

canadian adventist

Messenger

november 2013



a heart of
selflessness

PLUS

Glimpses of Christ (p. 16)

The Other Side of the Dead Sea (p. 26)

I Like to Serve (p. 32)

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“As you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.—Matt. 25:40, ESV”



Small things

I have a good friend in British Columbia who is very knowledgeable when it comes to microlepidoptera. These are very small moths, most of them with a wingspan of less than 20 millimetres. That's small. We are familiar with one of these moths: the clothes moth.

Very likely, many of us have had the experience of discovering a small hole in a favourite woolen garment. These tiny insects can do a great deal of damage, and so we try to avoid their damage. In our home we have cedar chests in which we store woolen items. Others place mothballs in tightly closed containers to keep their articles safe.

In life we need to consider the larger effect of small things. The words we use, the time we spend with people, what we say about others, and how we order our priorities might all appear small, but in the broader picture, they are large.

Again and again Scripture reinforces the importance of the apparently small things of life. We read the words of Solomon: “Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards” (Song of Sol. 2:15, ESV). Certainly, he understood the issue. In the Bible there are many illustrations of small acts with large consequences. Adam and Eve had a bite of fruit; the cost has been enormous. Moses hit the rock and, consequently, did not enter Caanan. Peter, walking on water, looked away from Christ and began to sink.

One of my favourite passages, though, is this: “As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me” (Matt. 25:40, ESV). A life is defined, not so much by the large things done, but more so by the pattern of little things—the stuff that most folks wouldn't even notice.

How is it with us? Have we become people who care more for others than we do for our own self-interest? It would be wonderful if we could be known for that, wouldn't it?

As we approach the holiday season, we will be tempted to hurry, focus on big things, be irritated by small things. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could regain that focus on the small but important things of everyday life? What a difference that would make! ■

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CANADIAN ADVENTIST MESSENGER

ISRAEL TOUR

HEAR JAIME JORGE PERFORM THE VIA DOLOROSA AT THE VIA DOLOROSA.

<http://bit.ly/zJslyU>

with Messenger Editor Stan Jensen, VP for Administration (SDACC) Daniel Stojanovic
providing Bible commentary on stops, and Jaime Jorge, Adventist musician.



MARCH 19-MARCH 31, 2014
40 SEAT LIMIT

- Attend Sabbath service at Jerusalem Adventist Church.
- Participate in a communion service at the Garden Tomb.
- Visit Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus; Bethlehem and the shepherds' field; the site of the Dead Sea scrolls discovery; the pool of Bethesda; Mount Carmel and the Mount of Olives.
- Plant a tree in Israel.
- Pray at the Western Wall (Wailing Wall).
- Take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
- Be baptized in the Jordan River. *(optional)*
- Swim in the Dead Sea.
- Stand on top of the synagogue where Jesus preached.
- Ride the cable car to the top of Masada
- Most evening free, time for shopping, and so much more!



Included: Guided sightseeing tour of Israel in deluxe air-conditioned bus; hotel accommodations and service charges; breakfast and dinner; admission fees. Also available an optional 4-5 day extension to tour Jordan *(if 10 people sign up)*

Rate per person: Toronto departure, CAD \$2900 + taxes; Calgary departure, CAD \$3260 + taxes

Contact Stan Jensen (jensen.stan@adventist.ca) for trip details.

Opportunities in Disguise

"I was seldom able to see an opportunity until it ceased to be one."

I was on the last leg of my morning walk, and my mind was on fire with creative ideas. I hurried toward home to put my thoughts down on paper for future reference. Suddenly, a quick flash of light from across the street caught my attention, and I slowed my pace to assess the situation. A black object moved in a garbage bin. Puzzled, I came to a complete stop, trying to figure out what was moving in the dark. The light, the movement back and forth, the object dressed in black was a human being going through the garbage.

At 6:00 a.m., while the sun was late rising, this human being dressed in black was fast at work collecting bottles in the dark. Instantly, the following thought came to me as I resumed walking to my destination.

The things we see as trash discarded can be treasures for someone unintended. I mused on those words and concluded that opportunities are everywhere for the discerning eye to see and for the resourceful individual to take advantage of.

The apostle Paul suggests that when opportunity knocks on our door, we should take advantage of it, for we may never get that opportunity again: "Be very careful, then, how you live," he says, "not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15, 16, NIV).

I came upon just such an opportunity a few days ago while walking beside Bowmanville Creek. A fisherman had just landed two large salmon and placed them on the grass beside the creek. I had my camera handy and considered asking him if I could take his picture with these prized possessions. But I shied away. Then I thought of the above quote from the apostle Paul and decided to take advantage of the opportunity.

I approached the stranger and asked, "Do you mind if I take a picture of you and your fish?"

"Sure," he said, "but with you and the fish. I'll take the picture."

So I posed for the picture and he took a great shot. No one will believe that I did not catch those fish.

It was Mark Twain who said, "I was seldom able to see an opportunity until it had ceased to be one." As Christians, we should keep our eyes open for opportunities to do good. They are everywhere. They may come dressed in nice-looking clothes or may be disguised as bottles in a garbage bin. Let us use our discerning eyes and make the most of the opportunities that God sends our way—we never know what will happen next. ■

Dennis Marshall is general vice-president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.



I need ...

T33nTa1k

Sometimes I feel like I'm only using God. What should I do?

Believe it or not, I have struggled with this too. Guess where God took me to find the answer? His Word, of course. He showed me the disciples.

Peter and the fishermen came because Jesus did miracles for them. Nathaniel came because Jesus told him something about himself no one but God could know. Thomas came because he doubted everything and was looking for something he could believe in. Matthew came because Jesus seemed to be the only one willing to give a former tax collector a chance. At one time Peter burst out, "We have left everything for you. What will we get in return?!" You can't get much more blunt than that. The bottom line is they all came for selfish reasons.

We need Jesus to heal us when we are sick, perform miracles when we sit down to write a test, hold our family together when it seems to be falling apart. We need Him so desperately, and then the crisis passes and we forget Him again until the next one. Sound familiar?

Ten lepers were healed by Jesus. Leprosy was a disease that not only destroyed your body slowly but also forced you from society and everyone and everything you loved. He healed 10 in one shot, and only one came back to say thanks. We are indeed selfish people.

What should you do? What should we do? Keep following Him. Keep bringing your crises to Him. What good will that do, you ask? Well God showed me that eventually those 11 selfish men fell in love with Jesus and became 11 men who would do anything for Him. You are selfish, and His love and faithfulness is the only antidote. Stay close to Him and see what He does. You may not notice it, because love doesn't even think about itself, but others will be amazed!

Imagine a place where everyone is most concerned about the happiness of everyone else. You have just caught a glimpse of home. His home.



creation corner for kids

Giraffes

If you've ever been to a zoo or watched wildlife videos, you probably know what a lion's roar, an eagle's screech, or even a whale's song sounds like. But do you know what kind of sounds giraffes make? Many people believe that giraffes can't make any sound. Some people think that giraffes are silent because they have no vocal cords. Others believe that adult giraffes just choose not to make sounds.

It's a myth that giraffes have no vocal cords. Young giraffes will call to their mothers when they're hungry or will cry out if they're captured or handled by caregivers at a zoo. But it's rare to hear an adult giraffe make any kind of sound with its voice.

Think about it.

It turns out that adult giraffes do "talk" with one another in infrasound, sounds that are too low for humans to hear. In fact, infrasound helps giraffes "talk" with one another over great distances. People do the same kind of thing. We have invented ways to send our "voices" around the world.

Do it!

Use your long-distance voice to tell others about Jesus' love and soon return. Send an email, post a link to a Christian site on Facebook or write a letter telling someone about what Jesus has done for them today. Let's not choose to be silent when we have the opportunity to tell others about Jesus' love and soon return.

You can learn more about giraffes at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com.

Be ready always to give an answer to every man who asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.—1 Peter 3:15

*Smile,
God loves
you!*



greater calling, greater Community



Adam Diebert, CUC chaplain, and Shantel Smith, CUC associate chaplain.

EVERY NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS ABOUT CHANGE.

First-year students brimming with tentative excitement roam the campus absorbing new friends, professors and surroundings. This past August the excitement extended to Canadian University College's new pastoral team of chaplain Adam Deibert and associate chaplain, Shantel Smith. A chance passing of the two chaplains in conversation with each other might lead you to



The chaplains with most of their Campus Ministries team and the speakers for this years Week In Spiritual Emphasis.

wonder, Why all the laughter? But as you get to know and understand Adam and Shantel, it is obvious to see the passion they both have for ministry on the CUC campus.

Adam and Shantel both accepted the call to be chaplains at Canadian University College earlier this year after former CUC chaplains Paul Antunes and Janice De-Whyte both moved to different areas to pursue new ministry opportunities. For Adam, the call was first met with uncertainty. His ministry up to now had been focused on local parish ministry, and his love for that caused him to take his time and pray about the chaplaincy opportunity. After a lot of prayer and speaking with many people on the CUC campus, he came to realize that there was a longing on campus to know Jesus in a real way, which resonated deeply with his own sense of purpose. Shortly after completing seminary this past May, Shantel felt God's leading and accepted the call to CUC. For Shantel, her discovery of CUC's heart for missions and outreach spoke to her own passion for the same areas.

The chaplain's team has the privilege to lead out the campus ministries team, the largest student-staffed organization on the CUC campus. The campus ministries team leads out in many areas of campus but all with the same purpose of connecting with people and connecting to God. The team leads out in worship, drama, small groups, vespers, university convocation, Sabbath school, prayer ministries, AY, Hobbema ministries, kids' church, prison ministries, missions, sunshine bands, soup kitchen and much more.

Working closely with their student leaders, Adam and Shantel are both excited at the opportunities to mentor and learn from the students. "Working with the young adults on this campus has been rewarding and refining. In my short time here they have taught me so much about leadership, mentorship, responsibility and community. They all have so much going on, and how they balance and manage their relationships, academics and spiritual life is amazing to me. They make me laugh when I'm feeling down and they humble me when I'm feeling proud. Working with the young adults on this campus has been a tremendous

blessing and a wonderful experience. This is the generation spoken about in Joshua 4 that asks its leaders and elders 'why these stones were placed here,' and every day I am challenged and edified with having to give a response," says Shantel.

Being a CUC graduate, Adam has the unique experience of serving on the campus ministries team when he was a student at CUC to now leading the team as the chaplain. This year's campus ministries theme is "Greater Calling, Greater Community," based on the principles found in Romans 12.

"Along with the desire for a more meaningful connection with God, there is also a strong desire to create more meaningful connection with one another on the hilltop, as well as to reach out and connect to the larger community in which we find ourselves. That's not to say that we're immune from the realities that come with living in a fallen world; but in so many ways CUC is a place where students are seeking—and in very real ways, finding—something greater. And from here, they're taking that into all the world," says Adam.

For the two chaplains there is no other place where they would rather be doing God's ministry but on the hilltop at CUC. The potential that Shantel sees in the students she interacts with energizes her. "This campus is on fire for Christ. It is a huge reserve from which we will have the privilege to train and the right to see the leaders of this next generation emerge. They are passionate, they are driven and they are salt causing the world to thirst for more of Jesus." After just a short time working with the young adults at CUC, Adam has come to realize that he is exactly where he needs to be. Adam explains, "This is where it's at! If you want to see where the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is headed, you can get a pretty good picture by looking around the hilltop; and personally, what I see encourages and excites me." ■

*JR Ferrer is the communication director
for Canadian University College*

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *What was your childhood like?*

Gloria Lawson: I was born in Malawi. My parents were missionaries. When I was about a year old, about the year 1929/30 a lady came from the jungles, picked me up by the arm, and took a big bite out of my arm (she was a cannibal). She left a scar under my arm. I was the only child on the mission for a while, so I would follow the nurse missionaries. My kittens were my patients, but they weren't good patients, because they didn't stay in one place. When I was nine, we went to Zimbabwe. I was homeschooled. In fact, our neighbour was my first teacher, next to my parents, and her husband was Ellen White's grandson.

M: *What did you believe God was calling you to do?*

GL: I had a burden to share the health message, but I had a lot to learn and much to unlearn, because in traditional education, we learned how to make fancy cakes instead of the healthy things. God had a lot to teach me.

M: *Why were you so motivated to share this health message?*

GL: Because there was a lot of sickness in the world. I taught Grades 9 and 10

home economics at Crawford Adventist Academy in Toronto. The girls knew how to make chocolate chip cookies, but not good food, like homebaked bread. I wanted to teach them how to make healthy foods in their homes. Actually, the Crawford Academy had just started when they were seeking a home economics teacher. I didn't tell the girls that the school couldn't pay me, so everything I did, I did for love. God has a burden to help His people to be healthy. The rewarding part is when they surrender their appetite to God—body, soul and spirit.

M: *Can you tell me about Mrs. Snow?*

GL: Well, during the Massey Hall campaign, Mrs. Snow was the lady coming to church and I had befriended her. I invited her to the series with George Vandeman. She said yes, so I took her name and number, and I gave it to a friend of mine to pick her up.

After the seminars and cooking school, I asked the gentleman how Mrs. Snow made out, because she was interested in the Lord, and he told me that he had forgotten all about it. I said to God, "Lord, you love people too much to forget them." I knew the Lord would help me find her in Toronto. My husband said he would give me one hour to look for her. I said that's all God needs. I asked God to tell me which house it was.

As my husband was driving, the Lord impressed me to look at this one house, and I said, "Stop!" He stopped and I picked

up a copy of *The Great Controversy* and walked to the door. It was Mrs. Snow. I gave her the book and her husband read it. The next week he came to Richmond Hill church.

Time lapsed, and one day I stopped at Branson Hospital and felt there was someone that the Lord wanted me to visit. It turned out to be Mrs. Snow. She was shocked to see me and said she had wanted to see me for a while now. I told her that I wanted to tell her how much the Lord loves her and how He led me to her home. She was so touched by the story. After that, I lost contact with her. But I will meet her in heaven.

M: *Where are some of the places that you have served in Canada?*

GL: I was the Bible instructor for the Hamilton Mountain church. I've done cooking schools in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, lots in Ontario, and also in Alberta. I also wrote two cookbooks: *Tasty Vegan Delights* and *Caring Kitchens*. They are currently out of stock.

M: *Where are you now?*

GL: Beamsville, Ont. I still try and do all I can to witness. Although I am elderly, I ask God to use me each day for his honour and glory. I have been blessed with a wonderful family: my husband, Paul; one son; four step-children; seven grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. ■

The Doctor's U.S. Tax Receipt



The doctor, a Kingsway College alumnus attending an American Kingsway chapter meeting, raised his hand and waved it in the air to get the attention of the meeting's speaker. Unable to break in the middle of her talk, the alumni director nodded at the doctor. As soon as she could, she moved to the doctor's side.

"I want to help Kingsway College students. Whom do I make this out to?" asked the doctor, pen held over his chequebook.

"To Kingsway College," she replied. "Thank you very much."

Combining the doctor's donation of US\$10,000 with the other American donations of cash and cheques, the chapter director arranged to send everything to Kingsway College.

At Kingsway a financial officer wrote on the back of each U.S. cheque, "Pay to the order of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists" (GC),¹ and he purchased a U.S. money order to transfer the cash donations. All were sent to the GC office, where U.S. tax receipts were mailed to the names and U.S. addresses supplied for each donor. The GC then returned the total amount of the gifts back to Kingsway. This doctor's generous gift funded a Kingsway College scholarship.

To receive a U.S. tax receipt at any time for U.S. donations to any Canadian Adventist registered charities, American donors may send their gifts directly to the GC.

¹Treasury Department, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, Attention: Donation Center, Phone: 301/680-6000, Fax: 301/680-6090, www.adventist.org.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

If the Sunday law came into effect tomorrow, what would you do?

AT THE LACOMBE COMMUNITY CHURCH IN ALBERTA, AND THE WESTMINSTER AND PENTICTON CHURCHES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Ligaya Rowe: I don't think I would be afraid of it. I've asked time and time again to be able to go through it. I could never do without the strength of Christ.

Sarah Mihalache: I would keep God's law.

Ruby Eluick: If the Sunday law came tomorrow, I would be excited knowing Christ is almost here, but I would panic.

"Part of it is I know it's the right thing to do, but another part from travelling there in 2006 and 2009 is seeing how privileged we are. We can share that privilege."

Public Health Nurse making a Better World in Honduras



Left: Carol Brouwer spent time at the Casita Copan children's centre in May. She has supported several projects there and has just put in a proposal to A Better World Canada to fund a women's literacy program that will be piloted there. **Right:** Carol Brouwer supported handing out free reading books to five schools as well as at Casita Copan children's centre.

Carol Brouwer is committed to helping one of Latin America's poorest countries. For 12 years this Central Alberta woman has been heading to Honduras, a country with the highest per capita murder rate in the world and where more than half of the 8.4 million people live in poverty.

Brouwer initially visited Honduras with her husband, Barry, after her daughter had taken an educational trip there. She later took Spanish classes several times in the city of Copan Ruinas before she became involved in community work.

The Brouwers invested about \$5,000 towards the building of a classroom within a remote area where one teacher was instructing 80-some children. At that time Brouwer approached Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World Canada, set up and governed by College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe. "I am not a Seventh-day Adventist, but I saw how they involve the community, so I approached them," said Brouwer.

A Better World accepted Brouwer's project proposal. Thanks to A Better World's experience and expertise in humanitarian work, Brouwer is able to give her projects solid footing. A Better World also handles all money matters. The partnership has allowed her to see three classrooms and two schools, including one in neighbouring Guatemala, to get built.

Brouwer has also financially supported small businesses, free reading books, as well as a maternity/children's medical clinic.

"People are hearing about these projects and are asking how they can donate money," said Brouwer. "Even though our projects are small, I feel they really give a good bang for our buck."

Some of Brouwer's work has involved A Better World. International agencies—such as World Vision, Red Cross and Plan International—have participated too. Currently, Brouwer is working with Casita Copán children's centre, run by a local non-profit organization.

The public health nurse has also helped in community health and recently found a donor to build and install a bathroom for a family of eight who had none before.

Brouwer ensures that communities buy into the project. For one thing, residents are required to commit to the construction labour.

She returns several times a year to Honduras. She loves its people and its culture. The experience has been enriching and, at times, challenging. Seeing the positive impact from a completed project makes all the difference.

"I try to act as a catalyst to do what people think they can do to improve their lives," said Brouwer, 61. "When I look back, I think what my life would have been like without it." ■

Laura Tester is a journalist and volunteers for A Better World in communications.



Communicating Your Financial Needs—PART 1

As we draw near to the end of the year, many church finance committees and pastors are looking closer at their local giving. Are we going to meet our budget? Will December be another big month where we can catch up? If you are concerned about the local giving practices in your congregation, here are some tips to think about.

TEACH THE BIBLICAL PRACTICE OF GIVING.

Many pastors are uncomfortable with preaching on the topic of giving. They don't want to come across as beating people over the head, or they are worried it will turn people off. The discipline of giving is biblical. When you read about worship in the Bible, it almost always involves the practice of giving back to God. Giving and worship go hand in hand. If you are not embarrassed about preaching on the biblical truth of the Sabbath, you shouldn't be concerned about teaching on the discipline of giving back to God. I would recommend doing a sermon series every year on stewardship.¹

HELP YOUR PASTOR UNDERSTAND PERSONAL AND CHURCH FINANCES.

I have met many pastors who don't understand how to read a church ledger. In fact, many do not feel adequate to teach with authority, because they are drowning in personal debt. Ephesians 4:11, 12, reminds us how we should be equipped for God's service: "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built

up" (NIV, italics added). One of the best gifts you can give pastors is to mentor them in personal finances. This will require the humbling of the pastor to accept that he or she must be the student. If your church leader can build his or her own level of self-esteem in this area, he or she will then be able to preach and teach with conviction.

ENCOURAGE ONLINE GIVING.

We are living in an age of plastic, not paper. Fewer people are carrying a chequebook or cash. In 2011 only 27 percent of all point-of-sales purchases were made with cash. That number is expected to drop to 23 percent by 2017.² We have become accustomed to using our credit cards for everything. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has provided an excellent online giving service. Your church members can give at their convenience using a credit card or debit card (the preferred method). Online giving will also save your treasurer countless hours of receipting. With just a push of a couple buttons, the online transaction is complete. Be sure to include a link to online giving in your e-newsletter and social media campaigns.

PUT AN OFFERING ENVELOPE IN EVERY BULLETIN.

Many members don't give because the process of giving isn't convenient. Nelson Searcy suggests that you place an offering envelope in every church bulletin each week.³ He says, furthermore, that you should print your envelopes self-addressed and postage paid. By doing this, you are taking almost all of the barriers out of the givers' hands and are making it easy to contribute. The cost of your newly printed envelopes and postage will pay for themselves. As your members become accustomed to seeing the offering envelope, you will see an increase in giving.

Next month I will share some more easy-to-do tips on communicating your financial need. This month meet with your church leaders and choose one idea that you can implement immediately. ■

Rajkumar Dixit is the lead pastor of the Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Secular World. You can follow him at Twitter @kumardixit.

¹ Read this excellent *Ministry* magazine article entitled "The Pastor and Church Finance" (February 1981) by Milton E. Erhart: <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1981/02/the-pastor-and-church-finance>.

² Catherine New, "Cash Dying As Credit Card Payments Predicted to Grow in Volume," July 6, 2012, *Huffington Post*, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/07/credit-card-payments-growth_n_1575417.html.

³ Nelson Searcy, *Maximize: How to Develop Extravagant Givers in Your Church* (Ada, MI: Baker Books, 2010).



NEW



Words by God —Jeremiah 18:3,4, NIV

So I [Jeremiah] went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.—Jeremiah 18:3, 4, NIV

Have you ever seen a clay pot? They can be beautiful when they're handcrafted, and they all are uniquely designed by the potter. Each one the potter made with a design in mind, a masterpiece waiting to be revealed. The potter takes the clay and squishes and prods and stretches it over and over again until the clay is pliable in his hands. Then, placing it on the wheel, the potter adds moisture to his hands as he or she sculpts the spinning clay. After the pot has been pressed, poked and spun, the potter puts the clay into a furnace to bake. Once the clay is done baking, the potter takes it out and paints it and then sticks the pot back into the furnace to bake again. What was once marred and damaged clay becomes a beautiful masterpiece in the potter's hands.

Isaiah 64:6, 8, says, "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. ... Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand" (NIV).

We are all broken, marred and scarred by this world, just like the clay in the potter's hand. Though we may not recognize them all the time, we still carry the marks of our brokenness. God (the potter) sees that we are broken and wounded; he says "OK, I see it, let me take care of that for you. I can bind up our brokenness, and I can heal your wounds." He doesn't look at our scars and say, "What good is a broken pot?" No, He says, "Let me handle it, I know you are broken, I know that you are hurting, but I see a masterpiece. Let me create in you all the beauty that I see." What does He ask of us? To be moldable and pliable in his hands so that we can be made new. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 the Bible says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (NIV). ■

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 "I Am New," by Jason Gray on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/afb9QZ>

Jason Gray's song "I Am New" speaks about the believer acknowledging his wrongdoing but recognizing that God is remaking, reshaping, him into a new person—recognizing that it is God's recreation, not our mistakes, that defines us.



app review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App: Amazing Facts

In Brief:

This app provides a plethora of Amazing Facts resources, including sermons (in both audio and video), Bible study guides, daily devotionals and more. For those who don't speak English, there are resources available in 10 additional languages. The audio and video will stream through the app (or an associated video app), while most of the articles and Bible studies give you an introduction in the app and link you out of the app back to the Amazing Facts website for the complete version. One nice aspect is that, for the audio programs, the app functions as a media player, allowing you to switch to other apps while continuing to listen to the program.

Wow Factor: A lot of available Amazing Facts resources, in many languages, are available.

Meh Factor: Would be nice to be able to search for resources on specific topics.

Developed For: Amazing Facts, Inc.

Price: Free

Works On: Android, iOS

Link: <http://goo.gl/1Kbtm>



To suggest an app for review,
email messenger@adventist.ca.

prayer life

The Listener Talks

I wondered whether there existed Somebody out there listening to my thoughts. I guess you could have called me a seeker...

I admit, I was embarrassed. So I made sure my family was gone. I had just prayed, "God? If you are there, please show me."

So I decided to view a lineup of Sunday morning religious TV programs. My friends, had they known, would have committed me to the psychiatric ward. The truth was I was hoping to hear something that I could interpret as the voice of God—if such a being even existed. I wondered whether there existed Somebody out there listening to my thoughts. I guess you could have called me a seeker then. I was 20.

After two hours of nausea, my young mind concluded that Christian programming was—to put it politely—rather superficial. But I found one TV program in which there were no angry preachers, no plastic smiles, no syrupy music, and no pleas for money. All they did was address modern-day questions from the Bible.

Great idea, I thought. But how can the Bible say anything about today? Isn't it just an outdated, irrelevant book? It couldn't possibly relate to me. But it did.

The TV speaker calmly turned the pages of Scripture and presented a beautiful answer to a modern-day question. I forget what the topic was. But I do remember being amazed that the Bible had pretty decent advice for me that day. It sounds funny now, but I was impressed that the Bible writers were at least as smart as normal people.

The TV program was *It Is Written*. The speaker was George Vandeman.

I had been sending thoughts out into the universe hoping there was an intelligent Listener out there somewhere. Seeing George Vandeman use the Bible in this way opened up for me the possibility that we could receive communication from this Listener. By reading *His Word*, in connection to prayer, I discovered something: the Listener talks. ■

Ern Brake is the ministerial and Church Ministries director of the British Columbia Conference. He also serves as Prayer Ministries coordinator of the conference.



November 2013

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Glimpses of Christ in the *Courrier du Saguenay*



Patrick Dupuis

It all started out as a brainstorming session between a district pastor and his intern. The discussion? How to reach evangelistic potential in an area where only a handful of Adventists were present. This brainstorming session quickly turned into a strategic plan to reach thousands of people with the Adventist message through a simple medium such as the newspaper. The members of the church agreed to support the project, which would cost about \$250 per week, with offerings. In the end it's a very simple strategy that serves two purposes: (1) to make known the gospel of Jesus Christ and (2) to increase the presence of the Adventist Church in the area.

After some planning, research and prayer, it was agreed upon that the pastor, Patrick Dupuis, would write a weekly 250-word, quarter-page column entitled "The Pastor's Column," in the local newspaper, *Courrier du Saguenay*, a free local newspaper distributed to 70,000 doors every week.

The column displays the Adventist Church's logo, has a personal feel and always includes information about local church activities; the article topics—always Christ-centered—are preplanned to relate to the local church activities being promoted. At the bottom of each column the church advertises a new book that is offered free of charge to the readers; all they have to do is call the local church number to obtain it. The pastor or a member of the local church then personally delivers the free books requested. This gives Adventists the opportunity to personally meet the readers of the column, talk with them and open the door to a follow-up visit to answer questions about the book or invite the new contact to a church-organized event or activity.

Implementing this strategy in the secular region of Saguenay/Lac St-Jean has produced interesting results. Some statistics have yet to be compiled, but so far the quantifiable results are as follows: 26 columns were published, and 79 readers ordered 100 books. During that time period the local church organized six events with a total non-Adventist attendance of 80. These contacts led to some Bible studies, and one of the readers of the column was recently baptized into the Saguenay Adventist church group.

Other churches in the Quebec conference that are geographically isolated and need a means to reach their communities are trying this ministry too.

For example, the Granby Adventist Church, under the leadership of Éric Hermans (head elder), has adopted this strategy. After only 12 weeks of publishing a pastor's column in the *Journal Le-Plus* (weekly distribution of 48,000 free copies), the Granby church has seen encouraging results. So far 20 readers have ordered 30 of the free books offered. A non-Adventist family recently came for a worship service because of the Pastor's Column. At the Granby church the wife of retired pastor George Hermans personally delivers the requested books and establishes a personal contact with the readers. She recently had the privilege of teaching one of the readers how to pray.

The Pastor's Column is written to enable the reader to discover Jesus Christ through His teachings in the Bible. As the readers move through the pages of the newspaper getting informed on politics, sports, the arts and culture, they eventually turn to the Pastor's Column and have the opportunity to read and be nourished by glimpses of Christ, the Word of Life.

Our prayer is that many souls are brought to Christ and to the Adventist Church through the Pastor's Column. May God continue to bless the ministry of the printed page. ■

Patrick Dupuis is pastor of the Sherbrooke, Granby, and Abercorn Adventist churches. Éric Hermans is the head elder at the Granby Adventist Church and is senior accountant for Hermans & Hermans.

*"Our church is blessed with music.
What will we do with these gifts?"*

Spotlight

Seventh-day Adventist Church
in Canada Scripture Songwriting
Contest winners to be announced
soon. Judging in progress.



Before I was born or my parents were married, my mom attended an Adventist evangelistic series with her sister. The speaker? None other than R&B/Soul singer Little Richard. It was the moment that converted my mom, a former Catholic, to the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Many decades later I was born, grew up and moved to Los Angeles, where I happened to attend the very church that Little Richard would occasionally visit, arriving in his white stretch limo to enjoy the service. Today he's still speaking about the Church publicly, reminding even current musicians in press conferences to "honor the Ten Commandments" and "keep the Sabbath." God uses all kinds of people, positions and vocations, and being a musician is a calling that comes with a price. Especially when it's a Christian musician serving the church.

I've been speaking to a lot of my peers in Christian music lately, and one theme seems to constantly come up in our conversations: whether a person is called (or chosen) to pursue music or whether a person simply stumbles into the profession because he or she wants to. The consensus across the board is that it's a calling. When I spoke to a Christian band that recently topped charts at no. 1, they were not hesitant to say that they had tried other things in the past but that music and God kept bringing them back to the difficult task of being Christian musicians. It's a job where the pay is not great (or guaranteed), criticism is abundant, judgment is overflowing and gratitude is a long road that has to be earned.

Many artists expressed that right before they began a tour, a new album or a launch of anything, suddenly the winds of strife would pick up. Their faith would be tested, and through vigorous prayer, they would press on because there simply wasn't

a choice to quit.

As I sang at an evangelistic series a week ago, I heard yet another amazing story of how a popular hymn our church sings often was composed; it was written by a party singer who listened to a minister, who just happened to be at one of the parties, tell the story of grace and that miraculous, free gift. I was reminded once again that God loves to use music as a way to tell His stories.

I was so pleased to open the envelope containing the entries for the first Canadian Seventh-day Adventist Scripture Songwriting Contest. More songs than I was expecting had been submitted, and the talent level, heart and ambition was apparent. Our church is blessed with music. What will we do with these gifts? To encourage, embrace and share, I hope is our answer.

The musical styles varied from Country, Gospel, Christmas, Contemporary, Worship, Folk, Opera, Hymns, Inspirational and World. Submissions came from groups of teenagers, grandparents, college students, ministry staff, children and everyone in-between. Scripture verses accompanied each song, and the words we often read were lifted in melody to God in praise and worship. My heart was touched, blessed and filled with joy.

Our winners for the Scripture Songwriting Contest will be announced soon, but until then please pray for the Christian musicians called to minister to the church and to the world, and encourage them, for it is not an easy road. ■

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.

Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

When I first arrived at the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Canada (SDACC), the one person I was told to connect with was Maxine Smith. She was the person who would help me get on payroll and get reimbursed for my work expenses. Maxine also gave me the keys to the building and my office. Maxine owns the most wonderful smile and laugh and is so proud of her boys. Meeting her made my transition here so pleasant. Now you can know a bit more about her.



Maxine Smith and her sons (l. to r.) Matthew, Manuel, and Mark.

EDITOR: How long have you been working at the SDACC and what are your functions?

MAXINE: I have been working for the SDACC for over 12 wonderful years. The three main functions that I am responsible for are processing accounts payable, as well as payroll and property management for the interior of the office building. I enjoy most of my tasks equally; however, accounts payable provides a greater opportunity to interact with co-workers, supervisors, vendors, the board, entities and conferences.

EDITOR: How does working here differ from other jobs you have had?

MAXINE: Working in a Christian environment is different

from the secular in that there is the freedom of worshipping God with staff and even praying with them on certain occasions. Much of the internal communication is religious, clean and uplifting. One can sense the Lord's presence in the atmosphere.

EDITOR: How did you become an Adventist, and what was the most exceptional event that made you decide this was going to be the faith community you would support?

MAXINE: My brother was very persistent, as he continually kept inviting me to church after he became a Seventh-day Adventist. I finally decided to visit the church in hopes that he would cease the invitations. Other people spoke negatively about the church and claimed that they were a cult, and so I wanted to determine whose information was correct.

However, I noticed that the church service was quite normal, and so were the people. The only difference in worship was the day. I was convicted prior to going to an Adventist church that Saturday was the true Sabbath, having read some materials by Herbert W. Armstrong [Church of God (Seventh Day)]. The exceptional event was that what the world believed about the Adventist Church was false and individuals needed to have an open mind so that God's Holy Spirit can penetrate their hearts. It was clear as night and day to me that this was definitely God's true church.

EDITOR: Tell us about your children.

MAXINE: Besides the faithfulness of the Lord, Matthew, Mark and Manuel are my motivators for pressing on the upward way and leaning on the Lord. Their ages are 13, 10 and 8, respectively, and they attend College Park Elementary School, which is a Seventh-day Adventist school. I believe in Christian education and decided that this would be the best environment for my children.

These three boys are bursting with energy. I wish that God would impart just about a quarter of the energy that they have to me. Looking at them is exhausting in itself. They truly are wonderful, adorable blessings from the Lord, with exceptional potentials. Even though they do not have an earthly father who resides with them, I have told them that they have a heavenly Father who will never leave them nor forsake them, and it is so important to always place their trust in Him at all times.

EDITOR: Being a single mother to three energetic boys is something that takes strength and a miracle. Are you getting support from other church members?

MAXINE: God is more than good to me, and eternity is not long enough to list all the blessings that our heavenly Father has bestowed upon me and my family. Yes, the church, co-workers, the school, teachers, school secretary, school guard, family and friends have truly helped us tremendously. They have helped with clothes, food, cleaning, supplies, taking the boys out for fun days, but most of all with their prayers.

One family that truly sticks out in my mind is the one that is always willing to take the boys for the night, feed them, wash their clothes and take them to school. They are really a Godsend, and only the Lord truly knows how grateful I am for their assistance, because sometimes life can certainly get overwhelming. This is not to say that we do not need any help, because we always do and understand that the Lord supplies all our needs according to His riches in glory.

EDITOR: What advice would you give to others in the

same situation?

MAXINE: Stay close to the Lord at all times and make Him your forever best friend. Sometimes friends and promises may disappoint us, but praise God that He never does, because He is the same today, tomorrow and forever. Also, seek ways to give back to society and the community around you. For instance, time is limited for me to extend to others, so I sponsor four children from India, Philippines, South America and Africa who are far less fortunate than we are. Jesus demonstrated true living the best way, and that is in giving.

EDITOR: What could churches do more to reach out to single parents in their church and community?

MAXINE: Churches/people can help by offering their services on an ongoing basis. For those who are interested in community service, assisting single parents is included in community services.

EDITOR: Do you have a favourite Bible text to share with the Messenger?

MAXINE: Two that come to mind are Isaiah 49:15: "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." The Lord knows how difficult it is for mothers to forget their children. However, even if some mothers forget their offspring, it is comforting to know that the Lord never forgets them. Another favourite of mine is Psalm 61:2: "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." For single parents, life in general can get extremely overwhelming, and it is comforting to know that we can always look to the Lord for peace, rest and solutions to the challenges we are confronted with, because He is an unfailing God.

One thing I would like to add is that people see me and wonder how I do it, and the response is that it is not I but God, because I am amazed many times how we made it out of the house on a daily basis. We truly serve an awesome God, who carries us despite our physical, mental and spiritual apprehensions. In the future my mission in life is to assist single parents with their children because I have experienced the hardship of this life and can understand what others in the same situation are going through. How can we ever repay the Lord for His abundant blessings? ■

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

The Excellence in Education award recognizes outstanding educators who are currently working as teachers and administrators in our school system. We are pleased to announce the recipients of this prestigious award for the 2012/2013 school year.



Margaret Russnell

MARGARET RUSSNELL, B.Sc., Andrews University (1994), currently teaches at Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ont. She is married to Dave Russnell and has been teaching for 19 years. In her spare time she enjoys gardening and doing puzzles.

One of her most exciting teaching experiences relates to building robots in her computer engineering class. Students assemble the electronic components and learn to program the robots to maneuver through a maze. It takes weeks to complete,

but the challenge is rewarding and the students love it.

Her love for teaching grew while attending an Adventist school. She was impressed by the excitement and excellence in teaching that her teachers exhibited. Their spirituality and character greatly influenced her life. It was this experience that inspired her to become a teacher. Her goal was always to teach in an Adventist school so that she could make a positive difference in the lives of her students.



Patricia Ferreira-Lopez

PATRICIA FERREIRA-LOPEZ, MA, University of London, United Kingdom (2005), currently teaches at Adventist Christian Elementary School, London, Ont. She has 14 years of teaching experience, is married to Alonso Lopez and is the mother of a young daughter, Amelie. Her hobbies include photography, the performing arts and creative writing, as well as being involved with Women's Ministries work.

Patricia tells the story of her experience with Brigitte, a five-year old with cerebral palsy who was at times a selective mute. She prayed and worked hard to make a breakthrough in Brigitte's school life, but nothing seemed to work. Brigitte continued to be very angry and reclusive, often hitting and biting other children. Then one morning during a conversation the students were having about who their next teacher would be, someone suggested

that Brigitte would be placed in Ms. X's class. Brigitte quickly approached her teacher and, placing her hand on her shoulder, protested, "No, no, Ms. Ferreira, Ms. Ferreira! ... Ms. Ferreira is my teacher!" Thirty-one first-graders squealed with delight on hearing Brigitte speak with such passion and affection about her teacher. This brought tears to Patricia's eyes.

Being a school teacher was Patricia's childhood dream. She says that nothing beats the thrill of that "aha" moment when a student finally understands a concept, and you can see the pride in their eyes. Working in an Adventist school is both humbling and inspiring, she says. To know that you are playing a vital role in the character development of children for citizenship in heaven is an overwhelming thought.

ALYSIA CARLSON, B.Sc., Walla Walla University (2001), currently teaches at Okanagan Adventist Academy in Kelowna, B.C. She is married to Derrick Carlson, and they are the parents of one son, Levi Carlson. In her spare time Alysia enjoys hiking, taking pictures, reading, camping and spending time with her husband and three-year-old son.

Alysia has been teaching for 11 years and has had many memorable teaching experiences. One of her favourites was a conversation with a three-year old while helping him get into his snowsuit. He said to her, "I don't know much about

Jesus, but I have been to other schools. If Jesus is what makes this school different, then I want to get to know Him. I feel so safe and loved here." This experience demonstrated to her the importance of representing Jesus Christ well in the classroom.

Alysia chose teaching because of her love for learning and her desire to be among children to help them grow and develop. She decided to teach in an Adventist school because of her love for Jesus and the freedom she has in an Adventist school to discuss spiritual matters without fear.



Alysia Carlson

LISA CLARKE, B. Ed., University of Windsor (1999), is the teaching principal at Grandview Adventist Academy, Hamilton, Ont. She has been teaching for 14 years, is married to Delwin Clarke and has two children, Braedan and Kailey. She enjoys technology, skiing, travelling around the world and spending time with her family.

One of her favourite teaching experiences happened when, while on a tour in Israel, she called her kindergarten class from the Sea of Galilee. One four-year old student commented that she did not know that the Sea of Galilee existed. Lisa was excited to inform her students that she was crossing the lake on which Jesus

actually walked. It was at that moment they made the connection that the places in the Bible were real and not simply names mentioned in an ancient book. Lisa said that being able to make the Bible real to her students made it one of the best memories she has had of teaching.

Lisa chose to teach in an Adventist school because she believes that it is important to be able to present God's truths to her students. She would never have this opportunity in the public school system. Through teaching she is able to encourage her students to delve into the Bible and other literature that brings them closer to God.



Lisa Clarke

DIVINA LADORES BUHIA, B.Ed., Canadian University College (2003), is a teacher at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy, Calgary, Alta. She has been teaching for 10 years and is married to Uzzie Kirby Buhia. She enjoys cooking, travelling, hiking, photography, scrapbooking and spending time with her family.

Of her many memorable teaching experiences, Divina cited the struggle she had with a student who was deficient in social as well as academic skills. The student consumed her time, and for a while she wondered if she was getting through to him, especially in the area of social skills.

But she was surprised when during a Christmas party this student gave her a present that he had carefully wrapped with two metres of tape. Inside the gift box was a card that said, "Thank you, teacher" and three quarters. Divina said, "This little boy gave me all that he had to let me know that he was learning to love like Christ."

Divina wanted to become an elementary teacher because she wanted to be like her grandma, who was one of her first teachers. She chose to teach in an Adventist school because she loves sharing Jesus and praying with her students.



Divina Ladores Buhia

CONCLUSION: Speaking of teaching, Ellen G. White wrote, "It is the nicest work ever assumed by men and women" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 131). We share the concept that "he who co-operates with the divine purpose in imparting to the youth a knowledge of God, and molding the character into harmony with His, does a high and noble work" (*Education*, p. 19). These teachers, as well as others, are engaged in a high and noble work and must be commended for their insight, dedication, and outstanding work. ■



a heart of
selflessness



“... one of our primary goals as Christian parents is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in cultivating in our children the heart of Christ—a heart for people, a heart for mission, a heart for service ... a heart of selflessness.”

In 2004 I gave birth to our first child, Caitlin. The first few weeks, make that months, were a royal blur. But I distinctly remember one night. The house was still. My husband was asleep on the bed. Our precious preemie had just finished feeding and now lay peacefully in her crib. I remember standing over the crib, gazing at her face and staring at her tiny frame. I remember holding her itty-bitty hands and wondering what those hands would eventually do. I remember holding her teeny-weeny feet and wondering where those feet would eventually go. All of a sudden, an overwhelming sense of inadequacy and utter powerlessness came over me. How? How on earth do I raise this child the right way? How do I train her “in the way she should go?” (Prov. 22:6). How do I foster in her a deep love for Christ? How do I help her not stray away from Him? And then it happened. That prayer, that earnest plea, from a desperate parent’s heart. In the dead of the night, I called out to God and returned my girl to Him. Lord, please do whatever it takes to ensure that my girl gets to spend eternity with You. Whatever, Lord. Whatever. And please make me a willing participant of Your plan.

In 2008 I gave birth to our second child, Catherine. This time, my prayer was more purposeful from a determined parent’s heart. Lord, please do whatever it takes to ensure that my girl gets to spend eternity with You. Whatever, Lord. Whatever. And please make me a willing participant of Your plan. That prayer, simple as it may be, became the foundation of my, as well as my husband’s, parenting approach and philosophy in raising our

two girls. My husband and I delved into the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy and other Christian parenting material in search for help on how to “train up a child.” We listened to online sermons, attended seminars, participated in round-table discussions, observed families, and spoke to other parents and family mentors. In *The Adventist Home*, Ellen G. White says:

Parents and children should unite in offering loving service to Him who alone can keep human love pure and noble. (p. 19)

One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached. ... The father and mother find helpers in their children, who give to others the instruction received in the home. The neighborhood in which they live is helped, for in it they have become enriched for time and for eternity. The whole family is engaged in the service of the Master; and by their godly example, others are inspired to be faithful and true to God in dealing with His flock, His beautiful flock. (p. 32)

With us as parents and as Christians it rests to give our children right direction. They are to be carefully, wisely, tenderly guided into paths of Christlike ministry. We are under sacred covenant with God to rear our children for His service. To surround them with such influences as shall lead them to choose a life of service, and to give them the training needed, is our first duty. (p. 484)

Mrs. White continues to detail the family as a missionary center in Chapter 78, and it truly spoke to my heart. From all of these and more, one thing became abundantly clear: one of our primary goals as Christian parents is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in cultivating in our children the heart of Christ—a heart

for people, a heart for mission, a heart for service ... a heart of selflessness.

My husband and I became deeply convicted that we needed to be intentional in setting up our family to be missional. This led to a number of family decisions some might deem unconventional. While we discussed the idea of homeschooling even before Caitlin came along, we solidified our decision shortly thereafter partly so that we could be more flexible in our time and other resources for service activities. (The year Catherine was born, Caitlin attended College Park Elementary School for Junior Kindergarten. She has been homeschooled since then.) In 2009, instead of gifts for Catherine’s dedication and first birthday celebration, we collected specific gifts-in-kind that we donated to The Hospital for Sick Children. Hospital staff presented the girls with a certificate, gave our family a guided tour, and explained to us how and where our donated items will be put to use. In keeping with this direction of sharing their gifts, the girls set aside some of the items that they receive each year during their birthdays and Christmases and send those, along with other items purged from their closets and toy bins, to needy children in the Philippines.

Eventually, when Caitlin was seven and Catherine was four, my husband and I began to seek out more opportunities for the girls to serve. We looked at many outreach organizations, but we soon realized that there weren’t many opportunities where young children would be the main participants. By that time Caitlin and Catherine were already participating in retirement/nursing home visitations, Operation Kid-to-Kid during Vacation Bible School time, and Operation Christmas Child during Christmas time. But we wanted them to experience



(l. to r.) Chris Guarin-Adap with daughter Caitlin, a representative from SickKids Hospital, and Edsel Adap holding daughter Catherine.



Sandrine Adap (cousin), and Caitlin and Catherine Adap, visit Vaughan Fire & Rescue bringing Christmas treats for the firefighters working the Christmas holidays.

more service opportunities, and we knew we could do more, given our flexible homeschool schedule. So in May of 2012, our family launched what we dubbed “Homeschool Mission: Meal Deal.” The idea was to raise some funds so that we could put together brown bags to distribute to homeless people. We were able to raise \$250 in two weeks. We filled 50 brown bags with a large can of pasta, a fruit cup, a granola bar, a juice box, utensils, and two leaflets (“Does God Care?” and “What is a Seventh-day Adventist?”). Most of the brown bags were distributed by Caitlin and Catherine themselves in the downtown Toronto area.

“At first, I was nervous to meet the homeless people,” Caitlin said. “But then they were so nice and grateful, and I felt so sorry for them.” Many passersby noticed that it was the girls themselves doing the talking and the giving. One passerby acknowledged this and stopped to tell the girls that he wished more children would be involved in that kind of activity.

The remainder of the brown bags were kept in our vehicles and handed out to homeless people whom we encountered while on the road. Today Caitlin and Catherine cannot pass by a homeless person without noticing. They are quick to point them out. And when we can, we hand out granola bars that we keep in stock in our vehicles, or we stop at the closest food place and buy a meal for them.

Then in August 2012, we launched “Homeschool Mission: School Rules.” This time we wanted to put together school packets to give away to all the students of Camiling Adventist Multigrade School in the Philippines. We were able to raise \$800 in three months. We purchased some basic school supplies: pencil cases, geometry sets, crayons, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners and rulers. We also purchased some treats—oatmeal cookies, granola bars and fruit snacks. Caitlin and Catherine helped pack all the goodies into a large moving box that we sent to the Philippines ahead of us.

Meanwhile, Christmas rolled around once more, and my husband and I wanted to steer Caitlin and Catherine away from all the commercialism and materialism of the season. We wanted them to associate Christmas with giving instead of receiving. It just so happened that we had some funds left over from the previous two collections. So we added to it and purchased snacks and drinks. With the help of grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunts, the girls repackaged the treats into nearly 100 individual Christmas bags and distributed them on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to the firefighters in all the five fire stations of Oshawa and three of the fire stations in Vaughan. The firefighters were quite thrilled and reciprocated by letting the girls go inside the fire trucks, showing them some tools and gadgets, and also giving them goodies such as toy fire helmets, colouring books and stickers. We look forward to repeating this activity this year and hope to make it one of our family Christmas traditions to remind us



Caitlin and Catherine, along with their cousins, Enrique and Gabriella Guarin, packing school supplies and treats for students in the Philippines.

once more that Christ was born in order to give, not receive.

Finally, last February, our family followed the moving box to the Philippines, specifically to the municipality of Camiling in the province of Tarlac. We repackaged the school supplies and treats into 70 individual packets. On the day of the distribution, my cousin and her husband provided lunch for the students and staff of the school. Afterwards, Caitlin and Catherine, along with two of their cousins, gave away the school packets to the students. We hardly noticed the heat and our sweat. What we did notice were the squeals of delight and jumps of joy from the students. While taking group pictures with the students, we could hardly keep them still from all the excitement. All that commotion for such simple things, everyday things that many of us take for granted. We wished we had more to give. "Mommy, is that it? Finished already?" Catherine asked. It truly was the first time that the girls realized how

much they had and how little some children had.

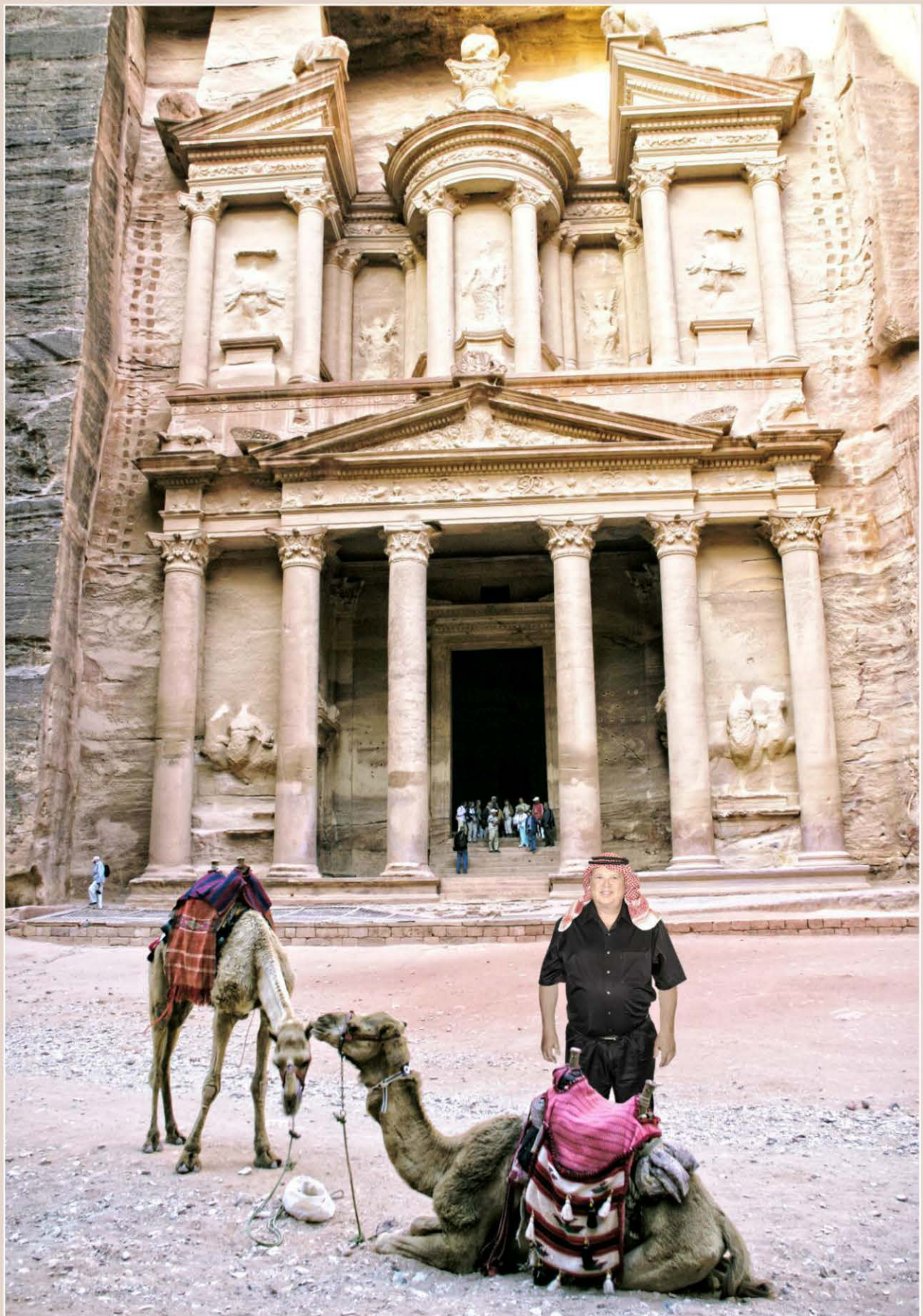
Our family, along with some members of our extended family, have been beyond blessed to witness the grateful smiles of homeless people, firefighters and school children. Our hearts are warmed and humbled by such experiences. Indeed, cliché as it may sound, it is better to give than to receive.

We are constantly on the lookout for service opportunities where young children can play a primary role. Currently, we are working on our next outreach, "Homeschool Mission: Neighbour Favour." Every Friday beginning October, we plan on making something homemade to give out that day. It could be a wreath to give to someone who just moved into the neighbourhood (we see the moving trucks). Or it could be an easy dish to give to someone who just gave birth (we see the stork signs). Or it could be a tray of simple treats to give to workers in a place of business in our area. Or it could

even be homemade cards with words of encouragement to give to random people on the street. Whatever it is, we would like our community to know that we care and that there is a God who loves.

My husband and I pray that Caitlin and Catherine continue to experience the joy of giving, that they delight in being channels of blessing and that they will consequently pursue a life of service. It is our prayer, too, that many more families will make outreach a priority and be purposeful in raising their families to be missional. Most importantly, we pray that through serving others, each of us will get a clearer picture of the Master Servant, fall deeply in love with Him, learn that life is not about self, and ultimately, allow ourselves to decrease so that He may increase (John 3:30). ■

Chris Guarin-Adap is homeschool mom to Caitlin, Grade 4, and Catherine. They live in Oshawa, Ontario.



THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DEAD SEA

Earlier this year I walked and rode through so many biblical towns many of us are familiar with in Israel: Jerusalem, Nazareth, Capernaum and Caesarea. During this experience, several times our group were on roads that allowed us to sneak a peek over or through a fence and view the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan (Jordan). It was so mysterious to me, the country that seemed to be Israel's enemy in the past, and it looked so peaceful and innocent.

This had not been my only time to walk in an area I have read about so many times in the Scriptures. I pondered what Jordan would be like; I could even see some of the Jordanian people going to and fro at times, just across the border.

A few months ago, I ran into some people from the Jordanian tourist board, and it turned out they were looking for religious editors and journalists to make an observation tour of what they called "the birthplace of Christianity." They had me at the word "free," and it took only a few seconds for me to make contact with them and offer my services.

I was even more pleased when I was sent an itinerary. Providentially, the last day before the long trip home was going to be a relaxing day at the Dead Sea and fell on the day of rest, Saturday.

Our first stop after we rested was Umm Qais. I had to Google that place. It was the place where Jesus cast the demons out of the men; in the Gospel accounts, the demons went into the pigs and the pigs jumped over the cliff. Wow—I was there, I saw the cliff. What an experience.

From there we went to Pella, a site that has been continuously occupied since Neolithic times and is the home of one of the earliest known Christian churches from the first century. Excavations have started to dig up the ruins, but it is a slow process.

Wednesday morning we had a new briefing with Father Nabil Haddad, founder and CEO of the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Centre. Haddad is a fascinating man, a powerful and influential advocate for religious liberty and freedom—freedom so people can keep their dignity of personal belief. I recorded a two-hour talk he gave that had my full attention. His opening words stated the he was Catholic but not Roman Catholic, that he was Orthodox but not ... and went on to explain that he was an Arab Christian. Haddad spoke of religious liberty terms we as Adventist are so familiar with. I have kept in touch with him since then.

From there we went to what is believed to be the baptismal site of Christ. As a result of some excavations, people discov-

ered the pillars of the church building that were put there to celebrate this event almost 2,000 years ago. It was in the place where the Jordan River used to be, a few kilometres from the site most people visit and in which some folks go to get baptized nowadays.

From there we drove to the place Moses had walked, Mount Nebo.

I was overwhelmed as I reread the first chapter of Deuteronomy:

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far



Stan Jensen with Nabil Haddad, founder and CEO of the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Centre.



Umm Qais, Jordan.

as Zoar. Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it." And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. (34:1-5, NIV)

I could see the sites that God had shown Moses. It is one of those moments, with silence all around you, that you just wanted to last forever. The "Be still and know that I am God" reverberated through my mind.

Next, we went to one of the seven wonders of the world, Petra. All along the walk down towards the Treasury, a site that I have seen in so many movies including Indiana Jones, we could see burial sites of years ago, hundreds of years ago. Our Muslim guide was very specific with his words, and they are words that harmonize with our Adventist thinking. He said the people here did not believe in reincarnation or that you go to a better life (heaven) or a worse life (hell) when you die; rather, he said they believed in the upcoming resurrection. Hmmm, we know something about that.

Our next stop was Wadi Rum. If you have seen the film or read the book *Lawrence of Arabia*, this will be familiar to you. It is possible to see the Red Sea

and the Saudi border from the top.

This is where the group of journalists, photojournalists and editors sat down as we watched the sun go down Friday evening. The reflection on the rocks was incredible; photos are nice but cannot capture the ambiance of that experience. One of the leaders of the tourism board had recently become an Adventist, and we spent a few moments together—how meaningful and momentous!

After sundown we had supper at an authentic Bedouin camp. The two people on either side of me, from our group, were also vegetarians. The food has to be experienced. The day-to-day lifestyles of the Bedouins are not that much different than when Christ walked among them.

On Friday evening we finally came to the Dead Sea, the view I had longed for since I was on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. This side seems more developed than the Israeli side, but the access to the Sea was not as good. I saw so many people trying to go in the water who simply could not get completely immersed.

What about the Jordanians? As I have remarked to some people already, I would describe Jordan as the Canada of the Middle East. One of our group members lost her suitcase going over, so she went



The Jordan River

to a store to purchase some clothing. When they found out why she needed to buy the clothes, they had compassion on her and discounted everything by 50 percent and gave her other things she would need during her stay. I needed an SD card for my camera and was willing to pay the advertised price; however, the storeowner graciously ended up offering it to me for less than half the price.

The *Messenger* is taking a group of over 40 people to Israel next year, and we have made arrangements for 10 of these individuals to extend the trip to see the sites I have just described. It is an excursion that can be cheaper than two weeks at Disneyland or some other destination. It is not a trip you would want to make every year, but it makes a good once-in-a-lifetime trip and experience. ■

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



Your gifts to ADRA are helping enterprising Haitians overcome adversity by providing the equipment and training for tailoring training, enabling them earn an income to support their families.

Haiti Earthquake Survivors Sew Up New Futures

Almost three years after a devastating earthquake, the people and industry of Haiti are still striving to recover. Your gifts to ADRA are helping an enterprising group of women overcome this adversity.

Casimir, her husband and two children lived on a little hill in Petit-Goâve, a coastal town in Haiti, located nearly 70 kilometres outside of Port-au-Prince. When tragedy struck their home, Casimir used all of the family savings to take care of her sick husband, who, she says, “meant everything” to her. When he passed away, Casimir was left with just her small house and a sewing machine. When we met her, she’d been a struggling widow for three years.

Casimir had courageously worked to adapt to her new life and find ways to make money to support her family. When a friend suggested she transform used clothing to make skirts for kids, she welcomed the idea with joy and quickly went to work on her sewing machine. While that provided a little income, she still struggled.

When ADRA introduced a sewing project in her community, she was anxious to join. She learned she would expand her tailoring skills to become a dressmaker, filling a need for skilled labour in the Haitian textile industry. Thankfully, her mother agreed to take care of her children so she could take the class. Today, she’s doing just what she dreamed!

Thank you for your gifts to ADRA, which provided the equipment and training for 108 women to participate in this tailoring training. Because of you, women like Casimir are now able to earn a secure income to support themselves and their families. ■

Michelle L. Oetman is the donor relations director for ADRA Canada.

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Parkview Profiles

"The spiritual aspect of PAA has been her favourite thing in high school."

Majoring in biology and minoring in biblical languages is not a usual pairing for a freshman student. Taking Hebrew as a

freshman is not usual. But Taylor Lakusta Wong is not your usual student. Having been active in high school on class executives, choir and mission trips, with piano lessons on the side, Taylor knows what it's like to stay busy. But she didn't let these "extras" sidetrack her from her academic studies.

Taylor graduated in the spring of 2013 as the valedictorian of Parkview Adventist Academy. With a three-year average of 98.1 percent, Taylor deserved to wear the golden cords and to address her classmates and their families. The speech she delivered showed the excellence with which she does all of her school work.

In reading her daily devotions she had come across Revelation 2:17, which says, "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it" (NIV).

It was on this text that Taylor based her speech. "In ancient times," she declared, "a white stone represented a pardon in a court of law, while a black stone denoted guilt." She pointed out that God has a purpose for everyone and that He forgives us of our transgressions and gives us a new identity. She then proceeded to give each classmate a white stone to show that this was a new beginning; anything in the past was just that, in the past, and this was the day to start anew.

This was not Taylor's first time speaking to a large crowd. One of the benefits of attending an Adventist school is getting an increased opportunity to speak to others. In Grade 10 Taylor joined Dauntless (PAA's traveling ministry group), and for the next three years she studied how to prepare and deliver sermons. Twice she was able to preach to the congregation in the College Heights church.



Taylor Lakusta Wong

Taylor says that her goals have dramatically changed since she started at PAA in 2010. When she began, she tried to seek peer approval, but in the last three years she has grown closer to Christ and is more interested in seeking His purpose for her life. Because of this she says she is more confident. The spiritual aspect of PAA has been her favourite thing in high school. She has appreciated the meaningful relationships that are grounded in Christ and being able to talk about God openly. Having godly mentors has helped her to build her relationship with God. ■

*Pattie Reasor Communications,
Parkview Adventist Academy*



An Open Arms Education

MY NAME IS CASIDY MARTENS. I am a 26-year-old graduate with a Bachelor of Elementary Education from Canadian Upon University College (CUC). The journey I have undertaken in order to achieve my goal has been one with many trials and tribulations. I began with two years at a local community college, then transferred to CUC. I attended four and a half years at CUC. I have spent many years studying, mostly because I changed my major a total of five times throughout my school career.

I was a non-Adventist who decided, after the first two years of education at a community college, that I needed to finish my degree. The only reason I chose CUC was because it was the closest school to my home where I could complete an education degree. I had no idea what the school was like. I didn't know that it was Seventh-day Adventist or that it served vegetarian food; that came as a bit of a shock, especially when my family knew but didn't tell me.

I walked into the school blindly, older than most students, living in the dorm, with no friends. The biggest shock was that upon my arrival, nearly everyone was saying hello. They were all so friendly and willing to help in any way they could. At my previous college, I was just a number among the crowd; here I was somebody, even to my professors.

Despite the friendliness of everyone, I still remained locked in my room like a hermit, unaccustomed to all the attention. It wasn't until my second year that I began to open up and make more friends than I had in my entire life altogether. I could still to this day walk back on campus with those people and have friendly conversations. Their welcoming me with open arms allowed me to embrace an open mind to Adventist ideas. I began to attend church and read the Bible. I had not done this

before. I was so limited in my prior knowledge.

I am not Adventist now, but my life has changed beyond anything I could imagine simply by having spent time in this environment. Embracing these ideas and concepts has given me more peace of mind and understanding. I feel like this is one of the significant reasons I was able to push through and actually graduate when there were so many mountains to climb.

During my second year at the end of the first semester, I had an unfortunate incident that put me in the hospital for about a week. It caused some brain damage and amnesia. My wonderful photogenic memory was nearly gone and school seemed impossible. The amnesia made it so I could not remember the six months leading up to the incident. I was forced to redo my second year.

As well, throughout my school career I was plagued with numerous illnesses and learned that I was bipolar. This caused so many absences and getting behind in classes that the threat of failing classes was imminent a number of times; but through it all, my professors seemed unbelievably understanding and caring. They were there for me and allowed me to continue. I do believe my advisor pushed me so that I would graduate no matter what and get out of the school!

But other issues were at hand, such as a lack of funding. I have never prayed as much as I did at this school, and it seemed that a miracle was around every corner, because there it was, a way for me to continue. I attest to this day, I would never attend a different school. ■

Casidy Martens is 26 years old and has a B.A. in Elementary Education.

I like to serve



Fabiane Campos and family.

Fabiane Campos is the mother of three children: Daniella, Stephanie and Nathalia. She is married to Roberto Campos and has been the student work supervisor at Kingsway College since 2011. During Fabiane's many trips up and down the halls, I captured her and asked a few questions relating to why she chose to work at Kingsway College and what motivates her to work with young people in a department that isn't always popular with teenagers—work!

Kingsway College: *What brought you to Kingsway College?*

Fabiane Campos: I have a friend that encouraged me to apply for the work supervisor job that had been posted.

KC: *What do you enjoy about Kingsway College?*

FC: I really enjoy working with students one on one and getting to know them individually. My favourite part of the work program is hosting students in my house during the summer months when the dorms are closed. I enjoy having them there and feeding them. When you get students in a home setting, they relax more and begin to act naturally, more like their true selves.

KC: *What other responsibilities do you have besides work supervisor?*

FC: I am the Grade 10 sponsor, Parent Association liaison and assistant girls' volleyball coach.

KC: *Why do you value Seventh-day Adventist Christian education?*

FC: I am a product of Adventist Christian education. I believe it is important because the school continues teaching the truths that students hopefully began learning in the home and at church. Students learn about God and our beliefs as Seventh-day Adventist Christians. The school helps develop their desire to serve the Lord no matter what career path they take.

KC: *You are such a positive person. What is it that helps you keep smiling even when things are difficult?*

FC: I believe that in everything you do, you have to take what is best from the situation. Bad things will happen everywhere, but you have to ask yourself, What are the good things that I am going to learn from this situation?

KC: *What do you think the work program at Kingsway is teaching the students?*

FC: I feel the work program helps students develop responsibility. They learn how to be on time and how to take pride in a job well done. These are attributes they will need to be successful adults. In short, I feel it prepares them. You are never too young to begin learning good work habits.

The motto at Kingsway College is "Service, Not Fame." Fabiane is a perfect fit for the school because when I asked her if she enjoys working at Kingsway, she told me simply, "I like working at Kingsway because I like to serve." ■

Remy Guenin is the enrolment services director at Kingsway College.

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Alberta

Exploring Prayer: Youth Prayer Night

On Sept. 7, 2013, the Red Willow youth and young Adults of St. Albert, Alta., had their first prayer night, and what a blessing it was! They had been inspired to hold a prayer night after Edmonton held two such prayer nights that turned out to be a huge blessing.

The evening began at about 5 p.m., with two of the youth leading Sabbath worship. We welcomed the assistant Alberta Conference youth director, David Benjamin, to speak to us on the topic of campus ministry. He encouraged us to make a difference in the lives of our classmates. The gospel commission calls us to spread the gospel to every nation, and one of the best places to do that is on a university campus. The University of Alberta alone in 2010 had some 140 nations represented on campus. If we spread the gospel to these people, it will reach their nations, because most often, they return to their nations when they are finished their degree. David also blessed us with a special music on his trumpet, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus." And that was, in fact, the goal of our prayer night: to turn our eyes upon Jesus and focus the next six hours on Him.

We had six different prayer cycles throughout the evening, all the way up to midnight. We tried many different activities and ways of communicating to our Creator. The first cycle included an obstacle course in which one person was blindfolded and the other was leading, reminding us to always make Jesus our Best Friend and let Him lead. We need to walk with God just as Enoch walked with God (see Gen. 5:24). We spent time in prayer focusing on making Jesus our



Best Friend.

After, we wrote letters to missionaries from Adventist Frontier Missions and focused on global mission. During our prayer time, we discussed in small groups the challenges that these missionary families may face and prayed for those challenges.

In the next cycle, we focused on supplication and confession. For confession we wrote our sins and struggles on a piece of paper with markers and afterwards put them into a big jar of water, representing the ocean and what God does with our sins when we confess them. We are promised that when we give our sins to God, He casts them into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19). To demonstrate supplication, we wrote our requests on balloons and sent them into the air. We can't see our prayer requests going to God, but by faith we know they reach Him!

The fourth activity was a rope in the shape of a circle, which was demonstrated to us earlier by Bill Spangler. Blindfolded individuals were instructed to go inside the circle and find the exit without

speaking. If they could not, they were instructed to raise their hand in order to receive help. There was no exit in this course because the key to get out was to ask for help. How often we go in circles and hit rock-bottom before we call out to God for help, but He is always willing to hear us when we cry (see Ps. 18:6). Our pride and independence often get in the way, because we want to figure it all out!

The second-to-last cycle was a gender split in which each gender had time to discuss and issue specific to themselves and pray.

Finally, we ended the evening with an ACTS prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication) in small groups.

We plan on doing three prayer nights next year, and I look forward to every one of them. The discussions, activities, bonding and time spent with God was a huge blessing, and I encourage you to plan something like this in your church! ■

—Michelle Sevcik,
Edmonton, Alta.

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

The Ministry of Messiah's Mansion



The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference had the opportunity to bring Messiah's Mansion to our three major cities: Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg. The measure of excitement was high in each community as the semi-truck and trailer pulled in. Local church volunteers along with the Messiah's Mansion team then began the process of unloading the many items needed to recreate the Old Testament sanctuary as described in Exodus. As the setup itself took place, volunteers were able to not only witness the magnificent structure as it came together, but also almost step back in time and experience what it may have been like to set up God's home.

Once the sanctuary was fully erected and each item in place, local pastors and volunteers helped facilitate the many groups that toured through each day. Over the course of a week from 1 to 7 p.m., groups of up to 30 would be guided every 15 minutes through the biblical sanctuary. Each group would begin in the introduction tent, where general information was given, including the history of the sanctuary from the time of the Exodus through to the time of Christ. They would then move into the courtyard to view the altar of burnt offering and the washbasin.

Subsequently, the courtyard groups

would go to the holy place and witness the lampstand, table of showbread and the altar of incense. The most anticipated portion of the tour inside the sanctuary was the most holy place, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. The conclusion of the tour ended in a tent designed to allow tour guides to wrap up how the sanctuary is as important to us today as it was in Bible times. There was time for questions and a closing survey to help the churches in the community reach and contact people who wanted to know more.

It was from the survey tent that the local churches and the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference were able to see the real results of this wonderful ministry. Regina had almost 1,900 people attend with over 450 people showing interest in either individual or group Bible studies. There was also significant interest shown in children and youth programs, schools, health ministries and depression recovery. Saskatoon also enjoyed having 1,800 attendees, with 250 people showing interest in the above-mentioned categories, and Winnipeg, who had 1,750 people attend, gathered 450 interests. This works out to a total of nearly 5,500 people learning about the sanctuary through tours and almost 1,200 people showing interest in learning more about God and His unfailing love.

When the week was completed and the volunteers had helped place the final items back in the trailer, each community was left to review the surveys and determine how best to reach each person. Large events in the secular world—whether in sports, arts or politics—involve months of planning and a sense of strong anticipation as the event is about to begin; however, after the event finishes, often a feeling of sadness or disappointment sets in because it is all over. In the Seventh-day Adventist community, the end of an event is often just the beginning. It is after an evangelistic series, or campmeeting that follow-up and change begin.

Messiah's Mansion is no different. The work is just beginning; in each community there are many people who are reaching out to understand more about God's plan of salvation, and they need follow-up. The sanctuary is where God dwelled with His people, and as Christians we look forward to that day when we will all enter God's kingdom to dwell with Him forever. Let us continue the work so we can soon join our Saviour for eternity. ■

—Shad Lehmann, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference Communications director

Ontario

6th Annual Ladies' Day Out

Guest Speaker: Justice of the Peace Avis M. Rodney



Avis M. Rodney, Justice of the Peace; Ruthann MacDonald; and Tina Sartoretto, mayor of Cobalt, Ontario.

It was a high day when 60 ladies gathered together for the sixth annual Ladies' Day Out, held at the Cobalt Golden Age Club. The venue was eloquently decorated in the theme of autumn, and co-ordinator Ruthann MacDonald has a flare for attracting all the ladies of the area with her loving smile and contagious spirit. Lorene Heisler and Pansie Brown (of St. Thomas) and Bennie Roesel (of Tennessee), and the Haileybury Women's Ministry Department supported the event. Hostess Carol Sartoretto met and greeted the ladies as they arrived and also were welcomed by Jenny Weins and Leona Selman. Many photos were gathered and taken by Debra Mallais.

The Cobalt mayor, Tina Sartoretto, welcomed and praised all the efforts of

the "Seventh-day Ladies" Haileybury women's ministry department. A delicious homemade vegetarian meal was presented and received by all who were present. Guest speaker Justice of the Peace Avis Rodney presented the fascinating topic of distinguished women of the Bible, and Marg Harrison, of Cobalt, gave us a timely opportunity to get up and stretch and told us to remember how important it is to have flexibility and practice deep breathing. The second presentation from Justice Rodney was a humorous topic of dealing with the in-laws. Both messages were well-received by all those in attendance!

No Ladies' Day Out would be complete without music. Bennie Roesel, Heather Borean and Debra Mallais each sang a song and played either piano or

guitar. The spirit of sisterhood was evident to all, and many embraces and smiles were to be seen. The community is looking forward to 2014.

Tina Nichol, former Cobalt resident, presented a small endnote to highlight what it means to be a volunteer, and she read from an article she penned on Ruthann MacDonald's love of community and care for all. Ruthann MacDonald was awarded the 2013 Senior of the Year (Cobalt, Ont.) by her peers. The farewell was given in form of song with the Lee family singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again!" ■

—Ruthann MacDonald,
Women's Ministries
Department,
Haileybury Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Vacation Bible School *Fun* at Richmond Hill Church

Vacation Bible Fun (VBF) leader Julie Broughton raises her voice a little and says, “God created the universe!” “WOW!” shout out all the children and VBF volunteers.

Why all this excitement? Because you’re at Day 1 of the “Investigation Station: The Genesis Factor” Vacation Bible Fun program, where kids investigate God’s Word!

From July 22-26 the Richmond Hill church ran a morning (9 a.m. to noon) VBF program culminating in a VBF Sabbath worship service on July 27, 2013. Each weekday a new theme from the book of Genesis was introduced, covering Creation, the Sabbath, the Fall, the Flood and new beginnings. What a joy it was to be able to use Seventh-day Adventist materials (Review and Herald Publishing)! We had a staff of 16 volunteers. The number of children attending increased through the week until we had 22 on Friday.

Each day began and ended with an opening and closing station in the sanctuary, learning action songs like “Our Creator God Can,” “Jesus, You’re the Best Friend of All” and “What a Mighty God We Serve.” The question of the day was given by clients of Lead Investigator Sam and sidekick Alex. The children, with their group leaders, took



Top: Putting stickers on their Junior Investigator Journals.



Bottom: Museum “Area 66” with curators Pastor Josué and Natasha.

their Junior Investigator Journals to the various stations around the church to pick up clues to answer the Genesis question of the day. The stations were “Area 66” (Bible story skit by museum curators Hannah and Rashid), “Action Sector” (outdoor games), “Break Room” (snack time), “The Big Three” video (Creation nature video) and “Make It Yours” (craft time).

On the last day of VBF, the children

were given their “Investigation Station” T-shirts and asked to wear them the next day for the VBF Sabbath service, during which they sang their action songs and recited their memorized Bible verses for the church congregation, who were richly blessed by the service. One of the children asked, “Can we do this again next week?” ■

—James Anderson, pastor,
Richmond Hill Seventh-day
Adventist Church

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of Sept. 30, 2013, there are 448 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,496,744. There are 75 loans with a value of \$20,121,108.

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

SDA Church in Canada

VOAR Impacting Lives—Coast to Coast



Martin shares a hug with his son, Paul Ploughman.

*It didn't make sense
that he was hearing a
Newfoundland Christian
station all the way in BC.
He knew God must be
reaching out to Him.*

VOAR is a powerful tool you can use to reach your neighbors, friends and maybe even someone you dearly love. The story of Paul Ploughman and his dad, Martin, general contractors from Armstrong, BC shows how VOAR is impacting lives for Christ.

Martin showed up one morning, looking like he wanted to talk. He said, "There's this radio station, and the sermons, and things that are on there, I just need it." Martin broke down as he explained to Paul all about this radio station that he was listening to in his new truck. "It comes from Newfoundland, there's no way I can get reception from there!" It didn't make sense that he was hearing a Newfoundland Christian station all the way in BC. He knew God must be reaching out to Him.

Paul explained to his dad that he was listening to VOAR a Christian radio station that was being rebroadcast from a tower set up in their community by the local Adventist church which he attends. Martin tried hard to hold back the tears talking to his son about the difference VOAR was making in his life, and how much it has touched his heart. Paul is thrilled that VOAR drew him and his dad together and made it easier to talk more openly about the Lord. Their relationship is stronger and Martin's knowledge of our Saviour is growing as he continues to listen to VOAR and now also attends prayer meeting. Praise the Lord!

VOAR would love to hear how Christ is using our station to impact your life or the life of someone you hold dear. We'd love to feature your story in a future article of the *Messenger* so that more people can see how Christ is using VOAR to make a difference. Phone us (toll free) 888-740-8627 or email voar@voar.org. We thank you for your prayers and support. ■


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



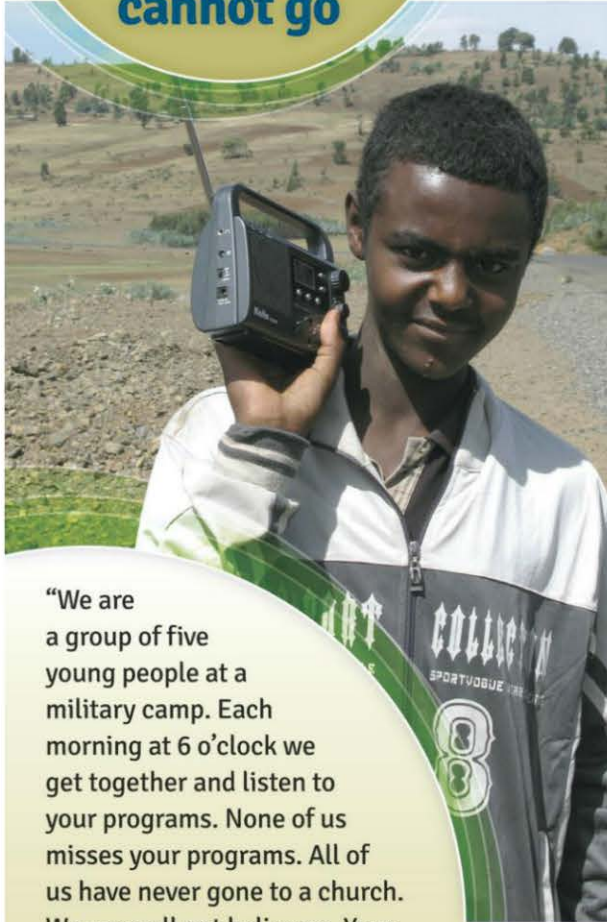
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PROCESS:

- 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.
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■ Announcements

The Edmonton Central church is looking for the following missing members: Amy Paddock, May Patrick, Gail Pawly, Luc Pesant, Dean Peters, Wilfred Petersen, Lyn Pretty, Glen Quaghebeur, Roger Quaghebeur, Yvonne Quaghebeur, Rebecca Ramonal, Jocelan Ramsay, Lagarija Remza, Susan Retzer, Cindy Ritchot, Mark Ritchot, Marlene Ritchot, Guillermo Rohuede, Lucille Rolfes, Kathy Romaniw, Mary Rowland, Delores Rubuliak, Fidele Rugaba, Carolin Samson, Kelly Samson, Alex Sandare, Alvira Sanders, Karen Schultz, Irma Schwab, Willie Severight, Eleanor Silverguil, William Smallwood, ERison Sousan, Eleanor Speidal, Pennie Steede-Abd, Martha Strat, Trevor Stross, George Strutz, Leona Tabler, Marie Tailleir, Col Tear, Bot Luk Tung, Carmen Unruh, Juanita Valleramos, Cindy Van De Weghe, David Van De Weghe, Jennifer Wang, Robert Warwick, Patricia Watson, Larry Whitehead, Alexander Ziniewicz, Alice Ziniewicz, Oman Zoman. If you have information on how any of them can be reached, please contact Bob Hymanyk, head deacon, 780/662-2615, rhymanyk@aol.com.

■ Births

Alexander Mathias Sintich was born on Aug. 4, 2013, to Adrian and Heather Sintich, of Armstrong, B.C.

Greyson Cole was born on June 20, 2013, to Heather and Jason Chiakowsky, of Loma Linda, Calif.

■ Anniversaries

Wayne and Connie Mills of Langley, B.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 22,



2013, with a recommitment ceremony at the Peace Arch. The original wedding took place at this location, beneath the Peace Arch in 1963. The groom's brother, Tony, from Australia was the best man. The bride's sister, Jo Park, was the matron of honour. The ceremony was officiated by Pastor Frank McMiller. The Mills have two children: Tiffany (Bob) Mills and Alicia (Irwin) Maier. They have three grandchildren.

Don and Edna Gadd of Lacombe, Alta., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Jan. 21, 2013. The



couple have four children: Ronald Brian, Cheryl Ann, Darla Joann and Sandra Mae. They have 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 21 great-great-grandchildren.

■ New Members

ALBERTA

Evelina and Eduard Schwarz were baptized in Foothills Camp, Alta., on July 20, 2013, by Ron Henderson. They are now both members of the Lacombe community church.

■ Obituaries

Kurtis Greg Adams was born on Aug. 22, 1996, in Hazelton, B.C., and died June 16, 2013. Kurtis will be missed for his beautiful smile and hugs to his family. He drowned while swimming with friends in Seelay lake near Hazelton, B.C. Kurtis loved to cook, fish, hang out with his friends, and do things to shock his mother. He had a big heart for children, and his little cousins were very special to him. He was loved by many. He is survived by his father, Doug; mother, Nadeen; brother, Justin of Red Deer, Alta.; half-brother, Tyler Montgomery; sisters, Katrina of Nanaimo, B.C., and Tammy of Hazelton, B.C.; and half-sister, Samantha Montgomery.

Roy Curtis was born on Sept. 11, 1919, in Bay Roberts, N.L., and died June 6, 2013, in Oshawa, Ont. Roy was a member of the College Park church for over 70 years. He served as deacon, Sabbath school leader and teacher (juniors and earlteens), and volunteered with ADRA Community Services. Roy is predeceased by his brother, Archie Curtis, and sister Winnie Fedusenko. Surviving: his wife, Ellen (Dunn); son, Clifford; daughters, Elaine Sittlinger, Mary Lou Toop, Sheila Hill and Sandra Palinka; sister Violet Prouty; 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Artin Doukmetzian was born on June 3, 1921, in Afion Kara Hissar, Turkey, and died June 7, 2013, in Richmond Hill, Ont. Artin was a faithful member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout his whole life. He was also very active in the Hellenic ministry of the North American Division. Artin's love for God and Bible truths was evident in every aspect of his life and was an inspiration to many. He is survived by his wife, Susan; son, Karnik (Loida) of Silver Spring, Md.; daughters, Rose (Bryan) Rosa of Oshawa, Ont., and Linda (Mark) Di Luca of Richmond Hill, Ont.; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Hillmen Maurice Holm was born on July 3, 1918, in Saskatchewan and died July 30, 2013, in Kelowna, B.C. Hillmen served as an elder in both the Regina, Sask., and Penticton,

B.C., Seventh-day Adventist churches. As the personal ministries leader in the Penticton church, he was tireless in soliciting funds for ADRA Canada. In 2008, ADRA recognized Hillmen and Jean for over 25 years of steady ingathering. He was also a supporter of Adventist education. Hillmen is predeceased by his wife, Jean, son Howard, daughter Myrene (John) Kartik of Cochrane, Alta., and sister, Genevieve (Henry) Barker of Saskatoon, Sask. Surviving: son Clifford (Mazel) of Battleford, Sask., and daughter Marjorie (John) Wright of Kelowna, B.C.; 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Steve Olynick was born on May 5, 1926, in Clair, Sask., and died April 22, 2013, in Saskatoon, Sask. Steve was dedicated to his God and his church. He served as a deacon for many years. Steve is predeceased by his brothers, Mike (Ann), John (Christine), Bill (Mary), Metro (Helen) and Nick (Laverne); and his sisters, Mary (Walter) Humenny, Haffia (Walter) Romaniuk, Polly (Paul) Uniat, Molly (Jim) Nycholat, Annie (Metro) Liss, Helen (Mike) Tatarchuk and Katie (Mike) Skoretz. Surviving: wife, Helen; sons, Murray (Joan) of Saskatoon, Sask., Edwin (Brit) of Williams Lake, B.C., and Kenneth of Saskatoon, Sask.; daughter, Evelyn Figiel of Edmonton, Alta.; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Muriel (née Jennings) Pulsifer was born on June 27, 1925, in Halifax, N.S., and died July 9, 2013, in Halifax, N.S. Muriel played the piano in her younger years and taught primary class for a number of years. She is predeceased by her husband, Earl, and daughter, Jane Brown. Surviving: sons, Randy, Sandy, Tim and Terry; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Lydia (née Albrecht) Weis was born on July 4, 1915, in Leader, Sask., and died March 8, 2013, in Walla Walla, Wash. Lydia served as a deaconess in various churches and was involved in the ingathering program. She is predeceased by her husband, Ben, and daughter Audrey. Surviving: daughters Darlyn of Idaho, and Yvonne of California; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

■ Tribute

George Mcknight Frazer (1931-2013)

George Mcknight Frazer was born on June 18, 1931, in Banbridge, Northern Ireland. He was known for his loving, kind nature and gentle

humour conveyed with his characteristic, lilting accent.

George sadly passed away at home in Dorset in the arms of his wife, Alysse, on Aug. 16, 2013, after a long decline in health. His funeral was conducted by the Rev. Fraser Smith, a local Methodist minister and friend, at the Poole Crematorium Chapel on Aug. 29. The minister told of how he had asked George on his last visit about the books on his study shelves and had inquired which book George would reread if he could. Without hesitation, George had replied, "The Bible," and had commented that the psalms were his favourite book.

In his address Rev. Smith spoke of how George had touched the lives of family and friends and how he looked forward to eternity, when he would be reunited with them. George's faith was firm to the end, and his belief in God's "Amazing Grace" was echoed by the strains of the bagpipes as the piper played that hymn during the processional and recessional to the service.

George is survived by his wife, Alysse (née Wombold), and his children, Simon and Karen, and their families. George and Alysse had wanted the traditional Gaelic blessing to be read at his funeral, and it seems a fitting end to this tribute to a man who was much loved and will be greatly missed.

*May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the rain shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again, may God
hold you in the palm of His hand.*

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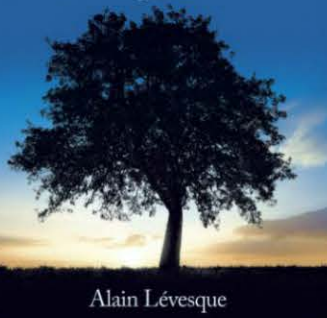
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Save a life: Kidney donor urgently needed. Our sister has kidney failure and is in need of a kidney urgently. We are hoping and praying God will bless our sister with a donor. Please contact Beryl Nicol at Kidneydonor2012@yahoo.ca, or 604/946-1174. (12/13)

Idea To Reach—3 days of inspiration, training and relaxation for evangelists, pastors and lay evangelists and conference administrators. Southern Union Evangelism Council 2013. Presenters include Ted N. C. Wilson, Ron Smith, Ron Clouzet and Ron Halvorsen. December 2-5, Daytona Beach, Fla. More information: www.southernunion.com/evangelism, 407/257-6847, or suevangelism@southernunion.com. (11/13)

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from the editor

Numbers and Trends

I have always enjoyed viewing the news and checking the front pages of newspapers from around the world every day. Along with this comes my interest in looking at numbers and trends.

On Adventistdirectory.org you can find all kinds of interesting statistics from around the world. The most recent updated year is 2010.

I thought it would be interesting to compare the number of church members and pastors with the population in the provinces where they serve.

	one Adventist per	church members per pastor
British Columbia	416	215
Alberta	365	286
Manitoba-Saskatchewan	672	181
Ontario	448	224
Quebec	1,318	250
Maritimes	1,123	182
Newfoundland	763	112

The province with the most Adventist members per population has often been Alberta, one Adventist for every 365 citizens in their province; however, this is partly thanks to the location of our Canadian Adventist University College.

Quebec has the fewest Adventists per capita but is one of the fastest growing conferences in Canada.

The Maritimes and Newfoundland are next; however, their members are one of their greatest exports. All across Canada you will find many members from these conferences in churches.

Thought you might find this interesting.■

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

PS: Call up your cable provider this week, and ask them if they have the Hope Channel available yet.

THIS MONTH WE FOUND A SPECIAL TREAT. One item in this column features some Canadians who took a trip to Zambia to engage in mission work. Also, we found not only an article about mission work overseas but also a few articles about evangelistic work being done right here in Canada, showing that our own country is also a mission field.

Canadian Workers In Zambia

Rusangu Secondary School in Zambia, one of the largest boarding schools run by the church in the world, with 560 secondary pupils is privileged to have on its staff five Canadians. The school takes pupils from Grade seven and in five years prepares them for the Senior Matriculation exams from Cambridge University. Rusangu Mission was founded in 1905 by W. H. Anderson who journeyed up from Solusi Mission. The secondary school began in 1960 but it moved from the old mission to the new site in 1966. The first Matriculation class wrote its exams in November 1970.

Miss Florence Moline, a graduate of CUC and a teacher at CUC 1937-1948 and at Solusi College 1952-1966, is the oldest member of the staff and has taught at Rusangu longer than any other teacher. She is the head of the Mathematics Department and is the chief examiner in Mathematics in the local region for the Ministry of Education.

Victor Chant who graduated from Kingsway College in 1965 and Atlantic Union College 1968, has been at Rusangu since 1968 and is teaching in the Mathematics Department. He is the deputy examiner in Mathematics in the local region for the Ministry of Education. He is also the Registrar. Mr. Chant's parents, the Maurice Chants, live in Oshawa. His wife, Ruth, is the daughter of H. C. Currie, the president of the Zambesi Union. They have two children, Carl nearly three, and Vivienne seven months. The Chants will be on furlough from April to September 1972 and are planning on travelling extensively in Canada during this time.

Floyd Petersen, CUC 1966, although a U.S. citizen, considers Canada his home. He immigrated in 1962 along with his sister and family, the Fritz Wirtzs of Kelowna, B.C. He is married to Eileen Perepelitza (Perry) CUC 1961 and Branson Hospital School of Nursing 1964. He is teaching Physical Science and is head of the Science Department. He is the deputy chief examiner for Science in the country of Zambia and the Chief examiner in the local region for the Ministry of Education. They have two daughters, LuCindy three and a half years, and Sharlane four months. Mrs. Petersen's parents, the Alec Perrys, live in Rutland, B.C.

Ian Cheeseman, Kingsway College 1958 and 1960, taught at Lower Gwelo College and Inyazura Secondary School in Rhodesia for four years before coming to Rusangu. Since being here he has

taught English and this year Geography. He became the Centre Librarian in October 1969 and the Boys' Dean in April 1971. His wife, Dorothy Irene nee Grange, CUC 1960 and Branson Hospital School of Nursing 1963 has been school nurse since arriving at Lower Gwelo in January 1965. They have two children, Lorena Lyn 7 years and Jeffrey 5 years. They are returning to Canada in August and he will be teaching at Kingsway College this coming school year. Mr. Cheeseman's parents, the Howard Cheeseman's, live in Oshawa and Mrs. Cheeseman's parents, the Norman Granges, live in Lacombe, Alberta.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr. and Mrs. Victor Chant and children; Mr. and Mrs. Ian Cheeseman and children; Miss Florence Moline; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Petersen and children.

This article features such a dedicated group of Canadian missionaries. Some of these names may be familiar to you. (vol. XLI, no. 14, July 15, 1972)

Student Missionaries to Yellowknife

Two Canadian Union College students were chosen to go to Yellowknife this summer as student missionaries. Chosen were Leslie Widdicombe and Dan Erickson, both college level students. Leslie, whose home is Gull Lake, Alberta, is a first-year college student who is studying to take Bible work. Dan, whose home is Williams Lake, B.C., is also a first-year college student taking a religion major. Both students have been very active this past year in activities around the campus, particularly in helping the theology students in holding Branch Sabbath Schools and church services in small communities around the province. Also they have helped in other ACT team projects and have been real assets around the dormitories.

Their plans are to leave approximately July 1st for Yellowknife, NWT where they will be helping the pastor with his visitation program, Vacation Bible Schools and Bible studies. Leslie and Dan both enjoy singing and playing their guitars and believe that music is a source of inspiration. They enjoy using their talents for the Lord and will be a blessing to the Yellowknife work. Let's join together in prayer for Leslie and Dan as they use their time and talents for the Lord in the Yellowknife Mission this summer.



Leslie Widdicombe and Dan Erickson, student missionaries to Yellowknife, NWT mission.

You will find this story about these student missionaries in the July 15, 1972, issue of the *Canadian Union Messenger*.

Evangelism In Ontario and Quebec

Mission '72 is only half over but even now we have much for which to thank our heavenly Father.

More tracts have been given out; more Bible studies given; more public campaigns held in the first six months of this year than ever in the history of our work. Has it brought results?

Yes. In looking over the reports for our field, I came across these interesting facts: Just twice in the history of our work in the Conference have we baptized 400 or more in a year. Just four times have we baptized 300 or more—BUT during the FIRST SIX MONTHS of 1972 we have baptized over 350. Surely we can praise the Lord for this. (Ps. 107:8).

What about the last six months of Mission '72? During this period we will

hold four large city campaigns plus many decision meetings in our local churches. All of our departments are gearing their programs to get our people out to where the people are. Our literature evangelists are searching for the jewels in the masses of humanity—in fact, many of our pastors report that a large number of their best contacts came from the literature evangelist in their district. With such a spirit of unity and co-operation by all of God's people we are expecting to baptize more than 700 souls before the year is out.

We solicit the prayers of God's people. However, we need your help! We need the names of your relatives and friends living anywhere in Ontario or Quebec. Our meetings start in the latter part of September, so please send the names and addresses immediately to:

L. G. Lowe, Ministerial Secretary
Box 520
Oshawa, Ontario

This article highlights mission activities that were conducted in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. (vol. XLI, no. 14, July 15, 1972)

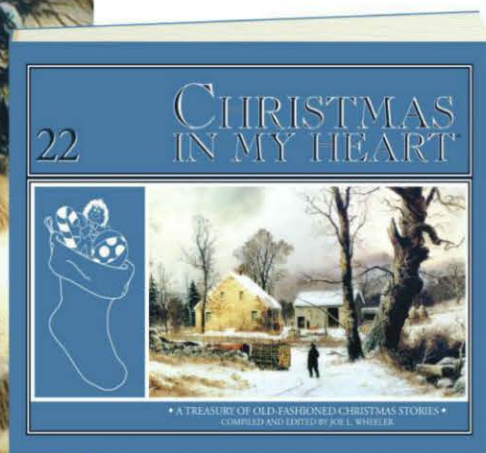
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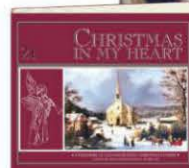
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