantly repeating, it is "Christ, and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). Wouldn't you agree? "One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other, Christ our righteousness" (Review and Herald, Dec. 23, 1890). It just makes sense to me that with Jesus constantly before us at home, at work and at play, what a difference this would make. I can't help but think that whatever our experiences in life may be, with Jesus ever lifted up, even our most difficult trials will seem more bearable and the challenges worth facing. ■



John Fournier is president of the Maritime Conference.

Calvary and cocoa

T33nTalk



Did Jesus ever participate with what the pagans did? (Christmas/Easter)

Passover is the most significant feast of the Old Testament. It is a tangible celebration that teaches the old, old story. Jesus, the Lamb of God, sheds His blood on our behalf, and when we allow His blood to be applied to our lives the wages of sin—death—passes over. Jesus in the flesh, living, dying and rising again for us is the greatest gift heaven could offer. But when the time of year comes for us to remember this focal point in human history, we find that Satan has buried it under chocolate Easter bunnies, eggs, gifts, gluttony and ... I even sat through a children's story in church where a woman read the kids a book "explaining" the wonderful connection between Easter eggs and Jesus.



Any honest person can see that there is no connection between Calvary and cocoa or the Messiah and mistletoe. The question now is how would Jesus relate to all this? It is with fear and trembling I enter any ground that puts me in the position of suggesting "This is what Jesus would do." So rather than go there I'm going to go back and see how Jesus related to paganism when He was here "in the flesh."

The roots of Easter are pagan, but the sad reality is that one of the most glaring examples of paganism in Jesus' time was the Jewish religion. You don't believe me? Paganism flies many banners today, but when you strip away all the labels, paganism is all about what I must do to appease the "gods." Some overt forms of paganism would have people appeasing the gods by offering even their own children as sacrifices (even Israelite kings did this). Subtle paganism is, for example, offering your fruits and vegetables to God as payment (the way Cain did), instead of offering a lamb as a symbol of the promise that Jesus would lay down His own life. Even more subtle paganism can take the form of thinking that God is happier with you because you opened the door for someone or didn't cheat on the test even though you could have gotten away with it—that doing certain things will buy God's approval. You see true religion is about what God has done, is doing and will do for His people. Paganism is about what we do for God(s).

So to answer your question, yes, Jesus participated with pagans at pagan events. The temple had become a house of merchandise, literally a place where heaven was for sale, a den of paganism. Was Jesus there? Yes. The synagogues were plagued with pagan teachings. Jesus visited a synagogue every Sabbath. Even His own disciples were rotten with pagan thinking. Did He walk away and desert them? No. You see, had Jesus chosen to practice a life of "not getting messy," He could not have come; or, at best, He would have had to lock Himself away like a monk.

This world is what it is: messed up. Why is it messed up? Because we're messed up. Our calling is not to avoid the world. Our calling is to follow Jesus, to touch the lepers, talk with the woman at the well, love and pray for and with prostitutes, alcoholics, and "sinners" of all kinds just as Jesus did. Our calling is to meet people where they are and, from that place, tell them about Jesus in language they can understand. If the gates of hell can't prevail against God's people, should commercially driven holidays entangled with a few lame pagan roots from the father of lies really scare us? Or rather should we seek for ways to shine a light into the darkness?

Dan Wilson is pastor of the Halifax and Fox Point churches in Nova Scotia. If you have a question for him, email us at messenger@adventist.ca.

*In the same way, count yourselves
dead to sin but alive to God in
Christ Jesus—Romans 6:11*

Virginia opossum



A man opened his front door early one morning and was surprised to find an opossum on his lawn. His dog burst out the door and ran straight for the frightened opossum. Immediately, the opossum fainted and dropped to the ground as if it were dead. The dog sniffed the opossum, but it didn't respond. Since it was apparently dead, the dog wandered off looking for a squirrel to chase instead.

Think about it.

"Playing possum," that is, pretending to be dead, sometimes protects an opossum from being killed by a predator. The Bible teaches that our sinful self must die, not just pretend to die, in order for us to live for Christ. If God is truly your King, your sinful self cannot also be king. Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matt. 16:24, NIV). Next time you are tempted, remember that Jesus died to set you free from slavery to sin and your old, sinful self. Picture that "dead" opossum. Surrender your will to Jesus and He will give you power to stay dead to sin.

Do it!

You can learn more about opossums and watch a short video at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca



Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. You can contact her at tammie.burak@gmail.com or follow her blog at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.

CUC President Awarded Diamond Jubilee Medal



L-R: Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education, Stephen Khan, Dr. Mark Haynal and Alberta Premier Alison Redford at the ceremony. (Photo Courtesy of the Government of Alberta)

ON JAN. 15, 2013, ALBERTA PREMIER ALISON REDFORD honoured CUC president, Dr. Mark Haynal, alongside other presidents of Alberta's post-secondary institutions with the Diamond Jubilee Medal. Premier Redford remarked that Alberta is fortunate to have such dedicated and visionary leaders in the post-secondary system, and awarding the medal was her way of honouring and recognizing them. The medals were awarded while the presidents were in Edmonton for a meeting of Campus Alberta stakeholders.

"It was an honor to meet the premier and Minister Khan and to receive this medal," said Haynal. "While I may have been the one who represented CUC at this event, it is the talent and dedication of this institution's faculty and staff that have made CUC an important part of our Canadian educational system."

The Diamond Jubilee Medal was created to mark the 60th anniversary of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. During the year of celebrations, 60,000 deserving Canadians are being recognized. ■

CUC Youth Rally

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY—THREE WORDS, THREE DAYS, THAT MOST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TREASURE.

The weekend is just enough time for them to recharge before jumping into another week of lectures, labs, tests and essays. But for a group of CUC students, this one particular weekend was meant for mission, not rest. Previous weekends had been spent preparing for this chance to share what they were continually discovering to be true. They'll need a whole lifetime to fully express the truth, but for now a weekend was a good start.

Twenty-three CUC students closed their books Thursday evening, packed and jumped on a bus for the 12-hour drive to Burnaby, B.C., arriving just a few hours before presenting their testimony to students and youth in the Greater Vancouver area. In partnership with the B.C. Conference and their hosts, Deer Lake School, the students were presenting a two-day youth rally entitled My TESTimony. Already in its second year, the youth rally was the dream of CUC students who had a burden to share God with kids who they knew looked up to older youth.

As the planning took place, the students made a concerted effort to invite participation from all parts of the campus and all talent pools. After being part of the first year's group, Kryzia Abacan, a third-year English major from Ontario, was urged to take on more responsibility as the program coordinator after her organizational and communication talents became evident. "There are plenty of youth rallies going on around the country, but this was different. It wasn't about putting on a show. It was about a group of people with different talents and different ideas and using them for God. I'm not the person preaching or singing on stage; that's not my talent. But that doesn't mean I can't contribute. It doesn't mean that I can't praise God with my talents. I realized that my talent is organization, and it might not be the usual talent the church may see, but it is a talent nonetheless, and God can use me," Abacan explains.

For Carvey Luceno, a fourth-year biology major from B.C., and a graduate of Deer Lake School, it was a homecoming. Having been in the same shoes as many of the students at the school, he had an idea of what they were going through. As the praise and worship coordinator for the youth rally, Luceno was looking for positive impressions and change not only in the students they were presenting to but also in his fellow students who were presenting. He says, "It's surprising that sometimes the students who are participating are just as affected by the experience as the audience is. Ultimately, my main hope is that God may use us and our passion

for Him to do great things and make a difference in people's lives."

Richard Gray, a fourth-year religious studies major from Ontario and the youth rally's drama leader, saw lives changed the previous year and understood that it was important to make the internal ministry just as important as the ministry that the group presented. "This year we decided to invite not only people we were familiar with to participate; we wanted to invite people from all areas of campus. Some of the new members were uneasy with being up front or opening up to the high school students, but by the end of the weekend they expressed how much they loved the trip. It was the highlight of the year—simply because of how God used them," remarked Gray.

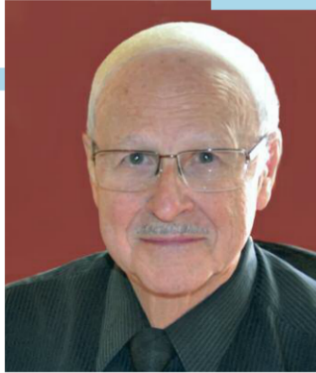
The weekend was packed with events from Friday evening until Saturday night with praise and worship, original skits, musical presentations and student testimonies. Saturday afternoon also featured workshops with topics ranging from "The Worldly Pull" to a 'girls-only presentation entitled, "Girl Talk." Jorge Torres, a second-year religious studies major from Manitoba, presented all the sermons for the weekend. For him the journey of preparing and presenting the youth rally is just as life-changing as it is for those involved. Torres explains, "Experiences like this always help your spiritual life because you're stretched and put in positions where you are uncomfortable. All you can really do is trust that God will come through for you. This is where you realize that you're not where you think you are spiritually and that you need God just as much as the people you are there helping, and this brings in the realness factor that changes everything. Being real changes everything." ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director for Canadian University College



The youth rally's praise and worship team.

Where Are They Now



Messenger catches up with former leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. In this issue we talk with Lester Carney.

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *What was your life like growing up in Virginia?*

Lester Carney: I grew up during the time of the Great Depression, so we really didn't have a lot of money at that time, but we had plenty of food, because I grew up on a farm. We had a very close family relationship. My father was a carpenter during the Second World War, as well as a farmer. He worked on the Pentagon when it was being built. My mother was a pianist at church. I graduated from high school when I was 17 and went on to college. I had a very good childhood.

M: *What was the motivation behind pursuing a theology degree?*

LC: This was something that was planted in my mind from when I was very young. I always seemed to have the desire to be a minister. It was the Lord's calling. So when I went to college, a theology degree is what I took.

M: *You were called as president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference. What was it like serving in such an important leadership role?*

LC: I was called [to the president of Manitoba-Saskatchewan position] out of the blue, but I had a good group of individuals around to help me. I think that's one of the strengths of the Man-Sask administration, that you can surround

yourself with talented individuals. Having been in evangelism for many years, I knew a lot of pastors. It was an asset to have a network of people. Serving as president was challenging, but the Lord was good.

M: *What makes a good leader?*

LC: Leaders in the church have to have a strong, spiritual relationship with their God. If you're looking at it from more of a human viewpoint, I think a leader is one who is willing to make tough decisions, but always with counsel from a wider degree of people, so that he or she makes sure that it is operating in a proper way. It's essential that the leader is transparent in his or her activities and always honest. People need to know that they can depend upon what [the leader] has said.

M: *There was quite an interest in your part to hold tours throughout the Middle East. Can you tell us a little bit about that?*

LC: I had the opportunity to go to the Bible lands, which is what led to my involvement with the Bible Land Tours. The next time I went, I operated a tour. This led to me doing tours quite frequently. Most of these tours that I have set up were to give pastors the opportunity to go. These were historical and biblical tours. Even after I retired, people have asked me to do tours. The last one I did was in the spring of last year. I've been to Israel 15 times.

One thing you gain is the inspiration from Christ's ministry. I tell people they will never be able to read the Bible the same way they have before. Because when you read the Bible now [after having experienced the geographical and cultural backgrounds], you can picture the geographical places that you visited, and it makes the Bible come alive.

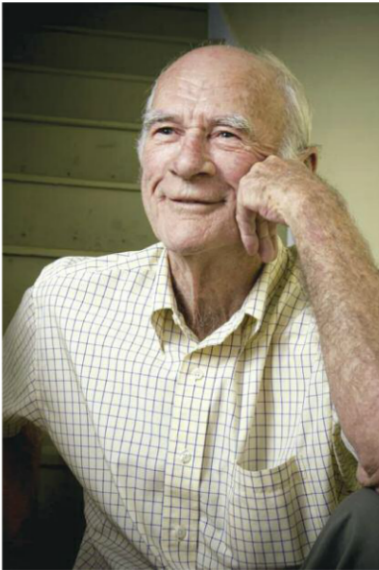
M: *What are some of the most important principles learned from your 40 years of service?*

LC: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty" (Zech. 4:6). God has to be in charge, and we have to realize the direction in which He is leading us. I think another principle is to stick with the basic teachings of God's Word. Another is to be sympathetic and kind and not to think that you have all of the answers, especially when it comes to leadership.

M: *Where are you now?*

LC: I live in Canmore, Alta. I retired in 1996. In fact, if you look at my passport, you'll find that today was my birthday, although my regular birthday was yesterday. There was a little problem with the doctor's reporting of my birth. I was born on Feb. 9, but he put down the 10th, so for my official documents, I have to be born on the 10th. Feb. 9 was my 80th birthday. I preached at the Mountain Sanctuary Canmore Company. ■

Ben's Revocable Trust



Ben Jones¹ was aging, but as a widower with no children he didn't know where to turn for financial counsel. Fortunately, Ben's nephew Michael invited him to share Christmas with him and his young family. Late Christmas Day, Ben had some quiet moments with Michael and shared his concerns about how to handle his finances as he grew older. Michael recommended that Ben talk to the Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services director.

The director listened to Ben and then suggested a Revocable Trust² which is a legal document whereby Ben (the trustor) would transfer his finances to the conference (the trustee) to be invested separately for Ben, and the conference would send him regular trust account statements. The director told Ben that he could withdraw any or all of his money or add to the trust, if he wished or needed to. The amount remaining in the trust at Ben's death would be distributed by the conference to Ben's beneficiaries as listed in his Revocable Trust Agreement³.

Finally, the trust director said there was no charge for having a conference trust. If Ben wanted to, he could consider a charitable gift to a conference ministry in appreciation for their help. Ben was happy to include a donation in his trust agreement and glad to have begun this relationship to help him through his senior years. ■

¹ Not his real name

² Other types of trusts will be featured at a later date.

³ Revocable Trust Agreements should be reviewed by independent legal counsel.

Get your free copy of *George's Tree* by calling 905-433-0011, ext. 2078, or emailing legal@adventist.ca.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS CHURCH IN ALBERTA,
AND THE SALEM CHURCH IN MONTREAL, QUEBEC.

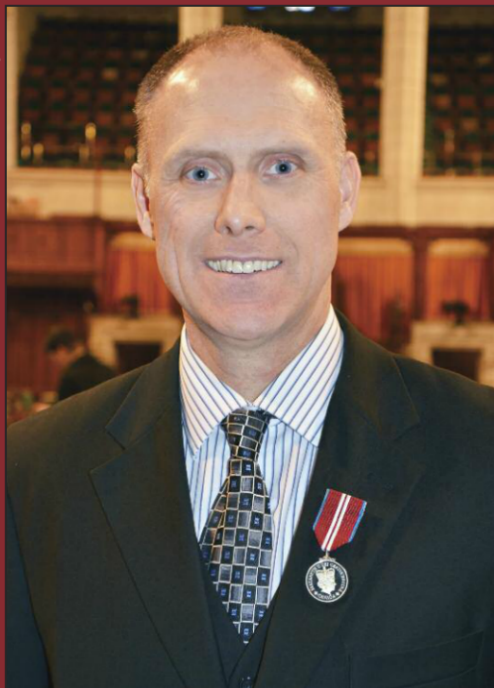
It's a windy day, and you are the only one in the church parking lot. You find a \$50 bill. What do you do with it?

Debbie Schwarz: Look around to see if there is anyone around who could have "lost" it. If no one is around, put it in the offering the next Sabbath, to my favourite program: Pathfinders/ADRA ...

Sergena Obas: I take it home. If I hear that someone has lost some money, I turn it in. I may ask; if not, it's mine.

Audrey Haggkvist: I would take it inside, tell the pastor or someone who is making the church announcements, and have it announced that a sum of money was found. If not claimed, I would put it in the offering.

Photo: Daniel Stojanovic



Barry W. Bussey in the House of Commons chamber after receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee award.

Barry W. Bussey Receives Recognition for his Work to Support Religious Liberty

Barry Bussey has recently been recognized for his work with religious liberty. On Jan. 30, 2013, Barry was awarded the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Diamond of Jubilee award in recognition of his work to support religious liberty in Canada and internationally. It is an honour Barry much appreciates, but he does not take receiving the award lightly.

"It's for the cause," Barry said. "This medal is because of religious liberty. We have wonderful blessings in Canada, but I know there are brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering because of their faith, and that's why I'm involved."

The award presentation was held in the House of Commons chamber in the Parliament Building in Ottawa, Ont. Member of Parliament Maurice Vellacott, representing the constituency of Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, was on hand to present this award to Barry.

Also present at the ceremony were Barry's family members, friends and trusted colleagues. This included his wife, LaVonna; brothers, Rodney and Greg; parents, Gladys and Winston; Bonnie Sharpe, College Park church secretary; and John Pellowe, CEO of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC). There were also quite a few members from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada: Girly Quiambao, accountant, Revolving Fund, and her husband, Rizal; Tina Keys, secretary to the legal counsel; and Grace Mackintosh, legal counsel. Lloyd Mackey, veteran journalist and author, and Tim Blodow, assistant to

MP Maurice Vellacott, were also present.

After the award presentation, lunch was served in the parliamentary restaurant, followed by a question-and-answer period and a brief tour of the Peace Tower, Memorial Chamber and Centre Block.

Barry first completed his degree of theology at Canadian University College before moving on to complete his Bachelor of Law degree at the University of Western Ontario. He continued his studies, earning a Master of Arts in political science from Memorial University of Newfoundland and a Master of Law from Osgoode Hall Law School, in Toronto. Barry served as the legal counsel of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada for five years and then spent two years as the associate director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Currently, Barry serves as the vice-president of Legal Affairs for CCCC.

According to the Governor General of Canada website, the Diamond of Jubilee Medal was created to mark 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal "serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians." Last year, 60,000 deserving Canadians were recognized.¹

Tina worked as Barry's secretary from September 2003 while he held the position of legal counsel at the SDACC. "I cried [when he left]," Tina says. "He was a great person to work for. He taught me a lot about religious liberty issues, and he was passionate about it."

"I cannot think of anyone who deserves [the Diamond of Jubilee award] more. I am so happy that his contributions to religious freedoms are being recognized and rewarded." ■

Alexandra Yeboah is the Messenger secretary and a staff writer.

¹ "Diamond of Jubilee Medal," The Governor General of Canada: His Excellency the Right Honourable William Johnston, www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=14019&lan=eng.

Evangelizing Generation Y

Preparing to Embrace the Younger Crowd

HAVE YOU LOOKED AROUND YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?

Whom do you see? Who is missing? If your congregation is like the average church in North America, you may notice an aging group of boomers and very few young people. In a study sponsored by the Center for Creative Ministry, researchers Paul Richardson and Monte Sahlin asked, "If the median age of the general population in the United States is 36 and in Canada 35, then why is the median age of the million Adventists in North America 51?" The median age reported by the other world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist church is hovering in the mid-30s, but the greying of Adventism is so pronounced in the North American Division.¹ How are we going to reach the largest generation living today, Generation Y?

In the past, North Americans have had an ongoing love affair with the Boomer Generation (born 1946–1964). As this population enters into retirement and moves towards the end of their life stage, there is an even larger population living today, called Generation Y (born 1980–2000). The first step in reaching Generation Y (often referred to as "Millennials") through evangelistic efforts is to fully understand who they are, how they think, what factors influence their moral compass and what motivates them. Here is a quick snapshot of this important group of people.

THEY ARE MOTIVATED BY TRANSPARENCY AND CHANGE.

Past generations, like Boomers, often worked at one job and stayed there out of loyalty. It was even more rare for people to change careers. In contrast, Millennials are more likely to quit their job and begin

an entirely new career. Almost 6 in 10 Millennials say they have switched careers once already. According to Dan Schawbel of *Time* magazine, Millennials share a very different work ethic. The vast majority (83 percent) are "looking for a job where [their] creativity is valued," while more than 9 in 10 Millennials are "motivated to work harder when [they] know where [their] work is going" and "they want supervisors, managers and executives to listen to their ideas."² They aren't motivated by money as much as they want to feel valued and make a significant contribution.

Questions for the church: Millennials have extraordinary leadership ability. Many are running billion-dollar companies and leading large teams in the work force. What kind of leadership opportunities does your church have for these young people? Unlike past generations, Millennials will not wait and stand by for 25 years to finally hold the leadership baton. They are ready to act now. If you want to reach a younger audience, you will need to begin giving away leadership now. What percentage of your church board and elders are under the age of 40? What specific strategies can your church implement that could incorporate Millennials in top leadership at your church?

THEY LIVE IN A HIGH-TECH WORLD

You may be surprised by how dependent Millennials are on their gadgets and mobile devices. This is a new reality that society is recognizing. This younger generation communicates via text, phone, email and web all through their personal mobile device. Many of them use their phones instead of a personal computer to receive and send information.

Questions for the church: How does your church communicate? Are you depending

on your church bulletin as your primary source of information telling? Is it from the phone book or the Internet? Do you have a church website that is regularly updated, three to five times a week? What is the primary way you receive information? Do you have a social media strategy using Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, YouTube? How much money in your church budget have you allocated to new media?

THEY WILL GIVE TO PROJECTS, NOT PROGRAMS

Millennials have tremendous giving potential. According to online magazine *AdvertisingAge*, those between the ages of 17 to 34 are, collectively, expected to spend more than \$200 billion annually starting in 2017 and \$10 trillion in their lifetimes.³ However, while older generations like boomers returned their tithes and offerings out of loyalty and duty, Generation Y is not motivated by tradition. According to the recent Millennial Impact Report, 75 percent of young people donated to causes last year.⁴ That's because they are more likely to give towards specific projects like ADRA than they would to world missions. They are skeptical about organized religion and want to have more transparency with where their money is going.

Questions for the church: How is your church tracking the giving patterns of Millennials and Boomers? Are you promoting online giving to return tithes and offerings? What are the special projects you can promote to raise giving to the local church budget? ■

Dr. Rajkumar Dixit is a church communications consultant. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Christian World. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.

¹ You can order the full report at www.creativeministry.org.

² Dan Schawbel, "Millennials vs. Baby Boomers: Who Would You Rather Hire?" *Time*, March 29, 2012, <http://business.time.com/2012/03/29/millennials-vs-baby-boomers-who-would-you-rather-hire/#ixzz2lrMVN8al>.


³ Erin Mulligan, Nelson, "Millennials Want to Party With Your Brand But on Their Terms," *AdvertisingAge*, August 2, 2012, <http://adage.com/article/digitalnext/millennials-party-brand-terms/236444/>.

⁴ "Charitable Giving: 75% of Millennials Donated Money to Causes in 2011 (Study)," June 6, 2012, www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/12/charitable-giving-millennial-generation_n_1590389.html.

Read Part 2 in the April Issue of the Messenger.



A LIFE CHANGED

 Words by God — “So if the Son set you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36, NIV

For the last number of years I've had the privilege to volunteer at a prison. It has been an incredible growing experience in understanding more of God's grace in my life. One night I was sitting there listening to the service when God's presence felt so close, as if He was giving me a warm hug. I remember this thought hitting me, These guys are my brothers. They are dearly and completely loved by God. More than that, we are completely loved by God. No one is more special to Him than another. He loves us all the same, no matter what we do or how low we may feel. God's grace is enough for each one of us.

The guys at the prison may be physically incarcerated, but each one of us has gone through a time when we were imprisoned by something in our lives. Maybe it was fear, depression, addictions, secret sins, lies, lust, or [fill in the blank]. What God impressed upon me is that no matter where you are or what kind of chains and walls are holding you back, His grace is more than enough for you. We don't have to stay there. We can have hope and a future that is far greater than anything we can ever dream or imagine. We can have freedom from the chains that tie us down. What Jesus did for us in His life and death paid the price for our sins. In Him we can be free.

Recently two guys at the prison were baptized. It was awesome to hear their testimonies of how God has changed their lives! God is limitless and He can reach us where we are, wherever we are; all we have to do is say “yes.” I was honored to sing the song “Redeemed”* for their baptism; it is one of my favorites of how God's grace can change a life.

Be Blessed



Tia Lawrence is 18 years old and a first year college student. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com



 * Watch “Redeemed,” by Big Daddy Weave on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/Kw38IH>



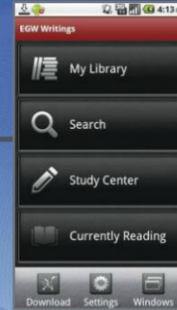
app review

by Keith Chant

app review

In Brief:

Ever wanted to know what Ellen White had to say about a topic? There's an app for that—EGW Writings. Search for a topic and read what she says. You can download only the books you want or the entire library including the SDA Bible Commentary (volumes 1–7), seven Bible translations and a 1828 Noah Webster dictionary. The books are available in nine languages (Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish). You can bookmark references, highlight, and make notes using the Study Center. Listening to the audio of a book is as simple as clicking on the “play” button in the toolbar (available books require an Internet connection).



Wow Factor:

All of Ellen G. White's writing on your phone and tablet in up to nine languages.

Meh Factor:

If you download the entire library, it takes up a fair bit of space on your device (about 800 MB).

Developer:

Ellen G. White Estate, Inc.

Seller:

Movinpixel, Ltd.

Price:

Free

Works On:

Android, iOS



it is written

Touching Hearts, Impacting Lives ...



These letters are but a sample of what we receive every day in the mail from all over the country. Seeing how God's Word is impacting lives through the ministry of It Is Written Canada is what really motivates us. Here is one of them:

Dear Bill Santos, Thank you for your wonderful uplifting program on TV. My husband and I watch it faithfully every Sunday morning and especially enjoy Pastor George Knight and all of the other guests.

We have learned so much more about God's Word in the Bible through your program! Thank you and God bless!" from Orangeville, Ont.

And here is another one:

"I just watched your program this morning on CTV Toronto and enjoyed it so much. Your mention of the importance of Bible knowledge is really true. Upon watching Jeopardy the

other day, I noticed how this one gentleman knew every answer to the Bible section. I was amazed because usually no one has a clue about what to say.

I am including an offering for your work. Thank you so much for being on TV so that others can listen to your program.

My background is Mennonite, but I feel that whoever you are we all can be Christians, love God and live the life he wants us to live."

from Cochin, Sask.

Please keep us in your prayers.

It Is Written Canada, a television media ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, is maintained through the sacrificial contributions of our supporters, and is committed to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ first and foremost to the people in Canada but also to the whole world through national and international television programming, Bible Prophecy seminars, and the development of resources to support church evangelism.

Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

For all the denominational employees in Canada who are getting close to retirement, there is one person at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) who is the most sought-after. It is not the president or any of the other officers. It is not even any of the Messenger staff. It is ... Marilyn Pazitka, director of the Canadian Retirement Plan. This month we interview her and find out some things that even some of her co-workers don't know.



Larry and Marilyn Pazitka.

EDITOR: Marilyn, please tell us about yourself and your family.

MARILYN: I grew up in a small town in Ontario with my three older sisters and parents. My father owned his own business and the whole family worked together for its success. Not only were we a family, we were a team. When I was in Grade 10, I followed in my mother's and two of my sisters' footsteps and left home to attend Kingsway College. I met my husband, Larry, the first year attending Kingsway. We dated for five years before we were married. We have two children. Our son, Brandon, is married and is living in England with his wife, Melita. Our daughter,

Kristin, is teaching at Avalon Adventist Junior Academy in Port Hardy, B.C. As a family we enjoy traveling and discovering new places to see and explore.

EDITOR: Do you come from an Adventist background?

MARILYN: I was raised in a wonderful Adventist family and had the privilege of attending a small church where children and youth were nurtured and were considered top priority. Every young person had the opportunity to serve in the church. We did not have a church school in our community, but church life was of primary importance, where we attended prayer meeting, missionary volunteer meet-

ings and Pathfinders. Ingathering was always an important event in our small church.

My maternal great-grandmother and grandmother were brought into the Adventist faith through a tent meeting in Guelph, Ont. I am a fourth-generation Adventist.

EDITOR: *I understand that you have worked at the SDACC longer than any other current employee. How did you get started working here? What positions have you held?*

MARILYN: Yes, that is correct. In September 2013, I will have worked at the SDACC for 38 years. After I married and moved to Oshawa, I heard about an opening at the SDACC. I applied and was hired by Karl Klam (treasurer) and Evelyn Bowles (associate treasurer) to work as a secretary in the publishing department. I shared an office with my boss, Elder Okuno, and was given a small typewriter table as a desk. Over the years I have worked as receptionist; secretary in the auditing, treasury, ministerial, public affairs and religious liberty, *Messenger* and secretariat departments; and for the president. I was then asked to be the administrative assistant to the president and secretary of the SDACC. When the Retirement Plan for Canadian Employees was established in 1993, I was asked to be the director for that department.

EDITOR: *Retirement Plan? How many workers and retirees are a part of the SDACC retirement plan?*

MARILYN: Our last actuarial valuation was completed effective Jan. 1, 2011. According to the statistics from this valuation, we have 1,134 active employees who are members of our pension plan. The average age of our plan members is 47.6 years. We have 922 retirees and beneficiaries who are receiving a pension from our plan. The average age of our retirees is 74.9 years. We also have 594 deferred vested members who have terminated employment with the church but are eligible for a retirement benefit when they reach age 65. We have 215 suspended members. These are individuals who have worked in Canada but are currently working in the United States.

EDITOR: *What amount of benefits does the retirement plan pay out on an annual basis?*

MARILYN: In 2012 we paid \$4.8 million in benefits to our retirees and beneficiaries from the registered retirement plan. We also paid out an additional \$2 million from our supplemental plan.

EDITOR: *Do retirees have health benefits? What kind of benefits?*

MARILYN: In order for retirees to be eligible for health benefits, they must have earned 15 years of service credit. Retirees are reimbursed on a percentage basis according to the years of service credit that they have earned with the church. The more years of service credit, the higher the percentage of reimbursement. The health benefit plan works in conjunction with provincial medical plans. Retirees are reimbursed for optical, dental and prescriptions along with other approved expenses. In 2006 a health care spending account was introduced for new retirees meeting certain eligibility requirements.

EDITOR: *How much is in the plan, and is it fully funded?*

MARILYN: In 1993 when the plan was started in Canada, we had no assets. At the end of December 2012 we had \$94 million. On a going concern basis we are fully funded, but on a solvency basis we are approximately 71 percent funded. We fund the plan on the solvency basis.

EDITOR: *Do you have any words of wisdom to share with the future retirees in your plan?*

MARILYN: You are responsible for the type of retirement that you want. Prepare for it. Think about what you want to do in your retirement and how you will accomplish it. Talk to a financial advisor. Be smart and don't take unnecessary risks.

EDITOR: *What words of wisdom would you share with new employees?*

MARILYN: You must plan early and plan often. In other words, you are never too young to think about planning for your retirement and to start saving for your retirement, either through your personal RRSPs, TFSAs, etc. Once you have put plans in place, you must actively re-evaluate your personal circumstances in order to determine if your plans are still relevant and will meet your future needs.

EDITOR: *Do you have a favourite Bible verse you want to share?*

MARILYN: I am encouraged by the promise in Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." ■

Stan Jensen is the communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.

Coming home

My name is Nadège Katende. I was born in Montreal in 1991 and am the second daughter in a family of five girls. My walk with the Lord has been an eventful one, even though I am only 21 years old. There have been certain instances that have allowed me to clearly see the hand of God in my life. I just want to share some of those precious moments with you. This is my testimony.



Nadège Katende

from Adventist to Muslim and back to Jesus

I remember that it all began when my mother decided to take French classes to speak and write the language better. Providentially, it turned out that her teacher was a Seventh-day Adventist. After several meetings, the teacher eventually gave my mom *Steps to Christ*, the book that would eventually set me on my journey with God. The same woman would sometimes

come to our house to check on us and eventually started to pray with my mom and with us. The Lord used her to lead us to the truth, and her witness made such an impression on us that we started going to her church, called Bethesda.” As my family was going through this spiritual awakening, my parents, sadly, divorced right around the time that my mother was baptized.

However, my family and I continued going to the Seventh-day Adventist church, and when I turned 15, the pastor started to ask me if I thought I would be ready to get baptized. I eventually said yes and we started to have short studies about Seventh-day Adventist beliefs.

June 24, 2006, was the day of my baptism; two of my sisters were baptized along with me; one was 16, and the other one 14. After that day my life didn't change at all. I was not studying the Bible and I was doing the same things I had been doing before I became a Seventh-day Adventist. I was still going to my basketball games on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, I was missing church because of my basketball practices, I was still playing the dating game just as before I was baptized, I was still eating the foods that I was not supposed to, drinking alcohol, etc. In short, my life was not transformed; I was a Seventh-day Adventist still clinging to the world. I had not yet experienced the renewing, ennobling power of Jesus Christ.

My life continued like this for almost four years, but one day I came back from work and sat down in front of the television. Flipping through the channels, I ended up watching a show that was talking about how the prophecies we see in the Bible in the book of Revelation were scientifically possible, that they could take place in our modern day, and how at the end we will still see God as a loving God. I was just amazed at this news. I wanted to do something about it, but I didn't know where to start, so I promptly forgot about the whole thing.

The very next day when I came back from work, I started talking to my neighbours, who told me that it was Ramadan next week. So I start asking them questions about what Ramadan was, and we eventually started talking about their faith. As I had mentioned earlier, I called myself a Christian, but I was not living Christianity. So here I am, having a heated religious discussion with these zealous Muslims who were passionately asserting all of their doctrines, telling me how wrong Christians are and how Christians do not respect God when they say that He has a Son. They even gave me a stack of videos about Islam and Christianity's many “satanic doctrines.”

As I sat there watching those videos—52 in total—I concluded that I didn't know my Bible! It was only later, when I started to really study the Bible, that I began to realize that the so-called Christian beliefs those videos were challenging were not Seventh-day

Adventist beliefs but rather the misguided, unbiblical beliefs that other Christian traditions have held or continue to hold. But at the time I was watching the videos, I still lacked that understanding, so I and the same two sisters eventually decided to become Muslim.

Interestingly enough, the very next week, the beginning of Ramadan, my mom's French teacher, now a very good friend, knew that we had become Muslim because she would still visit us to see how we were doing. As soon as she learned of this news, she humbly and kindly informed a member of her church who had formerly been a Muslim but eventually decided to become a Seventh-day Adventist. She eventually asked him to share his testimony with us and to give us more Bible studies.

The first two months of our studies with this former Muslim, Aboubacar, was chaotic. My sisters and I would speak loudly; we didn't want to listen to anything he had to say, because in our minds he was an infidel. But this man never lost his strength; he was kind, patient and filled with an indescribable love. We amazingly went through the 24 studies by Amazing Facts in a span of nine months. The first two months I decided to take off the hijab and I no longer believed in Islam because of the evidence Aboubacar showed me and because of the Holy Spirit moving on my heart. Eight months later I understood the origin of sin, the Sabbath, the sanctuary, and the plan of salvation. I was so excited about this newfound truth that I started sharing it with everyone! I eventually started sharing what I had learned with some of my basketball teammates. By the grace of God, one of the girls on my basketball team became a Seventh-day Adventist, and she got baptized on the same day that I got re-baptized. It's truly amazing what God can do through those who make themselves available.

I was amazed at how God can do powerful and wonderful things if we just surrender ourselves to Him. On this journey I understood God's love as never before, and that changed my life forever. Now I am wholeheartedly living the truth and doing everything for the glory of God through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. I am happy to say that two of my sisters are now in the faith as well. My little sister (who had adopted Islam on a deeper level than I had) accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour later. However, my younger sister remains a Muslim; but I keep praying for her, and I know that God, in all His wisdom and faithfulness, will bring her closer to Him so that she might know how loving and merciful He really is. ■

Nadège Katende is a student currently studying Kinesiology at the Université de Montréal. Nadege is zealous for God and His work. After her studies, she plans on using her knowledge on the science of movement to minister to young people.



Photo: Clayton Lachance.

ADRA Connections travellers to Kenya stop at the Equator. *l to R, Front Row:* Tammy Ens, Elicia Alleyne, Cecilia Alleyne, Sam Kitchen, Astrid Swaby, Merli Espiritu, Dave Cheverie, Clayton Lachance. *Back row:* Candace Bell, Holly Norhton, Chloe McLaren, Kelly Loxdale, Terry Lachance, Ray Loxdale.

Kenya Connections

*If you think you are too small to make a difference,
try spending the night in a closed room with a mosquito. —African proverb*

If you follow and support the mission of ADRA Canada, then you already know about the work that ADRA is doing around the world to alleviate poverty and create positive change through community development. Perhaps you enjoy reading about these stories or watching them on a video in church but want a closer, firsthand experience.

Last November my son Clayton and I, along with a group of 12 others, traveled with ADRA Connections. During our 13-day journey across five of Kenya's eight provinces, we not only witnessed beautiful scenery and incredible wildlife but also visited three orphanages, two schools, a rehabilitation clinic, a health clinic and a Masai village, allowing us to see, firsthand, many of the projects that ADRA supports.

More importantly, we were able to spend time with some of the people, learn their names, talk, listen and share stories. And for just a little while we were able to experience a small part of their day-to-day lives: their struggles, their dreams, but most of all their beautiful spirit.

At the Knights Hill Children Center, it was the warm smiles from the 120 children, many of them orphans, who had eagerly awaited our arrival. We toured the facility with Zipporah, the centre's administrator, who showed us the small "dormitory" where the children sleep two to a bed and on the floor, several of the other buildings and then the two classrooms that ADRA Canada has helped to construct. After the tour the children entertained us with poetry and songs.

At the Masosa Primary School, it was the spontaneous participation of the parents who joined the children in singing and dancing to celebrate the dedication of the new classroom that ADRA had built. It was also their determination to provide an education for their children, in spite of their circumstances,

that impressed me. School enrolment has increased substantially thanks largely to the success of projects implemented by ADRA over the years, but as a result, classroom space is limited. These rural families have so little, yet they had managed to salvage together enough rusted sheets of corrugated iron to erect a small structure on the side of their new ADRA classroom to allow a teaching area for 44 of the younger students.

In Kendu Bay it was the infectious smile of Rose, a polio victim who is able to support her family because of the education and vocational training that she received in weaving from the Nyaburi Rehabilitation Centre that ADRA supported.

And all throughout Kenya, as we drove past the villages, we saw the smiles and excitement of the children as they ran to the roadside to wave at this curious-looking group of strangers who waved back.

Each encounter was unique but displayed the same gracious courtesy and character, often leaving us to contemplate how we could have so much compared to them, yet they are content and willing to share. Is this a lesson for us?

For me, an ADRA Connections trip is not only a great way to see what ADRA does, it gives you the opportunity to meet new friends, experience the people and culture of another country in a very safe environment, and best of all learn more about yourself and the world around you.

If you have ever considered traveling to a developing country but were uncertain of what awaited you, I would say go! Get out of your comfort zone. You will certainly come back changed. ■

Terry Lachance is a retired project manager living in Calgary who loves mission and development work.

Winter Wonderland!



Campers enjoying horseback riding while the snow falls at Camp Au Sable.



Hun Xu, totally blind camper, learns how to downhill ski.

Oh, the joys of Winter Wonderland in Grayling, Mich., during the first week of February! This year National Camps for the Blind (NCB) Canada celebrates its 15th season of fun in the snow. Established in 1998, winter blind camps have provided unique and challenging experiences for over 1,000 people with visual disabilities. With activities such as snowmobiling, downhill and cross country skiing, skating, snowshoeing, sledding, nature hikes around a snow-packed boardwalk, sleigh rides, and campfires, campers have an array of sports to choose from, as well as plenty of time to fellowship, drink lots of hot chocolate, partake in board games, table bowling, crafts and enjoy music and great inspirational stories.

Pat Page, NCB executive director, recollects its modest beginnings. She shares how one of her fondest memories as a child was the annual family campout at Camp Au Sable, which was organized by the Adventist church in her hometown of Sarnia. This special event had made such an impression on her life, that she and Ralph continued the tradition with their son, Devin, when he was but a lad. "It was in the summer of 1997, when I met the Michigan youth director at the time, Gary Thurber," says Pat. "We talked about summer camps and the possibility of hosting a Canadian Winter Blind Camp. Both of us loved the idea and decided to make it a reality!" Pat shares how Gary made it possible for the cost to be lowered and assisted her in planning and organizing the first NCB Canadian Winter Camp.

The experience of that first winter camp was such a success for all who attended as campers, volunteers and workers that it has been hosted for the past 15 years at the same location. Pat recalls her favourite event during that first year. "Because there

was very little to no snow that year, we were given permission to do go-karting on-site. What a blast! The campers got to drive their own go-karts, and they loved it! I thought this was just great, since most of the campers had never driven before. Might I add that the guide had to sit in the back and guide with words only!"

NCB winter camps are set up differently than summer camp programs. All activities, itineraries, job assignments and transportation to Grayling from Toronto are organized by office staff and reps. Also, without remarkable, mission-oriented and devoted volunteers, these winter camps would not even exist. Though there are too many to mention by name, we would like to state a warm thank you to each person who volunteered during any of our Canadian blind winter camps, such as David Branum (Kingsway College principal from 1997–2002), and Jim Ryan, who were instrumental in promoting this mission outreach; hundreds of Kingsway College students; friends and relatives of NCB staff; students from the Maritimes; home-schoolers in the United States; volunteers and Christian Record Services (CRS) staff from various parts of the country.

Here is the great commission so that good work can be done in mission fields: "go" just as the Father told Jesus, "Go." Once out in the field, God is faithful to do His perfect work of touching lives and drawing people to Himself! "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9, NIV, emphasis added). ■

Michelle Richards is the associate director of National Camps for the Blind.



Canadian SAGE members pause for a moment to pose for the camera.

SAGE—On a M



Brian Leavitt showing a sleight of hand to an interested Kenyan student.



Sage Member Anna Reimer sharing a moment with a young girl at EAMO.

A SMALL, ROUND PLAQUE AMONG THE SHRUBS IN MY TRAILSIDE GARDEN READS, "LIFE IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION."

It's a great concept, but might retirement years be an exception? Ten years into post-employment, I am very glad to discover that the journey continues. I feel sad for seniors who found their journey to retirement ended in a no-man's-land of boredom or a slide into John Bunyan's "slough of despond." That need not happen. Ask 20 Canadian seniors who traveled recently to far-away Africa on a mission safari. Retirement is not a destination. The journey continues.

The 17-day African trip this past January was organized and led by SAGE Alberta, a new presence in the Alberta Conference. An acronym for Seniors in Action for God with Excellence, SAGE was the brainchild of some seniors in the Washington Conference who believed that maturity should never be equated with lethargy. Seniors, they believed, represent an under-utilized resource within society and have much to offer their churches and communities in a variety of ways.

The SAGE concept has been copied by some other conferences, including British Columbia in 2005, and last year in Alberta, where Darlene Reimche has SAGE among her portfolio of responsibilities. SAGE Alberta is designed to enhance the spiritual, mental, educational, physical and social health of senior members. It is led by a team of seniors, each with specific job descriptions that include work projects, social events, evangelistic outreach, travel experiences, public relations and local church representation.

The East African country of Kenya was a good choice for our first SAGE travel destination, designed to feature a mix of mission and safari experiences. Co-directing the tour with Keith Clouten was Eric Rajah, who directs a variety of A Better World humanitarian projects throughout Kenya. Eric's involvement ensured a rich mix of mission and cultural exposures for the group.

A unique aspect of the tour was the participation of 11 seniors from Australia with 22 from Canada. The interaction added to the camaraderie and fun of the trip. "Inviting people from two countries to participate in the trip was a most successful venture," say Ivan and Eleanor Scale, from Australia. "We found that meeting, making friends and sharing some very new experiences with the Canadians on the tour was most rewarding."

A convoy of eight safari vans (one of them stacked with bags and suitcases of clothing and school supplies) set out from Nairobi on January 17. Appropriately, the first significant stop were the headquarters of the East Central Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists. With membership approaching three million, this Division of the world church spreads across 11 nations of northeastern Africa. Sharing its spectacular hilltop campus near Nairobi is the recently established Adventist Hilltop University of Africa, which now trains church leaders for the entire African continent.

Heading westward from Nairobi, the convoy of vans descended into Africa's Great Rift Valley and climbed into the green highlands, where rainforest gives way to a vast patchwork of tea plantations, before reaching the shores of Lake Victoria. Here Seventh-day Adventists pioneered medical work in East Africa with a hospital in 1924. Today the 240-bed Kendu Adventist Hospital is almost ready to open a fine, new surgical unit. Near the hospital is a



Mission



Marlene Holdal holding a young orphan at EAMO.

physical therapy complex. When Dr. Ken Hill visited this place 25 years ago, he saw 80 children with severe deformities caused by polio, dragging themselves around a compound near a government school. With support from ADRA and A Better World, Dr. Hill established a rehabilitation clinic where treatments and surgeries could be carried out. Today, dozens of disabled children are housed and given treatments at the facility.

We visited a similar facility at a remote village where food shortages are commonplace. On the way there, some of our group stopped at a market to purchase rice and vegetables, which they used to prepare, cook and serve a hot midday meal to the children. Sadly, many parents in Africa regard physical disability as a curse from God, so they hide their disabled children from the school and community. Facilities like those at Ndanai and Kendu Bay provide safe group homes for these children, offering therapy, school access and hope for their future.

Interaction with children and encounters with wildlife epitomized our tour through western Kenya. Wildlife safaris in two of Africa's famed national parks were highlights of the trip. With no more than five passengers in each van, everyone had ample opportunity to stand and photograph animals. It was exciting to observe a lioness carefully moving three newborn cubs to a safe location, fun to watch the antics of a family of baboons, and satisfying to capture on film the graceful motions of a giraffe. There was so much to see and photograph.

But it was the children who captured everyone's interest and affection. The scourge of AIDS has left millions of homeless children in sub-Saharan Africa. Many of them die on the streets of disease and hunger. During the first weekend of the tour, we visited two orphanages. At the East African Mission Orphanage (EAMO), a dedicated Australian couple, Ralph and May Spinks, operate a large facility where more than 200 orphans receive lodging, food, clothing, security, education and love. "It was overwhelming to see so many orphans," says Carol Nicks. "It was so touching to see my husband, Murvin, holding little Kevin."

"It was amazing to see how happy and contented the children were, even though they had so little," adds Raelene Taliaferro, "and wonderful to see how the orphans looked out for each other."

At EAMO, we led in Sabbath worship with the children, shared our lunches with them and were shown around the facilities. Benjamin (Grade 4) took my hand as he proudly showed me his bed, his classroom and the vegetable gardens. Most buildings at EAMO are gifts from Canadians, through A Better World.

Next day, about 30 of the newest orphans at EAMO joined us for a shopping expedition. At a department store in Nakuru, an excited little boy took our hands for his first shopping experience. With our guidance and \$20, he bought himself a small backpack, some socks, skin cream and little toy cars. Back at the orphanage, we played or sat with children, read stories or taught them skills.

An exciting event for our group was attending the opening of a new Adventist school in the remote rural community of Rapogi Lwanda. Three newly completed classrooms were funded by seniors from Alberta and Australia. Families here struggle to care for 80 orphans who will now have the opportunity of a Christian education with help from willing donors. The festivities and the speeches lasted most of Friday and continued on Sabbath at the nearby church. Community members dream about a future with access to clean water and a clinic to treat illnesses and teach safe health practices.

The last three nights of the tour were spent at a tented camp in the Masai Mara region of southwestern Kenya, bordering on the Serengeti plains of Tanzania. Besides daily game drives, we visited two Masai schools, a clinic and a Masai village of dung huts where we watched some colourful and noisy tribal dancing.

The visit to a Masai clinic established by A Better World donors was a highlight for Bob and Marlene Holdal, of Lacombe. "Instead of exchanging Christmas presents last year, we gave the money to support medical needs here," explains Bob. "At the clinic we were introduced to a young man recovering from surgery to his injured arm. Seeing results of our giving meant a lot to us."

How did our seniors react to what they saw on tour? Among the things that surprised them were squat toilets, extreme poverty, and how people walk such long distances to buy food and carry it home. "It was astonishing to see children who walk up to seven kilometres to and from school," says Carol. "That tells how important education is to them."

Since 1999, Eric Rajah has led more than 2,000 people on "journeys of hope" to Kenya. Individuals have come from all age groups and all walks of life. The SAGE trip, though, was his first with a group of seniors. "I admire the courage of the seniors to embark on this mission," says Eric. "Their combined years of experience and how they related to the local people was an inspiration. I was touched by their spirit and their willingness to understand and accept local ways of doing things."

And the people of Kenya were touched by our coming to help them. Their feelings were epitomized when one of the safari drivers, Paul, gripped Bob Holdal's hand as they said goodbye. "Thank you for coming to help my people," he said with deep sincerity.

Eleanor and Ivan Scale from Australia were impressed with what SAGE is doing for seniors. "We are privileged to have participated in two SAGE functions. We attended a seniors' RV campout last year at Miquelon Lake, and now this mission safari to Kenya. We are impressed with the way SAGE is achieving its goals. We believe seniors are often an undervalued and under-utilized resource in the Adventist Church."

Travel through countries like Kenya, experiencing firsthand the poverty and desperate needs of the people, changes our perspective on life. Marcel Proust once said, "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes."

Learning to see some things differently is an important asset for everyone, even seniors. It's part of the journey. ■

Keith Clouten is a retired librarian and currently serves on the board of SAGE Alberta as Coordinator for Travel.

Spotlight

Enoch Attey

"Music has a power like no other. You cannot tune music out."



<http://enochatthey.com>

The name Enoch Attey might not be familiar to you, but chances are you have heard him sing and play somewhere as a member of the Canadian University College singing group Rise Above or in more recent history Proclaim. You may have even had a conversation with him as he walked around the various camps and convention centres, often strumming his guitar during breaks in a cafeteria or on a bench with a group of young people surrounding him. I met Enoch in this same way a few years ago while crisscrossing the country and sharing many of the same campmeeting stops.

At 26 years old, Enoch has already led a fascinating life. Classically trained as a guitarist having mastered the art of 6 and 12 strings, as well as chords many of us musicians have never heard of, he is also trained in producing and engineering, and he enjoys writing songs. He speaks three languages fluently, including Ga, a language specific to a region where he spent his early years in Ghana, Africa. Enoch was, however, born on the Ivory Coast of Africa, eventually migrating with his family to Maryland, United States. It was CUC that brought him to Canada, where he studied music and in 2012 graduated with a degree in the Arts.

Upon graduating, Enoch did not know what God had in store for him. A friend submitted his name to a non-profit organization helping youth at risk through the arts, called iHuman, whose clientele consists of high-risk youth (ages 12-24) with drug or mental issues, many of whom have had run-ins with the law and who are working or living on the streets of Edmonton, Alta. Speaking of his friend's referral, Enoch said, "I felt obligated to submit my résumé after that; I couldn't give my friend a bad reputation," and in doing so he landed the job as music coordinator, one of many programs at the center, joining an elite team of leaders who frequently give workshops on drug awareness, suicide and leadership, and how to use the arts to make positive life

changes (the center also includes art and design, dance and drama, fashion, the written word, mothers' programs and support services, and more).


Now a few months into the job, Enoch, who controls the recording studio and all things pertaining to music at the facility, has seen lives changing and the true effect music has on the mind and soul. Intriguingly, he is asked to produce a fair amount of hip hop music; it's where many of the individuals he is serving "are at," and he knows it is his job to reach them. No matter what project is at hand, he takes his work seriously and genuinely follows Paul's model of reaching out in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, where Paul speaks of becoming "all things to all people." Enoch begins each morning quietly praying and reading Scripture for 30 minutes alone in his office before opening the door to become a living witness to these youth and fellow staff through character and action.

Enoch's is an inspiring story that is still being written, one that will affect many lives in that area. But now beyond those youth who are currently living and working on the street, involved in drugs, alcohol and crime: We are not immune in our quiet towns and peaceful church environments to losing youth. We would be naive to think there are not young people within our own ranks currently struggling with this battle. "Music has a power like no other," shares Enoch. "You cannot tune music out." It has the ability to reach people, especially young people, to get them involved, to get them inspired and to make them feel like they are part of something. If the church had more music, it would have more involved youth. ■

Naomi Striemer is a Chapel recording artist, speaker and author who owns and hosts a syndicated Christian lifestyle radio show that airs across Canada to an approximate 3.5 million daily.

another

Free Speech Precedent in Alberta

 On Oct. 17, 2012, the Court of Appeal of Alberta ruled in favour of Pastor Stephen Boissoin, upholding his freedom to write a letter to the editor of his local newspaper about the Alberta government's education policy. A human rights tribunal appointed under the *Alberta Human Rights Act* ("Act") had originally found the pastor's letter to have violated section 3 of the Act because the letter was "likely to expose a person or a class of persons to hatred." The human rights tribunal determined that Pastor Boissoin had violated the Act when he penned a letter that opposed homosexual activity and the Alberta government's approach to homosexuality.

Alberta has a well-known and often cited history of free speech debates, the most important of which was the debate that was settled in the Supreme Court of Canada in 1938. In that year the Supreme Court of Canada issued its decision in *Alberta Press Statutes*, [1938] SCR 100.

Alberta Press Statutes outlined four Alberta statutes. One of these statutes, the Accurate News and Information Act, would have compelled each newspaper in the province, when called upon to do so by a government official, to publish the government's rebuttal of criticism that had appeared in the newspaper. The Supreme Court of Canada held that the bill was *ultra vires* the jurisdiction of the provincial legislature. Five of the six judges struck down the Accurate News and Information Act because it was ancillary to the Alberta Social Credit Act, which had been declared invalid by the Court in that reference. Two judges,

however, added that free political discussion was too important to Canada as a whole to be treated as a local and private matter, and one other judge argued that legislation affecting freedom of the press in discussing public affairs was within the criminal law power of Parliament. All three found it beyond the jurisdiction of any province to restrain.

Based upon this high standard of respect for freedom of expression, Justice Earl Wilson of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta found that the letter written by Pastor Boissoin was not in violation of section 3 of the Act and was not likely to expose a person or class of persons to hatred.

The decision of Justice Wilson was appealed to the Court of Appeal of Alberta by Dr. Darren Lund. It is noteworthy that the original prosecution and the appeal to the Court of Appeal were taken by University of Calgary Professor Dr. Darren Lund. Dr. Lund chose to proceed with the action against Pastor Boissoin after the Alberta Human Rights Commission refused to proceed with a case against Pastor Boissoin. The Act includes a provision that allows a private party to proceed with a prosecution, even where the Commission has decided not to enforce the Act in a particular instance.

In addition to the parties, Dr. Lund and Pastor Boissoin, the Court of Appeal also heard from two interveners. The Canadian Civil Liberties Association intervened in support of the principles of free speech and against section 3 of the Act. The Attorney General of Alberta intervened to support the Act and section 3, in particular.

Alberta has a well-known and often cited history of
free speech debates ...

The Court of Appeal did not expressly throw out section 3 of the Act. However, its reasons for decision have effectively neutered section 3. This is what the Court of Appeal said:

“[94] The objective of statutory interpretation is to discern the legislative intent from the language of the legislation, if possible, and to give effect to such intent. This objective becomes difficult to attain when there is conflict, imprecision, or a lack of clarity in the legislation. Of particular concern in the area of human rights law is that a lack of clarity will cast a chill on the exercise of the fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression and religion.

[99] In my view, the citizens of this Province are entitled to certainty when it comes to exercise of their fundamental rights. It is ironic that the *O’Neill Report*, which inspired the 1996 amendments, recommended that “the Act be rewritten in plain language.” In my view, it would serve the interests of the citizens of this Province if the Legislature would direct its attention to this objective.”

The Court of Appeal did not need to address the constitutionality of the Act, so the words above are purely *obiter*. However, as the unanimous opinion of the Court, it is unlikely that the government of Alberta or the Alberta Human Rights Commission will seek a second opinion.

The reason the Court of Appeal did not need to address the constitutional question was its conclusion that the Pastor’s letter did not fall within the terms of section 3 of the Act:

“[77] ... It is not necessary to agree with the content of the letter to acknowledge the writer’s freedom to express his views. Thus, I agree with the reviewing judge’s conclusion that the letter does not breach subsection 3(1)(b) of the statute.

[78] In my view, the letter also constitutes an expression of opinion in the course of public discourse within the meaning of subsection 3(2) of the Act, which exempts it from the application of subsection 3(1)(b). This is a further ground for upholding the conclusion reached by the reviewing judge.

[87] Having regard then to the sweep of subsection 3(1), and the narrow, if any, application of subsection 3(3), it seems likely that in retaining subsection 3(2) the legislators were seeking, firstly, to ensure that in matters coming within provincial legislative authority Alberta citizens enjoyed the freedoms of speech and religion recognized in the *Alberta Bills of Rights*, RSA 2000, c A-14. Secondly the legislators were attempting to tailor the section to ensure it was within their provincial jurisdiction. It is pertinent, in this regard, to consider Duff C.J.’s remarks in *Reference re Alberta Statutes* at 134:

Any attempt to abrogate this right of public debate or to suppress the traditional forms of the exercise of the right (in public meeting and through the press) would, in our opinion, be incompetent to the legislature of the provinces, or to the legislature of any one of the provinces, as repugnant to the provisions of The *British North America Act*, by which the Parliament of Canada is established as the legislative organ of the people of Canada under the Crown, and Dominion legislation enacted pursuant to the legislative authority given by those provisions. The subject matter of such legislation could not be described as a provincial matter purely; as in substance exclusively a matter of property and civil rights within the province, or a matter private or local within the province.

[88] More recently, McLachlin C.J. and Major J. articulated similar sentiments in *Harper v Canada (Attorney General)*, 2004 SCC 33, [2004] 1 SCR 827, at para 12:

The right of the people to discuss and debate ideas forms the very foundation of democracy. ... For this reason, the Supreme Court of Canada has assiduously protected the right of each citizen to participate in political debate.

[93] Accordingly, in my view, if the public statement properly qualifies as an expression of opinion, and is not something more than that, or something of a different character, then pursuant to subsection 3(2) the statement of opinion is exempt from the prohibition set forth in subsection 3(1). In this case, I have already found that Boissoin’s letter, seen in context, was an opinion on a subject of public debate – teaching in schools concerning homosexuality. It was, therefore, protected speech under this section of the Act.”

The Court of Appeal also ordered costs in favour of Pastor Boissoin.

It is worth noting, in conclusion, that the House of Commons recently voted to repeal section 12 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, the federal equivalent of section 3 of the Alberta Act (the bill is currently awaiting a vote in the Senate). Furthermore, the Supreme Court of Canada is expected to issue a decision in the near future on section 14 of the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*, s.s 1979, c. S-24.1, the legislative equivalent of section 3 of the Alberta Act. See *Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission v. Whatcott* (SCC case number 33676) heard by the Supreme Court of Canada on October 12, 2011, with judgment reserved.

Gerald Chipeur advises and serves clients as general and project counsel for the Miller Thomson lawyers.

Prayers and Pearls

A Conversation with Greg Gryte



Greg Gryte with his family: wife Angela, and children Garren, Elyana and Gabriel

Greg Gryte, the Head Men's dean at Kingsway College, is known around campus simply as Gryte (pronounced "gry-tee"). Gryte is a unique personality, and some would describe him as philosophical, warm, energetic, vocal, loving and passionate about Adventist education.

However, the passion for Adventist schools was something that developed later in life. Being enrolled in a church academy was not a positive experience for young Gryte. Yet the Lord was leading Gryte on a circular journey from disenchantment with Adventist education to fulfillment and joy within that same system.

Being the son of a pastor and missionary and having a pre-seminary degree in theology and a business degree from William Jessup University, Gryte found that he had an intellectual knowledge of Adventist doctrine but not a "heart knowledge" of the man Jesus Christ.

Then, at the age of 33, a profound experience, on the backyard deck of a house in Colorado, changed Gryte—he learned to pray. This prayer was not the superficial prayer of his youth but a true and honest prayer in which Gryte felt a genuine surrender of self, giving himself to the mercy of God and, in return, finding out who God is.

With a newfound sense of mission, Gryte sought employment as a Bible and physical education teacher at both Battle Creek, Mich., and at Pine Hills in Auburn, Calif. But the Lord had other paths, which led to Kingsway College in 2008.

The focus of Gryte's mission here at Kingsway is twofold and aligns with the parable of the costly pearl: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it" (Matt. 13:45, 46, KJV).

First, Gryte makes certain to express to the boys that seeking after and following Jesus, that offering themselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, will make a difference in their lives.

Gryte also encourages the boys to consistently practice prayer, to find a quiet place in the dorm without distractions where they can be brutally honest with God, not for God's sake, but their own sake!

Secondly, it is very important to Gryte that the students know that the parable of the costly pearl can be seen in reverse: that the story portrays Jesus as seeing each and every boy with so great a value that He willed to condescend, to suffer humiliation and death to redeem each boy in the dorm.

Gryte wants to keep that perspective in the forefront of his mind as not only a philosophy but a lifestyle. He aims to reflect the love of Jesus through authentic interactions, hugs, tears, frank conversation and, most of all, a genuine loving acceptance of each student.

But life in the dorm can cause even the energetic Gryte to feel the need to recharge. Retreating to a local spot off-campus provides Gryte with the space to reconnect with God and His direction, through prayer.

Over the years Gryte has come to realize that he is not here for the paycheck. He states, "The proof that I love Kingsway College is that I am here, and I am tied not only to the institution but also, most importantly, to the students." ■

Ashley Arriola is the communications assistant at Kingsway College.



Kiana Delos Santos and Stephanie Famini.

Growing Up in a Seventh-Day Adventist School

Hi! Our names are Kiana Delos Santos and Stephanie Famini. We have both attended Red River Valley Junior Academy (RRVJA) for 11 years. We started in Kindergarten and are currently in Grade 10. This year we graduate from junior high.

Ours is not the biggest school

you have ever seen, but the fact that it is small makes the environment more intimate. It is easier to get to know each and every one in our school family. Growing up in an environment where God is the priority helps us maintain our relationship with Him. He helps us to grow together as a unit.

Going to school where the age range is so wide gives us the opportunity to incorporate younger students in leadership events and our student council. It also helps older students, like us, become better leaders. We can serve as good examples to the younger generation—our future leaders. Our school was also able to start a peer leadership program where we are assigned to help younger students improve in their educational studies. We have the opportunity to influence the younger students by being positive examples.

We feel that teachers at our Adventist School take the extra time to ensure each student has the knowledge required to succeed and achieve greatness. Some teachers are even willing to expand our knowledge past our grade level to help us improve and prepare us for future grade levels. They ensure that as students we have healthy relationships within our community. Our teachers help, care and support their students in every way they can.

Being a religious school, we are given the opportunity to get to know our pastors on a more personal level. It can include involvement in sports, daily conversations, greetings and Bible studies. Our leaders give us opportunities to meet new people in and outside our community. There are also plans for expanding our school so that we can further share God's love throughout our community.

Participation in mission trips is another opportunity that RRVJA offers to the Grade 9 and 10 students. We are able to help those in need and witness to others about God's love for them. For example, a few years ago when New Orleans was hit by hurricane Katrina, a team of students were able to travel to the location. They helped restore homes for many people who lost their homes. The both of us also had the opportunity to go on the mission trip to Belize in 2012. While in Belize, we built

a culvert for an Adventist elementary school. A culvert is a mini-bridge, usually in an arch form. The culvert we built helped to prevent children from having to walk in the mud on their way to and from school. We were also involved in a building restoration project in Belize. We returned to Canada with the awesome feeling that we played a role in helping lives miles away from home.

One favourite part of our mission trip is that we were able to help lead the children in the daily worship services through story and song. It was even more rewarding for us to watch as the children performed skits and sang for us. It was cool to hear songs that we have been singing since were students in elementary school still being sung halfway across the world. In our spare time, we were able to play tag, red rover, and rabbit in the hole to get the know the children more. We truly feel blessed that the mission trip gave us many opportunities to meet and help new people. The experience of serving others has helped us grow in our relationship with God. The leadership skills we developed through our school helped us to interact with the children and with the other people alongside us in Belize. These are skills we will have for life.

Another positive factor about our school is how diverse it is. This factor leads us to be more accepting and open-minded about different ethnic groups within our community. This brings us to our thoughts on religious beliefs in our school. Adventism is taught but is not forced on students. Though consistent in our Seventh-day Adventist values and beliefs, our school is very tolerant of other religious views. Our overall experience within these past 11 years helped us grow and mature in character and in our relationship with God. ■

Kiana Delos Santos is currently in Grade 10 at RRVJA. She is currently the student council president. She hopes to pursue a career in cosmetology and aesthetics.

Stephanie Famini is currently in Grade 10 at RRVJA. She is currently the student council vice-president. She is a straight-A student and hopes to pursue a career in medicine.



Jessica Richter

Parkview Profiles



Jessica Richter chooses to use her talents as a ministry.

Jessica Richter started playing violin when she was four. In Grade 10 she decided to attend Parkview Adventist Academy mostly because she was interested in the music program on campus. She quickly signed up for lessons with Naomi Delafied and also joined the orchestra. Jessica loved to play and she had always had a dream of making a career out of violin.

During a Grade 10 P.E. class, Jessica was doing a fitness test with a basketball. She had to bounce the ball off the wall and catch it a certain number of times in order to get 100 percent. She bounced the ball too low once, and as she reached for it rebounding off of the floor, she jammed her left pinky against the ball. It was a freak and seemingly small accident. She was in pain for several days and it stopped her from playing violin. When she finally decided to go see a doctor, she was told that she had broken the saddle joint and that a bone fragment had fallen into the joint. Surgery was required and a pin was used to stabilize the bone. The doctors told her that she would have limited movement in her finger after that.

Jessica was heartbroken. She cried because her dream of being a professional violinist was gone. She couldn't be around someone else playing without feeling bitter. Looking back she says it was the biggest loss she has ever experienced.

During that time she started working on her sermon for Dauntless, PAA's touring ministry. Through working

on it with the chaplain, she began to see God differently. She became friends with God and grew very close to him. She began to feel as if God allowed for her finger to break so that she would spend time with Him and get to know Him.

She began to hear God's voice telling her to go into education. She told God that she would be anything but a teacher. She argued with God for a long time, and with her top grades at school she could pursue any career she wanted.

Jessica went to see her physiotherapist every week and had to exercise her finger every day. Slowly movement and flexibility started returning. Her therapist was amazed at how much movement she had. One day after about a year, she picked up her violin and started to play. Over time her skills have returned. But now she plays differently; she plays from her heart. Jessica can feel God right beside her when she plays.

Now she is choosing to use her talents as a ministry and not as a career. She's listening to God's soft voice, and after graduating in 2012 as PAA's valedictorian, she is studying to be a high school science teacher—and she can hardly wait! ■

*Pattie Reasor, Communications,
Parkview Adventist Academy*

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British Columbia

Health Expo

Last September the Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kelowna, B.C., held the first of what they hope will become an annual health expo, on their spacious grounds.

A volunteer group of about 60 church members organized the day-long event, which included health screening stations, cooking demonstrations, food samples and health-oriented exhibitors from the community.

"This project brought unity and team work in our church.

It was an outreach for the community and built a bridge for common ground," says Marcie Drobott, who spearheaded the organization of the event with her husband, Thomas.

Close to 100 people from the community registered at the event, and many more perused the stations without registering.

The inspiration for the event came from a lay evangelism seminar by Derek Morris at Camp Hope in 2010, according to Marcie. After some investigation, they chose to follow the Health Education Resources (HER) expo format.

The HER expo is an open-ended health screening program. There are eight screening stations, which include glucose checks, cardiac, blood pressure checks, body fat percentage, lung capacity testing, massage and health age assessment. Each station displays two colourful,



six-foot banners (included in the kit). At the end of the screening process, each participant meets with a health counsellor (volunteer lay people) who encourage them to make lifestyle changes and offer them various follow-up seminars such as the upcoming Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP).

There was also a 30-minute health seminar followed by a vegan cooking demonstration, as well as free samples every other hour for a total of four seminars. Each seminar had a different topic and was presented by Phil Brewer, from Silver Hills, and Sheri Simson, from Keenfit.

Other participants included businesses from the community, such as ANEW (specializing in far infrared saunas, reflexology and more), Water Geeks, Okanagan Smiles Dentistry, Keenfit

and the Hearing Clinic. There was also live music, a massage table, \$1 vegetarian burgers and hot dogs, and a bouncy castle for kids, for a total of 23 stations.

To keep up the momentum with those who expressed interest, the church is now holding health seminars combined with cooking demonstrations and free samples once a month. Those who registered at the expo via email are notified of the upcoming opportunities.

"Our goal is to be a familiar, friendly place for people from the community to trust and identify with," Marcie says.

If your church would like to start a health expo, you can find more information at www.healthexpos.org or by contacting Charles Cleveland at (423) 949-8211 or cleveland@healthexpobanners.com. ■

—Lori-Anne Poirier,
Rutland Church

Maple Ridge Church News



On the Sabbath of Sept. 21, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Lynell Adams had a table in the Memorial Park when the town was celebrating Earth Day.

She had packages of seeds with the church’s name and address on each and gave them out free, along with tracts and pamphlets, *Signs*, and other publications, even some on gardening. Many people came by to get free seeds and took a tract and/or book. It would help people to know that there is a Seventh-day Adventist church in town.

The sunny afternoon of Aug. 21, 2012, Lynell Adams put on a musical program in the Memorial Park on Main Street in Maple Ridge. Many people attended. There were many musical items. Pastor Nagy played his violin; Julia, a junior girl, sang some solos with her own accompaniment; Christian, 7, and sister Geovanna, 12, sang a song in English and in Spanish; Lynell performed solos on her tambourine, and the audience sang familiar church songs.

The downtown Business Association gave us a gift certificate for each one who took part, which we used for ice cream at the ice cream parlor next door. Everyone was delighted.

On Nov. 10, 2012, Josue and Aide Sosa transferred to the Maple Ridge church from the Vancouver Hispanic church in Burnaby, B.C. Their two sons are Abdiel, 7, and Gerardo, 4. Josue is now a Pathfinder leader in Maple Ridge. Both Josue and Aide help out in Sabbath school as teachers, so we are very pleased to have them join our church. ■

—Trudi Charles, communication secretary,
Maple Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ontario

Mississauga Church Celebrates New Members



For 35 new members of the Mississauga Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Sabbath of Oct. 24, 2012, was a high day, as they participated in the entire Sabbath day’s program. All members brought their talents or testimonies. The program created an atmosphere of “singleness of purpose” on the part of the personal ministries department.

The new members shared touching personal testimonies to encourage and inspire the congregation. From Sabbath school to worship service, they carefully crafted and executed every detail. Congregants were blessed by the melodious sounds of the new members’ choir, trained and directed by Deidre Nembhard; they sang “Victory In Jesus.” Pastor Ron Sydney, our guest preacher, did not disappoint. Preaching a spirit-filled message entitled “How Did I Get Here?” he delivered a compelling sermon that left us

all evaluating our own hearts to determine the origin of some of our present sinful circumstances. Listeners received the message well and concluded that, like Lot, our circumstances are often a reflection of where our tents (hearts) are pitched.

The blessings of the day extended to the AY Program. Praise and Worship was followed by testimonies shared through an interview session, led by the evening’s moderator, Martin Forskin. The evening’s program highlighted the valuable life-changing effect of various church activities. Young people shared their experiences growing up in the church, and others discussed their transition from the world, other denominations and other religions. In closing, Martin Forskin spoke on behalf of the personal ministries department by extending thanks to those who participated, including the team and the congregation, for supporting the programs throughout the day. ■

—Eszyn Blair, Communications,
Mississauga SDA Church

Alberta

Ryley's Annual Pie Auction for ADRA



Come every fall, the Ryley congregation hosts a local pie auction with all the proceeds given to ADRA. Members and friends provide pies and a few other tasty delights (cinnamon buns, raisin buns, cookies, fudge, etc.), which are then

auctioned off. Sometimes these pies can bring a top bid of over \$100! Local members who are gifted at sewing or knitting also donate a few quilts, scarves, tuques, to contribute to the auction.

October 27, 2012, was the date chosen for this past year's annual event. Unfortunately, because of other, concurrent events and for various other reasons, we had fewer pies and attendees than normal. Usually, the majority of the church membership and community friends attend and contribute to our annual event. But God blesses! With roughly only 15 pies and fewer baked goods, a number of homemade, knitted scarves and tuques, and with only around 20 people attending, this event raised \$1,835. Last year, 2011, we raised just under \$2,300! This year we had representatives doing order buying and bidding by phone!

During this event, pieces of pie are sold to those who are hungry; ice cream to top it off is extra. Hot beverages of

apple cider and hot chocolate are provided for all to enjoy. Immediately following the auction, a game of musical chairs are played with the one with the last remaining chair winning some kind of delightful goodie. Our Ryley congregation and community has a lot of fun with this event. It is amazing to see the amount of money that can be raised for ADRA in only a couple of short hours—from pies. The Ryley church is happy to help support God's work through ADRA. God blesses, multiplies and administrates according to His will.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Eph. 3:20, 21, NKJV). ■

—Kent Grinde, *Communications Director, Ryley Seventh-day Adventist Church*

You can find out more about the activities of the Ryley Seventh-day Adventist Church by checking out our website, <http://ryley22.adventistchurchconnect.org/>, or on Facebook (search our church name).

Newfoundland and Labrador



Christopher's Story

The start of a new year is a time for reflection, and Christopher Dempsey, a member of the St. John's church, has a special reason to reflect on his past. At the beginning of this year, Christopher had just finished recording his 2,000th DVD. This means that by that point he would have captured at least 4,000 hours of church life, preserving the memories and creating comprehensive archives.

Christopher's video ministry began in

1990 when he purchased his own video equipment at a cost of \$1,400. Since then he has upgraded to six cameras, three editing computers, and is currently awaiting the arrival of his fourth editing computer.

Christopher and his camera have become an ever-present feature of the St. John's church. Graduations, farewells, welcomes, seniors' banquets, ordinations, weddings, picnics, campmeetings, Vacation Bible School (VBS), baby dedications, baptisms, Pathfinder programs, first sermons and last sermons, heritage Sabbaths and musical programs are all carefully recorded and logged in his library.

Christopher does not confine his recording to only the St. John's church.

Over the past few years, he has done recordings in Conception Bay South, Bay Roberts, Corner Brook, Lethbridge, Marystown, Botwood and Cottrell's Cove. In addition, he has been recording the Newfoundland campmeeting since 1998 and has recorded two Maranatha campmeeting building projects. Because of Christopher's video ministry, we have video of the construction of the St. John's school gym in 1998 and the fire that burned it to the ground 10 years later.

If you have been a visitor to the pulpit of the St. John's church in the past 20 years, then, whether good or bad, we have you on video—from Bill Santo's first *It Is Written* Canada evangelistic series in St. John's to some precious souls who are no

longer with us.

Filming the church in action requires a great deal of hard work, and especially during campmeeting time, it is not unusual for Christopher to put in 16-hour days. "Activities don't wait to be recorded, so I have to be there," he says. Using two cameras—one stationary, the other seemingly attached to his shoulder (to allow him to be mobile)—keeps Christopher on his toes.

"Our video memories become more precious as our members grow older and loved ones pass away," says one member. "Christopher is a real inspiration," says another. "The work that he does is truly a blessing to his church family." ■

—Gail Dempsey

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Kenneth Reimche Retires

Ken Reimche retired again in October 2012 after 42 years of service for the church. Ken "officially" retired back in April 2011, after more than 13 years of service as executive director for the West Park Manor Personal Care Home in Winnipeg. Mr. Reimche is known as an accomplished health care executive, having completed a Bachelor of Science in business administration/accounting from Andrews University and a certificate in hospital administration from the University of Saskatchewan. He also earned a master's in public health from Loma Linda University.

Ken Reimche's career began as the accountant at Sunnyside Nursing Home in the early 1970s. After that he was appointed administrator for the Swift Current Nursing Home from 1973–1976 before returning to Sunnyside, where he was administrator until 1985. Ken and his wife, Shirley, also served overseas at the Youngberg Adventist Hospital in Singapore, where Ken was president until 1988. Brief terms of service followed at Southeast Asia College and the Adventist Living Centers in Illinois. Ken and Shirley returned to Canada in 1991 when Ken accepted the executive director position at Kennebec Manor in Saint John, N.B. In 1993 he moved to become the executive director of Heritage Green Nursing Home in Ontario. Finally, in 1997, they moved to Winnipeg and Ken took over as executive director for West Park Manor.

While Ken worked as executive director for West Park Manor, a vacancy arose partway through 2010 at our other Adventist care home in Winnipeg, Man.—Park Manor Personal Care Home. Ken graciously offered to serve both West Park Manor and Park Manor as executive director and CEO until he retired early in 2011. Ruben Wollmann was appointed to succeed Ken



Kenneth and Shirley Reimche

and is the current executive director for West Park Manor. Then at the end of 2011, Ken was asked to return once again and serve as interim CEO for Park Manor. In October 2012, Ken was finally able to truly retire when Collin Akre accepted the position as executive director of Park Manor.

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference would like to thank Ken Reimche and his wife, Shirley, for their many years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its global healthcare work. We wish them both the best as they spend more time with family and friends, knowing that Ken finally has the retirement that he rightly deserves. ■

—Collin Akre, Executive Director of Park Manor Personal Care Home

SDA Church in Canada

Excellence in Education Award

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Excellence in Education Awards.

THE PROCESS FOR NOMINATORS:

- Must be a stakeholder (superintendent, principal, school board member, teacher, pastor, school staff member, parent, student or church member).
- Must not be immediate family members of the nominee.
- Must complete the Nomination Form, Letter of Recommendation Form and a Letter of Recommendation.
- Must find two other stakeholders (one from each of the two other categories), unrelated to the nominee, to complete the Letter of Recommendation Form and write Letters of Recommendation. For example, if the nominator is someone from the School Leadership category (superintendent, principal or school board member), the remaining two letters of recommendation must be from each of the remaining categories,

one from colleagues (teacher, pastor, or school staff member) and one from the school community (parent, student or church member).

NOMINEE:

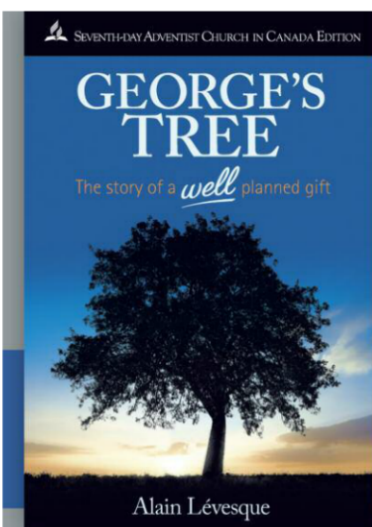
- Must have a valid Standard, Professional or Administrator denominational teaching certificate.
- Must have a minimum of one full year of teaching experience in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Must be a teacher or administrator who is employed at least half-time for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Must not have received an Excellence Award within the last five years. *(A list of teachers who have received awards are posted on CAT~net, at <http://catnet.adventist.ca>.)*

It is our hope that the SDACC Excellence in Education Award will inspire our teachers and school administrators to always strive for excellence in teaching and service, and that those who are presented with this prestigious award



will truly appreciate it as a token of our thanks for being excellent teachers in our school system.

Please take the time to nominate your Adventist school teacher or principal today. Nomination forms can be found on CAT~net, <http://catnet.adventist.ca>, under Resources >> SDACC >> Excellence in Education Award. Or you may call the SDACC Office of Education at 905/433-0011 x2072. ■



GEORGE'S TREE will teach you how to benefit from Canadian tax deductible policies when you make your current charitable donations, as well as charitable bequests in your Will. A financial specialist in Planned Giving, author Alain Lévesque uses an easy-to-read story format to demystify many preconceived notions. This special edition includes examples for Planned Gifts to Canadian Adventist charitable organizations.

To receive your FREE copy of GEORGE'S TREE, please email legal@adventist.ca with your name and address, or call 905-433-0011, ext. 2078.

Marie Emilie Lecroix

Edward Dunn, the Native Ministries coordinator, met Marie in Quebec and invited her to attend the Canadian Native Advisory Committee. He asked her to tell her story, and he wants you to be inspired by her story, too.



Marie Lecroix (centre) participates in the Festival de la Paix (Peace Festival) in Victoriaville, Quebec.

MARIE LECROIX WAS BORN IN QUEBEC CITY, placed in an orphanage and later adopted. She has searched for her biological parents for many years but hasn't found them. She has aboriginal ancestry from the Innu Nation, and her community is Mashteuiaatsh, in the St. Jean Lake region (about 400 kilometres northeast of Quebec City). She happily shares in their friendship, their activities and their traditional way of life.

Marie had a very difficult childhood—one filled with derision and absence of love. She tried to escape her harsh reality through her imagination, as many children do, and spent long hours alone in the bush and close by the river, where she found refuge and received peace, consolation and healing; she met the Creator in His own Creation. At an early age she gave her heart to Jesus, and He began healing her.

At 16 Marie left her family to attend university. She obtained a degree in teaching religion and French. Later on (2008) she also completed a degree in social work. She also earned a diploma in English as a Second Language (ESL). During this busy time of her life, she raised five children and realized a God-inspired dream: she became a midwife. This wonderful task she carried for nearly 25 years.

For five years she owned and operated a natural food store as well as a restaurant where she gave courses on different topics such as nutrition, natural care, hydrotherapy and the use of healing plants. She often cared for people who were sick or who were in the last days of their lives.

Of all the memories, the one Marie cherishes the most is the three years she spent at Chisasibi, a beautiful First Nations community on James Bay. The Cree people accepted her and taught her their culture and traditions. She mostly worked as a teacher in the elementary school. But sensing that she wanted to do something different, she initiated a social work project doing private consultation and developed an active working group. She successfully raised government funds to publish a journal and carry on some community activities, such as promoting general personal health as well as psychological and spiritual health. She held vegetarian lifestyle classes and promoted "A Better Future" for the community, which became the title of a foundational document for community health. She established women's

shelters and comforted battered women by giving them Bible studies. Indeed, Marie is always sharing her faith with others.

Marie has served the Seventh-day Adventist community in many ways. She has taught Sabbath school classes, led out in Pathfinders and Dorcas (community services) and has given nutrition and health education classes. Marie has published a book entitled *La Riviere Des Temps* (The River of the Times), in which she shares some of the blessings of her life and especially about the power of forgiveness over revenge.

Mary has always been passionate about helping her people return to their Creator and to be restored to a simple, grounded, healing faith. Marie believes that her prayer to be even more effective in God's work was answered when she met with the Canadian Native Advisory Committee on the First Nations reserve at Wendake, Que. She says, "I felt so great on that day. I spent time speaking with committee members. I was very surprised and happy to see the amount of work the group was doing."

Marie goes on to say, "I want to do this kind of work here in Quebec. I have many friends in different communities, and I meet more each summer in powwows. I need some counsel and direction because I want to respect the wounds of the past and also the other Christian believers. It is a new work for me, and I want to do it correctly. I can probably find some good help from others who are ministering to First Nations.

"The Quebec area is a new territory to touch with Native Ministries. It is unusual to speak about God or faith, but it is an emergency now—Jesus is coming soon.

"You asked me what I would like the Seventh-day Adventist Church to do to reach the First Nations people in Quebec. My answer is that we need to be taught the whole truth about living for our Creator God, and we need more workers to do it, please.

"We have to pray and God will act through us. I am ready to work here according to God's plan, whenever and however He will want me to work. Thank you so much for all you bring to me."

Ramona MacKenzie is a field writer for the Canadian Adventist Messenger.

SDA Church in Canada



VOARs Main AM Towers Receive Safety Upgrade

Last October because of new safety regulations, VOAR was required to install climbing safety rails on our two 62-metre 1210 AM towers in Mount Pearl. The installation took a tower crew about two days to complete. From now on when we require tower maintenance, the tower crew will be able to clip their climbing gear to the safety rail when working on the tower. This will allow them to move up and down the tower freely and remain safely tethered to the rail. If you have any technical problems

or questions with any of VOAR's radio sites, please call the station at 709/745-8627 or 888/740-8627, or email me at bmatthews@voar.org. I'll be glad to assist you. ■

*R. Brian Matthews,
VOAR chief engineer
bmatthews@voar.org*



>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Dec. 31, 2012, there are 455 depositors with a total deposit of \$23,532,020. There are 75 loans with a value of \$19,228,736.

For more information or to make a deposit, contact Girly Quiambao—quiambao.girly@adventist.ca; 905/433-0011.


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Should I Fight?



Despite an historic stance of refusal to bear arms, today more Seventh-day Adventist young people have voluntarily joined the military than in any previous generation. Edited by Barry W. Bussey, *Should I Fight?* is a compilation of essays presented at a symposium called to discuss the Adventist Church's position on conscientious objection.

Only \$19.95 • For more information, visit www.adventist.ca/legal

Good News!



Join the growing number of Adventist churches who are receiving the official Adventist TV network, **Hope Channel**, in their community. It's the perfect way to help your neighbours, family and friends discover the Adventist Church. Hope Channel recently received CRTC approval and could soon be broadcast by every cable and satellite company in Canada. Ask your pastor what you can do to help make this a reality. Register at <http://hopechannel.ca> for more information.

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■ **Announcements**

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Alexandra Yeboah (Yeboah.alexandra@adventist.ca) 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.adventist.ca/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.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

■ **Announcements**

Crawford Adventist Academy 60th Anniversary—Crawford Adventist Academy celebrates its 60th Anniversary on May 23-26, 2013. We welcome all our alumni and families, former faculty and staff, parents, friends and supporters. Honouring our TJA Classes of 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963 and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2003, 1998, 1993, 1988 and 1983. Our Sabbath speaker will be the dynamic, Dr. Wesley Knight, born in Toronto, ON. Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB—Derrick Hall, VP Advancement, 416/633-0090/toll-free 866/960-2125 ext. 234 or dhall@tadsb.com; Judy- Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant, ext. 248 or jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook 'The official TJA/CAA Alumni Group'. (5/13)

The Calgary Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church is pleased to announce Reunion 2013. Saturday, May 4, 2013, is the commemoration of 40 years of service to its members and surrounding communities. We'd love to celebrate this special anniversary with you.

Meet and greet old friends and new. See how our dynamic church has grown! Space is limited, so RSVP early by visiting our website www.mountainviewsda.org or call 403/247-7421. Let us know how many will be having lunch.

■ **New Members**

ALBERTA

Sayge Bolig was baptized in Lacombe, Alta., on Oct. 27, 2012, by Stephen Reasor. Sayge was baptized after taking baptismal classes at College Heights Christian School. She is now a member of the Lacombe Community church.

Gislen Juarez San Elias was baptized in Lacombe, Alta., on Mar. 10, 2012, by Ron Henderson. She is now a member of the Mirror church.

Kayla Rexius was baptized in Lacombe, Alta., on May 19, 2012, by Ron Henderson. She is now a member of the Mirror church.

MARITIME

Sidney Boutilier and **Victoria Shepherd** were baptized in Nova Scotia, on Jan. 7, 2012, by Pedro Graça. **Ariannah Armstrong** was also welcomed by profession of faith. They all are now members of the Tantallon church.

Alex Burke and **Rebecca Smith** were baptized on Aug. 4, 2012, by Courtney Dookie. They are now members of the Barnesville church.

Dawson Cook was baptized on July 21, 2012, by Paul Llewellyn. He was baptized at Camp Pugwash during campmeeting, during teen camp. He is now a member of the Barnesville church.

Sonia Gogoh and **Tim Rose** were baptized in Canoe Cove, P.E.I., on Aug. 18, 2012, by Gary Belhomme. They are now members of the Charlottetown church.

Justin Graça was baptized on Jan. 7, 2012, by Pedro Graça. He is now a member of the Dartmouth church.

Toma, Sara Macavei, Noemi and **David Katocz**, were baptized in Nova Scotia on Aug. 4, 2012, by Pedro Graça. Noemi and David were baptized at Camp Pugwash during campmeeting. They all are now members of the Fox Point church.

Emily Green was baptized in Nova Scotia on Aug. 4, 2012, by Dan Wilson. She was baptized at Camp Pugwash during campmeeting. She is now a member of the Halifax church.

Carla Levesque was baptized in Moncton, N.B., on April 7, 2012, by Lisebye Luchmun. She is now a member of the Acadian Peninsula Company.

Caleb Embleton and **Christopher Moffitt** were baptized in New Brunswick, on Aug. 4, 2012, by Adrian Golea. They were baptized at Camp Pugwash during campmeeting. They are now members of the Harvey church.

Shayleesa Smith was baptized in New Brunswick on July 21, 2012, by Gary Belhomme. She is now a member of the Maranatha church.

Sandy Orchard and **Mark Wylie** were baptized in New Brunswick on Aug. 4, 2012, by Métard Salomon. They were baptized at Camp Pugwash during campmeeting. They are now members of the Moncton church.

Zoe Brewer and **Theresa Young** were baptized in New Brunswick on July 21, 2012, by Paul Llewellyn. They were baptized at Camp Pugwash during teen camp. They are now members of the Zealand church.

Devonte Murray-Butcher was baptized in Nova Scotia on July 21, 2012. He was baptized by Paul Llewellyn at Camp Pugwash during teen camp. He is now a member of the Dartmouth church.

Boris Popov was baptized in New Brunswick on July 21, 2012. He was baptized by Paul Llewellyn at Camp Pugwash during teen camp. He is now a member of the Fredericton church.

Joel Viau was baptized in Nova Scotia on July 21, 2012, by Gary Belhomme. He was baptized at Camp Pugwash during teen camp. He is now a member of the Pugwash church.

■ **Births**

Brielle Rose Desjardins was born Dec. 19, 2012, to Dani and Leslee (Ettinger) Desjardins, of Kingman, Alta.

Abigail Kalei Ganson was born Nov. 24, 2012, to Jonathan and Rachael Ganson, of Armstrong, B.C.

Heidi Isabelle McBeth was born Jan. 16, 2012, to Anya and Ben McBeth, of Halifax, N.S.

Nia Zion Wilson was born Feb. 19, 2013, to Natalie and David Wilson, of Bedford, N.S.

Benjamin Fletcher was born Feb. 13, 2012, to Darcie and Nathan Fletcher, of Napan, N.B.

Lillian Lorraine Basilio Rose was born Sept. 2, 2012, to Janice and Jesse Rose of Moncton, N.B.

■ **Weddings**

Belinda Outzen and **Gerald Anderson** were married Jan. 5, 2013, in Stand Off, Alta., where they are also making their home. Belinda is the daughter of Michael Glenmore, and Gerald is the son of Aubrey and Amelia Anderson.

Daniel Marciszewski and **Shannen Nickel** were married May 6, 2012, in Simcoe, Ont., and are making their home in Lacombe, Alta.

■ **Anniversaries**

Bill and **Greta Markowsky**, of Oliver, B.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 25,



2012. Bill has one son, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Gilbert and **Caroline Cooke** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 15, 2012. The Pugwash church



held an outdoor celebration on the Cookes' property. Many church members, family and community friends attended. It was a wonderful time of fellowship.

Birthdays

Florence (née Coles) Lewis celebrated her 90th birthday on June 19, 2012. A special birthday celebration



was held on June 24, 2012, at the Charlottetown Seventh-day Adventist Church. Florence and her brothers, Ken and Dan, along with her parents, Reagh and Belle Coles, were part of the charter membership when the church was formed in Charlottetown in 1936. Many church and immediate family members, old schoolmates, and fellow workers and customers from Florence's hairdressing business (which she stopped operating at the age of 80) attended the celebration. The open house provided an opportunity for our church to have the community come and see our new church building and leave with a good impression of both the church and its members.

Obituaries

Kathleen (née Tinkler) Bayliss was born July 21, 1912, in Pike Lake, Sask., and died Dec. 26, 2012, in Halifax, N.S. Kathleen's beautiful contralto voice inspired listeners at churches and campmeetings. She faithfully upheld her colporteur husband from 1948 to 1962 and all through their 47 years of marriage. Kathleen and her husband, Hubert, were charter members of the Orchard City Church, and during that time they operated a successful health food store in Kelowna, B.C. They volunteered at the Voice of Prophecy office in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1975 and 1976. Kathleen loved God's creation and had extensive knowledge about birds and plants.

She is predeceased by her husband, Hubert; brother, Desmond Tinkler; and sister, Evelyn Weir. Surviving: daughters, Hetty Rimmer, of Apex, N.C., and Eileen Moores, of Hammonds Plains, N.S.; five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Donna (née Dooks) Brown was born Oct. 3, 1956, in Halifax, N.S.,

and died Sept. 10, 2012, in Courtice, Ont. Donna was a member of the Durham Adventist Choir and was committed to Christian education. Surviving: daughters, Ashley, and Lindsay (Tim) Sormin; parents, Harold and Janette Dooks; brothers, Daryl (Penny) Dooks, Larry (Lori) Dooks, and Gary (Lori) Dooks; and three grandchildren.

Raymond Demers was born April 22, 1922, in Courcelle, Que., and died Dec. 10, 2012, in Sylvan Lake, Alta. Raymond became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1947 in Montreal. He served his church as a deacon and elder, and helped wherever needed.

Raymond is predeceased by his son Yves. Surviving: wife, Lise; son Dany (Josec), of Blackfalds, Alta; and two grandchildren.

Robert Hugh Lawe was born Feb. 4, 1941, and died Dec. 17, 2012, in Peterborough, Ont. Robert served as a deacon for many years and took care of church grounds. He loved to study the Bible and the Sabbath school quarterly lesson. He was always willing to serve others and was an active member for almost 50 years. He is predeceased by his brothers, Jack and Norman, and sisters, Caroline and Helen Murphy. Surviving: wife, Catherine Cooper; sons, Bob Jr., of Peterborough, John of Picton, Ont., Carl of Kelowna, B.C., Chris of Peterborough, and Bill of Peterborough; 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Robert Martin Moores was born on Aug. 4, 1944, in Oshawa, Ont., and died Dec. 14, 2012, in Halifax, N.S. Robert served as a secretary-treasurer for the East-African Union and was also the treasurer for the South China Island Union Mission. Martin also served as an auditor for the West and East Indonesia unions, and the Far Eastern Division, during his time overseas. Martin was also the secretary-treasurer for the Maritime conference and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and associate treasurer for the Trans-European Division. In Nova Scotia, Martin kept active as treasurer of the Tantallon, Barnesville and New Glasgow churches and for several years edited the monthly newsletter *Keeping in Touch*. Martin is predeceased by his son, Robert Craig, and his nephew, Peter Mueller. Surviving: wife, Eileen; daughters, Heather (Ken) Harrington, Holly (Ben) Bruestle and Merrilee (Dean) Moores; brother, Clarence Edward (Joan) Moores; sister, Glenda (Keith) Madgwick; and three grandchildren.

Stephen Nischuk was born June 16, 1933, in Sturgis, Sask., and died Nov. 4, 2012, in Williams Lake, B.C.

Stephen worked over 25 years as a church school teacher for the British Columbia, Ontario and Saskatchewan conferences from the years 1956-1992. After retiring he faithfully returned to his parents' homeland of Ukraine to participate in many mission projects. Stephen is predeceased by his wife, Ila; brother Clifford; and sister, Irene Lazark. Surviving: sons, Verlyn (Bonnie), and Jerry; daughter, Pennie (David) Daffurn; brothers Louis, Alex and John; one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

Hilda Olga (née Rodenbush) Rooke was born April 29, 1908, in Arlington Beach, Sask., and died Dec. 19, 2012, in Maple Ridge, B.C. Hilda devoted her life to her family and church. She is predeceased by her husband, Charles, and sons, Mervyn and Ronald.

Lillian (née Ferster) Beaton Sorenson was born Nov. 2, 1934, in Melville, Sask., and died Aug. 30, 2011, in Madison, Tenn. Lillian loved to share the good news of the coming of Jesus with others. Lillian is predeceased by her husband, Bob; sister Glenda Ferster; and grandson, Christopher Thomas. Surviving: son, Kelvin Beaton, of Anacortes, Wash.; daughter, Shelly Thomas, of Spruce Grove, Alta.; sister Alma Liske, of Anacortes, Wash.; brothers, Elvin Ferster, of Leduc, Alta., and Harold Ferster, of Spruce Grove, Alta; and three grandchildren.

Nada (née Perepelitza) Tadla was born June 23, 1916, in Areele, Sask., and died Nov. 19, 2012, in Kelowna, B.C. Nada is remembered as a faithful Adventist Christian. She is predeceased by her husband, Fred; brothers, Peter Perepelitza and Alec Perry; and sister Vera Bezugly. Surviving: son, Ernie (Cora) Tadla, of Victoria, B.C.; daughter, Leona (Ross) Wilkinson, of Mesa, Ariz.; and sister Ann Baker, of Calgary, Alta.; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Tributes



Mary (Pylypiuk) Kryswaty (March 1, 1916, Musidora, Alta., Dec. 2, 2012, Lacombe, Alta.) Born

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the seventh of eight children to Eli and Mary Pylypiuk, Mary was a catalyst for education and evangelism in Alberta. Mary supported these ministries not only as a teacher but also as a philanthropist. Though she never sought the spotlight, Mary was chosen as a representative of Adventist women in 1995, the Year of the Adventist Woman.

Mary graduated from Canadian Junior College in 1936. After running the family farm in Morecambe and then a store in Beauvallon with her mother, Mary turned to teaching—her vocation for more than 30 years. She moved to Smoky Lake, and on April 20, 1952, she married Bill (William) Kryswaty, a politician and farmer.

As the only Adventist in Smoky Lake for many years, Mary offered her home as the first meeting place for the company in 1964. Mary and Bill donated land, and a church was built. She also supported the construction of churches in Ukraine, Moldova, the native school and church in Hobbema, and others.

A humble, caring people person who worked behind the scenes, Mary made a profound difference, contributing to conference projects, mission trips, scholarships, musical groups, and Canadian University College. She transformed CUC's music department by enabling the purchase of two concert-quality grand pianos and additional practice pianos that helped the college meet requirements for a four-year music performance degree. She is survived by sisters-in-law Mary (John) Pylypiuk

and Helen (Eugene) Pylypiuk, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Edith Isabella (Loxdale) Longard passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 28, 2012, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Halifax on June 4, 1938, she was the eldest daughter of the late Alfred and Coral (Duggan) Loxdale.

Edith faithfully attended the Halifax Seventh-day Adventist Church and served in the children's departments and was also a Sabbath school secretary. She, along with her husband, contributed to various charities sponsoring children's education and orphan care as well as Sandy Lake Academy. Although having no children of her own, she was a mother to many. She loved to be outdoors, particularly working in the garden and manuring the property.

Edith was a devoted wife who loved life and always set others above herself. She faced her illness with courage and determination and looked forward to the resurrection morning. Her deep and abiding faith in God will forever enrich our lives.

She is survived by her loving husband, Humphrey, of 45 years, her brother Wayne (Shirley) Loxdale, of Halifax; her sisters Sheila (Arthur) Bennett, of Timberlea, N.S., and Marilyn Raw, of Tucson, Ariz.; and several nieces and nephews.

A family funeral service was held at the Tantallon Seventh-day Adventist Church, with burial in the church cemetery. Pastors Dan Wilson and Pedri Graca were officiating.

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Sunnyside Adventist Care Centre in Saskatoon is seeking a dynamic, conscientious and spiritually minded individual for the position of Director of Human Resources. This position oversees all aspects of Human Resources at our care centre with 140 employees and is a diverse/multifaceted role. Our ideal candidate has the following qualifications: B.Sc. degree in HR, 5 years' experience; highly organized; outstanding interpersonal skills; excellent MS Office knowledge; facilitating workshops; a passion for change; quickly grasp new concepts; proactive and resourceful; work independently; achievement oriented; comfortable working with the elderly and bring a sense of fun to the workplace. If you would like to join us in fulfilling our mission of "Caring for our Community as Christ would," please send your cover letter and resume ASAP to Randy Kurtz at admin@sunnysidecare.ca. (4/13)


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Crawford Adventist Academy 60th Anniversary—We are looking for all former TADSB Board members, TJA/CAA administrators, faculty, staff and chaplains! Our 60th Anniversary Homecoming Alumni Weekend is on May 23–26, 2013, and we would love for you to be part of it. Please contact Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, TADSB 416/633-0090/toll free 866/960-2125 ext. 234, or dhall@tadsb.com / Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant, ext. 248, or jgamez@tadsb.com to provide your current contact information. (4/13)

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from the editor

That One Word

I wasn't a Seventh-day Adventist very long before I learned of one word that could bring fear and trembling to many yet so much joy to others. It's a very distinct word, and it soon became stuck in my mind as an Adventist. It is a word we don't use as often as we once did, and so many young or new members are not even sure what it means. I often ask people if they know what this word means, and only a few of them guess it correctly. What is this word I reference? It is *Ingathering*.

It is a wonderful tradition, and it is often the only time community Adventist churches make contact with their area. I would want these connection points not to stop but rather increase, and it is a great benefit to the overall mission of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Recently I went on a trip to Kenya with Seniors in Action for God with Excellence (SAGE) Alberta and A Better World (ABW). I witnessed one project after another—schools, clinics, hospitals, and orphanages that were clearly strengthened by people in Alberta who had connected with this ministry of the College Heights church in Alberta.

I like this version of Ingathering. A Better World is connecting and interacting with community people and organizations to invest in projects in substantial, meaningful, and lasting ways. Last year, they received well over two million dollars, and about 95 percent of those funds came from non-Adventist sources. To me, this is Ingathering 2.0.

In both public and Catholic schools, students have raised thousands of dollars to sponsor great compassion and educational projects through A Better World Canada. I so appreciate the innovativeness of ABW founders Eric Rajah and Brian Leavitt to connect local communities in Canada with local communities in developing countries to make a difference. ■

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stan'.

SERVICE: A WORD THAT SHOULD MEAN SO MUCH TO US, AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST.

We are incredibly grateful to the organizations that have served those in need, all over the world. One notable organization that has served and continues to serve effectively is the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada.

Since 1956, when it was first established under the name Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service (SAWS), ADRA has been meeting the needs of hundreds of thousands of people all over the world. They are truly following “Christ’s example by being a voice for serving, and partnering with those in need.”¹ Through the work of ADRA Canada, we have seen service in action, a true illustration of Christ’s words, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Matt 25:35, 36, NIV).

SAWS* CANADA HELPS PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

John M. Howard

ONCE AGAIN WE COME TO THE TIME of the year when our Disaster and Famine Relief offering is to be collected. I want to give you a brief report of some of the projects we were able to provide funds for from the money you gave last year. I want to thank each of you. We really appreciate the hard work that was done in each conference, and special congratulations to British Columbia, who once again was the champion fundraiser for our Disaster and Famine Relief offering!

This money is the major source of funding for the matching grants that we receive from the federal government through the C.I.D.A. department and also through the Alberta government’s matching grant program.

From last year’s offering, together with the amounts given to us by the Alberta government and the federal government, we were able to fund projects amounting to almost \$600,000. We really appreciate your generosity!



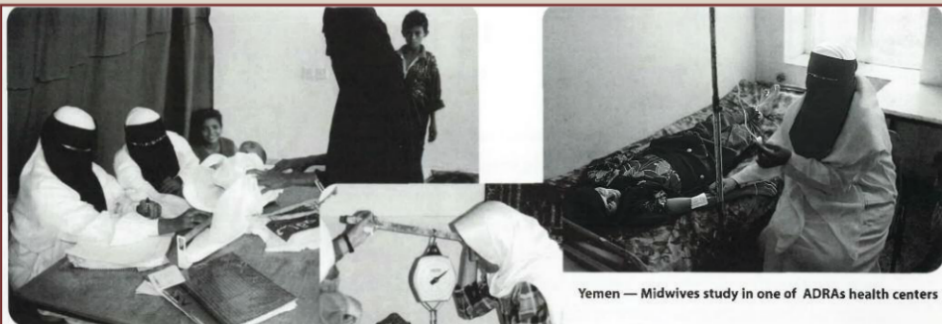
from the Disaster and Famine Relief offering, and government supplements, they were able to build a well. Upon finding a moist spot, they dug down and came to a big rock. When the rock was split open, the water gushed out. There were several other springs all around as well. While we were there, we saw that over three feet of water had come up in the well.

The students sang a beautiful song to us in Swahili, and asked that we send their greetings back to each person that had donated to this project. They were so happy that once again they had water and they could grow the crops that they needed.

We were also able to see the completion of the dental clinic in Lubumbashi. This was a project started with the Disaster and Famine Relief offering several years ago. Today we have a dentist there from Quebec, Dr. Ron Ford and his wife.

The nutritional food packages that we sent to Inter-America arrived safely, and a package is just about to be sent to Ghana.

Here, in the April 1984 issue of the Messenger, (above) we read about work being done by ADRA, then known as SAWS. The project, as seen in the photo, was the digging of a well at the Mutitu Community School in Kenya, a project funded by SAWS. It was a project that enabled the students at this high school and the villagers around the school to have clean water to drink as well as irrigate the crops. The name change from SAWS to ADRA occurred during the 1980s.



Yemen — Midwives study in one of ADRA's health centers

The theme of the March 2000 issue was ADRA Canada. These photos represent one of ADRA's projects discussed in an article called “Tapestry of Love”.

animals, and the top room, or the mafrai, is where the owner meets with friends and chews gat.

In Yemen, ADRA has been working with local communities over the past few

out homes, savings, or jobs. ADRA Jordan has been establishing programs to assist these returnees, particularly women and children. Since 1991, ADRA has established a pediatric clinic, providing health care to small children

¹ “Who We Are: Our Mission,” ADRA Canada, <https://www.adra.ca/WhoWeAre/OurMission>.

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