

A young girl with dark skin and hair, wearing a denim dress and a pink backpack, stands on a paved path with a grassy area and a road in the background. She is smiling at the camera. The magazine title 'Messenger' is written in a large, black, cursive font across the top. The words 'canadian adventist' are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font to the left of the title. The date 'January 2014' is written in a small, black, sans-serif font to the right of the title.

canadian adventist

# Messenger

January 2014

a Special Gift  
in the  
**Heart  
of a Child**

**PLUS** Prepare to be Amazed (p. 5)  
NEW—Barry's Blog (p. 19)  
Coming Home (p. 20)

PM40069337



“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”

—Isa. 26:3, ESV



## Texting and Trust

Winter and the New Year are special to me. In much of Canada the snow and colder temperatures bring the end of one cycle of life and the start of a new one outdoors. It is a time of new beginnings.

My father found this to be a good time to reflect on the past year and plan for the new. Dad's priorities involved many areas of life, but his main focus was on spirituality. I've found this to be a valuable exercise for me as well.

Lately, I've been thinking about changes I need to make. One in particular stands out, and perhaps you can relate to this too.

I love the Bible. It holds important truths for me. We call them doctrines, and for a Christian like you or me, they form boundaries and rules for living. Living as a Christian brings satisfaction unobtainable in any other way.

The Bible also speaks of my relationship with God. It says He will provide for me, that He will protect me and that I can call out to Him whenever I am afraid or need help. He has promised to hear me and answer me.

However, we live today in a culture of impatience. Texting and mobile phones have conditioned us to demand responses now. But trust makes me willing to wait for God's response. That's easy to say but sometimes so hard to practice.

That leads me to one of Dad's favorite texts: "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock" (Isa. 26:3, 4, ESV).

I need more of that trust. I need to practice waiting on Jesus. And just as Isaiah says, trusting God, even when I'm waiting, brings peace. In 2014 I want to trust Christ more and, be more willing for Him to set my schedule and agenda.

How about you? ■

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

## Messenger

January 2014 Vol. 83 No. 1

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# CANADIAN ADVENTIST MESSENGER

# ISRAEL TOUR

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

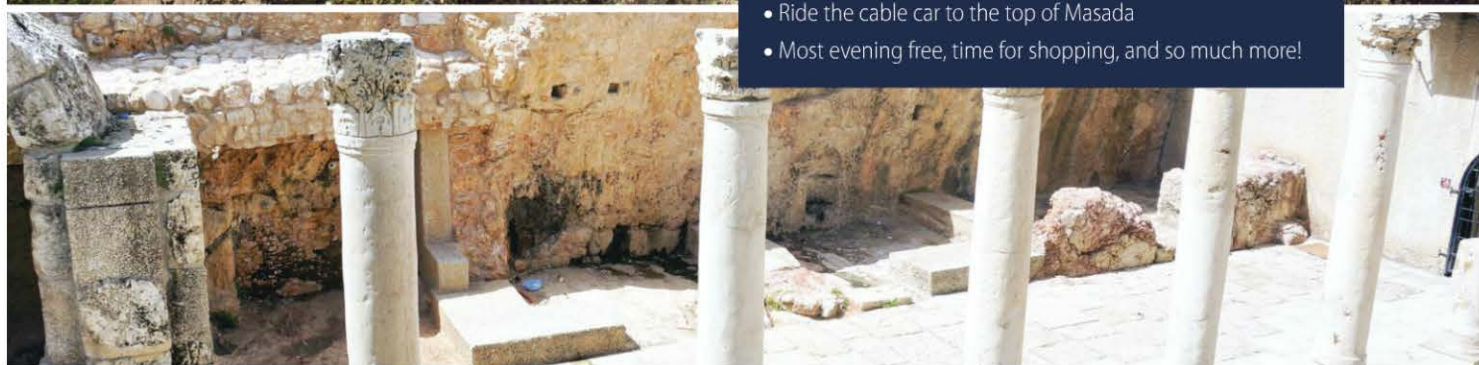
<http://bit.ly/zJslyU>

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](mailto:jensen.stan@adventist.ca)) for trip details.**



# Prepare to be Amazed

It is amazing what Jesus has done  
and continues to do with His creation.

**W**hen my wife and I moved to Oshawa in 2004, I took note of the city signs that read, "Welcome to Oshawa—Prepare to be Amazed!" And yes, some things have been amazing.

The common definition for the word amaze is "to affect with great wonder" or "to astonish." The King James Version uses the word amazed 21 times; the New International Version, 42 times. People were amazed at what Jesus did: "And immediately he [the man Jesus healed] arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, we never saw it on this fashion" (Mark 2:12, KJV).

It is amazing what Jesus has done and continues to do with His creation. Planet Earth has a mass of 6,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 kilograms. I thought a pail of dirt was heavy. I am just amazed at the smooth ride the Lord is giving us as we hurtle through space on this very heavy rock at a speed 30 times faster than a bullet. Imagine sitting on a bullet if you could, and then speeding it up 30 times! The earth is also spinning 1,000 miles per hour at the equator. It is amazing that our houses and cars are where we left them, given all of that motion and speed. But the Lord thought of everything and invented gravity, an amazing, quantified but unexplained force that holds everything in place, including the billions of cubic kilometres of raging oceans.

I am amazed at the things we can enjoy when we work together as a community. God put us in families and in communities. We have the privilege of being members of the Adventist church community. We work and donate together to enjoy the benefits of church fellowship and outreach to those in our communities. Thank you for your generous donations to your local Adventist churches and ministries. At the same time we each hold membership in several other communities, for example in your local urban area, province, and the

country of Canada.

In Matthew 22:21 Jesus told his wily questioners that it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. Generally, people don't like paying taxes. We try to minimize our tax liabilities by using the legally allowed deductions. But by pooling our tax resources, as a nation we enjoy far more in benefits than we could ever pay for as individuals.

According to the Fraser Institute's Canadian Tax Simulator, in 2012 the average Canadian family earned an income of \$74,113 and paid total taxes equaling \$31,615. Using today's dollars, over a period of 80 years that average family would pay \$2.5 million in taxes. What services or infrastructure could they buy with that \$2.5 million if they were on their own? A mile of two-lane highway built where building is easy costs about \$3.5 million. Therefore, a lifetime of taxes wouldn't even pay for one mile of highway. However, because we all cooperatively pay taxes, you and I can drive throughout Canada on the vast network of excellent roads, receive top-notch police and fire protection, and so much more. Should we be badly injured in a car accident, three telephone buttons pushed (9-1-1) will bring all the resources of the country to scoop us off the highway, fly us in a \$10 million helicopter to a medical centre staffed with those who have spent their lives studying how to put us back together again. It is an amazing community we live in.

God created us for fellowship and cooperation. Enjoy your amazing church community. Appreciate your amazing civic community. Someday soon we will see Jesus and be part of that larger community of the family of God throughout His amazing universe. ■

*John Ramsay is vice-president of finance for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.*





# teen talk

**Q:** I watch porn on my iPad pretty much every day. I've tried to stop many times, but I always get back to it after a few days. What can I do?

**A:** Trash your iPad! Nah, that wouldn't solve the problem at all. If you are hooked on porn, you'd find a way to consume it in any way possible: your smartphone, laptop, TV and soon your refrigerator (yep, there are net-ready fridges with LCDs). You can't trash all those things!

Now, we could venture into a bunch of guilt-inducing strategies. You know, like remembering that adultery can be committed in your mind or acknowledging the fact that many of the actors in the pornography industry are sexually abused on and off the set, etc. But you already know that—and it's obviously not working.

Let's try another approach. I call it "fight by proxy." You see, the problem is not the addiction to porn but the alienation of Jesus. In other words, if the Holy Spirit is convincing you of sin, then the closer you are to Jesus (thus, proxy), the weaker the temptation becomes. If you focus on fighting porn, your chances are slim. However, if you shift your attention to Jesus, then

you're a winner. Filling your mind with what is true, honourable, right, pure, lovely and admirable won't leave much room for dubious activities.

Oh, by the way, this goes beyond porn. You can apply the "fight by proxy" strategy to many other scenarios. There you go; we just killed two birds with one stone!



Do you have a question for Pastor Josué Sánchez? Email it to [messenger@adventist.ca](mailto:messenger@adventist.ca).



# creation corner for kids

*"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down,  
and the feeble knees."—Hebrews 12:12*

## Brown-headed Cowbird

Cowbirds don't build their own nests, but lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, often warblers. Some warblers hatch the cowbird eggs, but few warbler chicks survive because the cowbird babies are larger and louder than the warbler chicks and end up getting more food. Other warblers push the cowbird eggs out of the nest. What usually happens then is the cowbird comes back and breaks the warbler's eggs.

Sometimes the warbler just builds another nest on top of the one the cowbird laid its egg in. A warbler might have to rebuild its nest six or seven times before the cowbird finally gets tired and stops laying eggs in the nest. Eventually, though, the warbler can raise its family without more trouble.

### Think about it.

It would never do for a warbler to be discouraged. If the warbler gave up and just quit trying, there would be no new warblers to fill the forests with song. It would never do for a Christian to become discouraged either. Jesus has work for you to do, and you must not give up when Satan makes things difficult for you. If you want to live and work for Jesus, remember the warbler. With God's help, just keep working.

### Do it!

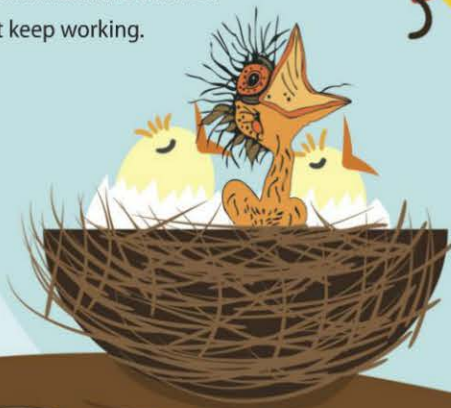
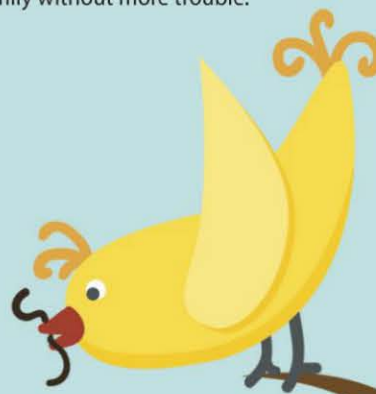
In your Bible, mark Jeremiah 32:17. Then memorize it. Learn more about brown-headed cowbirds at [www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com](http://www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com).

Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation.

You can contact her at [tammie.burak@gmail.com](mailto:tammie.burak@gmail.com) or follow her blog at [www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca](http://www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca).



January 2014





# Community at School and Work



Justine working on a ropes course while a student at CUC.

**ADVENTUROUS.** That is the best way to describe the Outward Pursuits program at CUC. The students not only participate in adventure but also learn how to bring it to others in a variety of ways. The Outward Pursuits department combines years of experience in a unique academic and experiential program. The Outward Pursuits program develops strong theoretical and experiential knowledge in the academic disciplines of outdoor adventure activities, leadership, behavioural science and psychology. It focuses on application of knowledge gained through research, experience, course work, practicums and service.

Whether it's canoeing, portaging, rock climbing, mountaineering or administering first aid, a student in Canadian University College's Outward Pursuits department always keeps busy in some sort of adventurous manner. For Justine Link, a recent Outward Pursuits Adventure-Based Counseling graduate, hanging 30 or more feet above ground on a ropes course is fun and doesn't at all feel like classwork.

Justine Link graduated in April of 2013 with her Bachelor of Arts in Adventure-Based Counseling. Shortly after graduation, Link began working at the YMCA of greater Seattle as a challenge course facilitator. Using her Outward Pursuits training, Justine works with various groups on a ropes challenge course to facilitate teambuilding and adventure programming. The transition from university to the work world has been seamless as she falls back on her training and love for the job.

"I get to play! Because I completed a degree that was something that I absolutely loved, working is like going to the playground every day. Some days are better than others. Some days you might have to belay someone down (from the ropes course) and run an emergency action plan. That said, I was always someone who created the program for participants. I liked to watch them discover and learn. I believe in experiential learning as a great avenue for self-discovery, and it is great to watch groups of all ages learning about themselves," says Justine.

A great deal of Justine's university experience at CUC was physical activity training hands-on in all the areas that will help them motivate and grow individuals and teams. Outward Pursuits students take all the knowledge they gain in the classroom and regularly take them off campus and experience the theory firsthand. Spending so much time in small groups problem solving creates a very supportive community within the program. For Justine, being able to fall back on these experiences with her fellow classmates has made the base of her outreach that much stronger.

"I learned a ton [at CUC]. There is a running joke in Outward Pursuits about how we think everyone should take an OP class or two. It's all about realizing your potential. Most people go through life feeling less than worthwhile; in our department we had to prove to ourselves over and over again that we could accomplish our goals. After I graduated, I was sometimes kicked to the curb, but because I had been in the classes that pushed me, I knew that I would have to get back on my own two feet. Persistence is key," stresses Justine.

Whether it is working with young children to help them overcome their fear of heights or facilitating a group to build more teamwork, Justine is using her love of adventure she honed at CUC's Outward Pursuits program to help them discover their best self. The inspiration she gained from her fellow classmates and professors has pushed her through her university career and continues to drive her in her professional life. Even though Justine misses the community she built at CUC, it fuels her to create the same environment wherever she might be. "As I talk with my siblings and my family, I learned that I was better off at CUC and its nurturing environment. Because of its size, CUC can help students with their more individual needs, which makes it more like a community." ■

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



# The Story of Mrs. Postrero

The white minivan containing the ADRA emergency response team pulled to the side of the road just outside a small barangay in the Philippines. The ADRA personnel quickly piled out to conduct a rapid assessment, interviewing people and taking photos.

Sitting alongside the road was a young family: father, mother, and their three-year-old son. Even without seeing the ruins of their home, it was abundantly clear that something horrible had happened to the family. They carried a kind of emptiness.

Their home lay in ruins behind them. Before the typhoon, it was a simple, wooden building. Now nothing remained but a small clearing littered with debris.

As the ADRA staff talked with the family, another woman joined the conversation: "It's so hard, it's so hard! Life has been so hard this year!" She explained that they had nothing, that the typhoon took everything, that there was nothing to eat.

The woman continued: "Look at my sister, she is an elderly lady, she has lost everything, she has no income, she needs help." There she was: helpless, quiet, Mrs. Postrero.

Because of the generous donations of ADRA supporters across Canada, Mrs. Postrero no longer faces such a bleak future. In fact, thousands of people in her situation have been given food, water, shelter, and medical care.



**Just like Mrs. Postrero, this lady from northern Cebu lost everything she owned to Typhoon Haiyan.**

As part of the ADRA network, as a partner with other organizations, and on its own, ADRA Canada has responded vigorously to Typhoon Haiyan. We are honored to be your partners in giving food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, and shelter to those with none.

Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matt. 25:40). Thank you for helping Mrs. Postrero in the Philippines! ■

*Fritz Neuberg, member of the ADRA response team, as relayed by Ryan Wallace, communication specialist at ADRA Canada.*

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# Where Are They Now



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

*Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.*

**Messenger:** *What was your childhood like?*

**Frank McMiller:** I was really fortunate to grow up in rural Saskatchewan. My folks were grain farmers and very avid gardeners, so that will tell you that they taught me the responsibility of helping to pitch in with chores. I didn't always like it then, but it was good discipline.

**M:** Where did you study?

**F:** After graduating from high school, I was planning on going into radio work at the University of Saskatchewan, but my folks had become new Adventists, and they said that they would pay for my first year at Canadian University College (CUC).

CUC transformed my life. I was converted in my first year during a week of prayer and was baptized. The first year I was there, I had taken all industrial arts courses, but I decided to enter theology. God brought me into the company of good professors and students, who were so endearing in my life, and it radically changed me.

**M:** *You were involved in some quartet singing? How did you get involved with this?*

**F:** My mother sang in the United Church choir and taught me harmony at a very early age. I loved the King's Heralds

quartet. This is how I would become involved in quartet singing in college and throughout my life. I delayed school for a year in order to go out and try to earn some money so I could launch a quartet. Our group sang all that year and put out 20,000 miles in one school year driving.

**M:** *Tell us about the literature evangelism work that you did.*

**F:** Literature evangelism (LE) was something that was strongly advocated in our conference in the early days of my education. During several summers while in school, I got into LE work. LE work is such a powerful influence in a person's life, because you are establishing early foundations for pastoral ministry. It is powerful in helping you to learn how to meet people at the door. I am really strong now in being able to approach perfect strangers and engaging them in conversation. I trace it all the way back to my early start in ministry through LE work.

**M:** *What places have you served in Canada?*

**F:** I was called to Belleville, Ont., for my first pastoral district. After four years at Belleville, I was asked to go to Winnipeg to pastor two churches there: Silver Heights and West Park. I spent two years there. In Saskatchewan I pastored three churches in a very large district, for another four years.

In the fall of 1994, I accepted a call to enter the B.C. conference to manage communications and health ministries.

Later I dropped communications and served with health ministries and ADRA community services.

**M:** *What was the vision that propelled you to launch CHIP?*

**F:** I realized long ago that the right arm of the message was the way to get into the hearts and homes of people, so I set out to inspire our church members to catch the meaning and the action of what Ellen White said in medical missionary so long ago: "I wish to tell you brethren, that soon there will be no work done in ministerial life, except medical missionary work."

That was my torch, so we inspired people in the pews into a position of leadership. In B.C. we were able to witness over 50 percent of our churches getting trained and licensed to host the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) in their communities. That's unheard of in a conference, and it set the pace for North America. We helped sponsor five world CHIP summits in a row. People are hungry for the truth, and I'm not shy to share it.

**M:** *Where are you now?*

**F:** I live in Abbotsford, B.C.

God has blessed me with three kids, two of which have found good mates and have established good homes. I was always there for every important thing that my kids have done. I still go out preaching in churches, and I am staying active in church. ■



# Sam's Will Question



The first of the "Wills" seminar series was about to start. "What happens if I die without a will?" asked Sam.

The Planned Giving director walked toward Sam. "We'll get to that right away," said the director. "The main problem is losing control of the assets you worked so hard for all your life."

After introductions, the director moved to the front of the room and started his presentation:

## Dying Without a Will—Dying Intestate

- Your estate may have to wait months to have an executor appointed—and it may turn out to be a person you would not have chosen.
- The province or territory you live in controls who gets what in your estate distribution.
- If you have not named a guardian for your minor children, you have no control as to whom they will live with, and there could be a custody battle.
- You lose the opportunity to make charitable donations or to do tax planning through your will.
- Your estate may have to pay fees.

"But everyone knows what I want," Sam spoke again. "Money to my wife, farm to my older son, and not much to my younger son—because I paid a fortune for his med school."

"You should visit your lawyer," the director smiled. "I'm fairly certain you would not be agreeable to the intestate rules<sup>1</sup> in your province."

By the end of the seminar, Sam was convinced that he did not want to be one of over 50 percent of Canadian adults who do not have a signed will. ■

<sup>1</sup> You may search online for "Dying without a will" or "Dying intestate" for your province or territory, but for up-to-date information, be sure to contact your lawyer.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE  
ROAD WITH

Becky AT THE SCARBOROUGH  
FILIPINO CHURCH IN ONTARIO.

*January is the month for a new start.  
What do you want to do this year?*

**Fe Reithel:** I want to be a good representative and ambassador for God. I want to be a servant and really share God at work with my patients. I hope to plant seeds in people's minds about God, and I long to be a missionary for God all the time, anywhere I go.

**Christine Alberastine:** I am one of the youth elders at Scarborough Filipino. I had shared a personal testimony during Thanksgiving regarding the issue of purity and how the Lord Jesus has saved and redeemed me of past sins and how He has been renewing my mind and heart.

The Holy Spirit has impressed me to start a purity seminar ministry, in which I can educate young men and women about purity and waiting for marriage. My goal for this year is to teach young people of God's saving grace and His desire to have young people commit their lives to maintaining a pure life and using their season of singleness as an opportunity for growth and service in the Lord. It's called "Purity Project." It's worth the wait!



*A pair of new heels is one way disadvantaged women are getting back on their feet in the workplace.*

# Dress for Success

## Giving Disadvantaged Women in Canada a Start



A Better World Vice-Chair Lane Chesko of Dress for Success

A pair of new heels is one way disadvantaged women are getting back on their feet in the workplace. They're also receiving a network of support and career development tools, thanks to a Central Alberta organization known as Dress for Success.

Founded in New York City in 1997, this international not-for-profit group offers services designed to help clients find jobs and remain employed. Each client receives one outfit when she has a job interview and can return for additional outfits when she finds work.

Dagmar Hargreaves, an employment counsellor in Red Deer, saw a need to help women in this way, so she, along with Arlana Tanner of Red Deer, co-founded Dress for Success. Operations began in October 2008.

Gently used and new clothing, shoes, jewelry and accessories are donated to the Dress for Success boutique. It's located in the same building where Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World Canada, runs a business.

A Better World Canada, governed by College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe, Alta., aims to better the lives of disadvantaged women around the world, including within Central Alberta.

"I was contacted by Cindy [Wright] from A Better World, and she asked, 'What do you absolutely need?'" said Hargreaves. "I said I need a vacuum cleaner, a steamer, and some paper and ink for our photocopier."

A Better World donated these items to Dress for Success; since then ABW has been promoting this as one of the local projects they support. The community-run board was elated.

"We actually found a lot of it on sale, so we had a little extra to buy other things," said Hargreaves.

Hargreaves said she'd like to work more with A Better World in the future. "I think our mandates are very parallel—we work with disadvantaged individuals," said Hargreaves.

Potential clients of Dress for Success must be involved in an employment program, and they must have a job interview to go to. On average, the Red Deer location is supporting 15 to 20 women per month.

Meeting financial obligations continues to be a struggle. Dress for Success in Red Deer hopes to soon become a registered charity so it can acquire long-term funding.

The Red Deer boutique is aiming to open two and a half days per week so that donations can be dropped off more easily and clients can come in for suitings. Volunteers run the shop.

"I truly believe that if women are given the tools, they will thrive," said Hargreaves. Many of the clients are single mothers. It's a rewarding experience for everyone involved. "I always say there are more tears cried in our boutique and they are always tears of happiness," said Hargreaves. ■

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

>> To support this program, please contact [erajah@abwcanada.org](mailto:erajah@abwcanada.org). <<



# Community-Based Seminars

The beginning of the new year is always filled with hope. The majority of Canadians, 68 percent, made a New Year's resolution in 2012. How can the local church support people in the community with their goals and dreams?

As you begin to think about reaching the needs of your neighbourhood, I encourage you take a slightly different approach. Instead of doing what Adventists have done over and over again, take a deeper look at what your neighbourhood trends are. How can your church serve the needs of your local community? Here are a couple ideas to whet your appetite.

## NEW IPAD CLASS

Do you know someone who will be receiving an iPad for Christmas? Is that person a senior citizen? Many senior parents and grandparents are getting "wired" so they can connect with their family members who live far away.

As older people crave to stay in touch, the high-tech options continue to grow. In A Pew study found that "as of April 2012, 53 percent of American adults aged 65 and older use the Internet or email," a significant increase over recent years.<sup>1</sup>

In January and February 2014, my church will offer free classes on how to use your iPad. We will publicize the course at senior centres. During this two-hour class, the instructor will teach the students how to (1) turn the iPad on/off, (2) download and update applications, (3) set up an existing email account, and (4) download and use Skype and Face time. The class will be limited to 10 students so they can receive one-to-one attention.

## CREATING A HOME BUDGET SEMINAR

Unfortunately, most Canadians are grossly in debt. A Royal Bank of Canada study found that "the average level of personal debt in Canada rose 21 percent this year to \$15,910."<sup>2</sup> Consumer debt can create anxiety and high stress for individuals.<sup>3</sup>

How can the local church help the local community fight debt? Perhaps the greatest gift is to educate families on how to create a budget and live by it. Last month at my church, we offered a home budget seminar taught by a professional financial planner. Our goal was to keep the registration limit to 25 people. At the end, we had over 40 people attend the class. This proved to be a topic many people need help with.<sup>4</sup> This January we will offer the same class to our neighbouring community. ■

*Dr. Kumar Dixit is the pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Christian World. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.*

- 68** Percentage of Canadians who made a resolution for 2012
- 31** Percentage of Canadian women who regularly make New Year's resolutions
- 23** Percentage of Canadian men who regularly make New Year's resolutions

## Length of time Canadians kept their New Year's resolutions in 2011:

- 19% Less than 24 hours
- 15% One week
- 52% One month
- 19% The whole year

## Fast Facts

### Top 10 New Year's resolutions

1. Lose weight
2. Stop smoking
3. Stick to a budget
4. Save more money
5. Find a better job
6. Become more organized
7. Exercise more
8. Be more patient at work/with others
9. Eat better
10. Become a better person

Taken from "New Year's Resolutions By the Numbers," Toronto Star, January 1, 2013, [www.thestar.com/news/world/2013/01/01/new\\_years\\_resolutions\\_by\\_the\\_numbers.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2013/01/01/new_years_resolutions_by_the_numbers.html).

<sup>1</sup> Kathryn Zickuhr and Mary Madden, "Older Adults and Internet Use," June 6, 2012, Pew Research Centre, <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2012/Older-adults-and-internet-use.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> "Canadian Consumer Debt Up 21%, RBC Survey Says," October 29, 2013, CBC News, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canadian-consumer-debt-levels-up-21-rbc-survey-shows-1.2287364>.

<sup>3</sup> Read the following WebMD article on the effects of debt stress: Jennifer Soong, "The Debt-Stress Connection," WebMD, <http://www.webmd.com/balance/features/the-debt-stress-connection>.

<sup>4</sup> I recently taught a series called "Money Myths: Helping People Learn What the Bible Teaches About Wealth and Finances." You can download the sermons at [oakridgeadventist.ca](http://oakridgeadventist.ca).





## GIVE ME YOUR EYES



Words by God —2 Corinthians 5:14-20, NIV

I heard a message that really touched my heart in the way I see others. I think often our insecurities and perceptions dictate how we relate to those around us —people walking down the street, friends, homeless people, people who sit a few pews down from you at church. We see them but don't stop to think, What does Jesus see when He looks at them? Does He see the outward appearance, their clothes, the expression on their faces, what they just did or didn't do? Probably, but He sees their heart.

An image came to mind so vividly as I sat and listened: Jesus was leaning over touching a lady on the shoulder as if He was asking to sit beside her. He looked at her with such love and absolute value in her answer that this image stayed with me all day.

I know Jesus loves everyone, but I experience only the relationship I have with Him, not what others experience. As I looked around, it hit me that He is as real to them as He is to me. Jesus loves them with the same incredible head-over-heels love He shows me every day. He sits with them and walks with them and spends every living moment with them just as He does with me. He knows their hurts and disappointments and knows what brings them joy. The question that arose in my heart is What does He see when He looks at the person next to me or the person down the street? He sees His child. His dearly loved and died-for child. Jesus sees the heart. He sees beyond the

perceptions, masks, the things that hold us back from looking beyond ourselves, to a person who is sincerely and totally wanted and loved by God.

I want to love people as Jesus does, to just stop amid the craziness of life and consider what someone else is going through. To let go of the perceptions we often place on ourselves and others and simply ask Jesus to show us the value He sees. Let Jesus' love compel you to take a moment in your day to let Him use you just to offer a listening ear or to smile and greet someone who looks sad, or in whatever way He shows you. We often don't realize the impact we have on the lives of those around us. Do you remember the last face that smiled at you when you were passing by? The person who opened the door for you at a coffee shop? Someone who greeted you enthusiastically and made you feel glad to be there? We were made to love and be loved; we're wired to live in community. To laugh, cry, pray, and encourage one another. So ask yourself this week, "What does Jesus see?" I think it will change the way we see others and maybe even ourselves. God's love does amazing things! ■

### 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*



refresh with Tia



Watch "Give Me Your Eyes," by Brandon Heath on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/8NbXaT>







# review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

app review

**App:** iGiveSDA

**In Brief:** This app displays the offering schedule for the North American Division (NAD), along with a suggested reading for each week for the church to use or adapt for their offering appeal. Note: the Canadian offering calendar has minor variations from the NAD calendar, so not all offerings are the same. The iOS app also offers a tithe and offering calculator so you can figure out how much to return in tithe and give in offerings based on the personal giving plan, or on your own percentages.

**Wow Factor:** Offering schedule with available readings for churches to use.

**Meh Factor:** Tithe and offering calculator only available on iOS.

**Developed for:** North American Division Stewardship

**Price:** Free

**Works on:** Android, iOS

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



To suggest an app for review,  
email [messenger@adventist.ca](mailto:messenger@adventist.ca).

## United Prayer

*Should we not unite in prayer that breakthroughs will come so that God's cause can be strengthened?*

In October 2013, my wife and I stood beside a portion of the Berlin Wall that still stands—it is there only as a monument and no longer as a barrier. My mind went back to a prayer experience in the mid-1980s when I read of Christians praying for a breakthrough in reaching people in communist countries. I joined that prayer emphasis in my personal prayer to help break down barriers to the advance of Christ's kingdom.

When the wall fell on November 9, 1989, many looked to the influence of political leaders as key to this breakthrough, and they were indeed significant. However, what many people don't realize is that hundreds of thousands of prayer warriors were part of that victory. In fact, in East Germany alone it is reported that 1 million intercessors were praying for freedom during October 1989. Prayer indeed was a vital factor in the changed political climate in Europe.

Today there are many barriers to the advance of the gospel. Should we not unite in prayer that breakthroughs will come so that God's cause can be strengthened? These words should inspire us: "In every church there should be stated seasons for united prayer for the advancement of this work. Let all be united, having a specific object for their faith and entreaties."<sup>1</sup> May we be encouraged to have united prayer in every church to help overthrow Satan's strongholds and gain victories for Christ. ■

*Juan Carlos Atencio is the prayer ministries coordinator for the Quebec Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*

<sup>1</sup> Ellen G. White, *Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 294, as quoted in *Praying for Rain*, by General Conference Ministerial Association (Seventh-day Adventist Church), p. 4., <http://cdn.ministerialassociation.org/docs/Praying%20For%20Rain%201.01%5Bfinal%5D.pdf>. Booklet can be accessed at [www.revivalandreformation.org](http://www.revivalandreformation.org).





# Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

*Gloria was one of the first people I met back in 1988, when I became the Oshawa Adventist Book Centre (ABC) manager. Our family friendship has been delightful over the years. Gloria used her friendliness and skills to make my children feel at home in Oshawa and remains one of their most favourite people. Gloria's husband, Sam ("The Moving Man"), is among the most well-known church employees in Canada.*

Photo: Keith Chant



Gloria and Sam Greer

**EDITOR:** *Tell us a bit about yourself and your family.*

**GLORIA:** I grew up in a little place in the country called Garnett Settlement on the outskirts of Saint John, N.B. I was blessed with wonderful parents, Blanche and Harvey Flewelling (both deceased), three fantastic sisters, Star, Dorothy and Roseanna, and two awesome brothers, Harvey Jr and Brad.

As time went on, a wonderful man by the name of Sam Greer came into my life whom I fell in love with and married two years later. We were blessed with three amazing children, Sam Jr, who resides in Tennessee, Trevor (Tracy) in Calgary, Alta., and Tanya in Oshawa, Ont. That blessing grew on to nine beautiful grandchildren: Alysia, Annie, Samantha, Trevor, Hannah, Jorden, Tanner, Jarod and Jackson and a precious little great granddaughter,

Shiloh (Dolly). God is so good. I truly love and adore all these people in my life.

**EDITOR:** *You have not always been an Adventist. How did the change come about?*

**GLORIA:** No, I grew up as a Christian belonging to the Garnett Settlement Christian Church. My mom saw to it that I went to Sunday school and church every week, for which I am very grateful. She set that pattern in my life. I fell in love with the Lord as a very young girl.

Sam's mother was a Seventh-day Adventist, so Sam grew up in that environment. He was a good person when I met him, but he wasn't attending church on a regular basis. When we dated, we discussed the Bible frequently. I could see that his church meant a lot to him.

About two years after we were married, we moved to Oshawa, Ont., as Sam got a job working for the College Woodwork. We didn't have a chance to come beforehand to choose a place to live, so his sister and brother-in-law (Alvena and Earl Dunhill) invited us to stay with them. What a blessing they were to me! They showed so much love and understanding. They were wonderful Christian role models. They kept the Sabbath so beautifully, always had worship, and on Sabbath we would go bird-watching and enjoy the beautiful nature that God gave us. I was brought up to respect my elders, so I was really keeping Saturday and Sunday as my Sabbath. I wouldn't do anything on their Sabbath to offend them. They didn't preach to me, which I appreciated, but they left books around the house, and one day I picked up the book called *The Marked Bible*; what an amazing book! Reading this book was my first step into the Adventist Church. With Alvena and Earl's guidance and Bible studies with dear friends Lyle and Marion Smith, I became a Seventh-day Adventist. Sam and I were both baptized a short time after, and our son was dedicated as well.

**EDITOR:** *What were your first impressions of the Church, as a new Adventist?*

**GLORIA:** I loved the church. The people welcomed me with open arms. I felt at home, and that is how you should feel when you come to church.

**EDITOR:** *Are you the only Adventist in your family? What is this experience like for you?*

**GLORIA:** Yes, I am the only one. It was different at first for sure, but my family respects me for who I am, and our relationship didn't change. If I were in their home on Sabbath, they would turn their music and TV off. At family gatherings, they always made sure there was food that my family would enjoy. As for me, I am fortunate, as most of my siblings believe in God and love Him too.

**EDITOR:** *How long have you worked at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC)?*

**GLORIA:** Around 18 years for the SDACC, but 27 years for the Church as a whole.

**EDITOR:** *What other Adventist institutions have you worked for?*

**GLORIA:** I have worked at the Adventist Book Centre (ABC) and the Ontario Conference. At the conference, I served as an accounting clerk and secretary. Throughout the years, I have worked under auditing with Richard Novlesky, youth ministries with Frankie Lazarus, Pioneer Apartments and transportation with Howard Karst, the revolving fund with George Clarke, Public Affairs and

Religious Liberty (PARL) with Brian Lee, and children's and women's ministries with Jean Parchment. At the ABC I have worked with John Kartik and Stan Jensen. I have also worked with Milt Perkins.

**EDITOR:** *Are there any aspects of previous jobs that you miss?*

**GLORIA:** Not really; I have enjoyed all my jobs—I have worked with amazing directors.

**EDITOR:** *How did you first start working at the SDACC?*

**GLORIA:** I applied for the secretary position for Gencon Adventist Risk Management Canada, and after the interview they contacted me, asking me to join them.

**EDITOR:** *What are your day-to-day functions at the SDACC?*

**GLORIA:** I work for Health Benefits, where I process the claims for the employees and their eligible family members across Canada. I process the monthly billing for the entities on the Plan and I design the layout for the HBA newsletter. I also have the enjoyment of meeting the employees over the telephone when they call in for assistance. I feel I have the best job in the office building, and I am and have been so blessed to work with such wonderful co-workers, such as Juanita Longman, Barb Janes, Almyra Hodder and Lori Dooks.

**EDITOR:** *What do you enjoy the most about your job?*

**GLORIA:** My job for sure, but I love the atmosphere here. It is very warm—God's love shines in all who work here. Granted, we are not all perfect all the time and we have good days and bad days, but we are here for one another, and that makes it special. It is home away from home.

**EDITOR:** *What is your advice for those who have gone through a similar situation, as the only Seventh-day Adventist member in one's family?*

**GLORIA:** Just be yourself, let God's love shine through you to your family. Actions speak louder than words sometimes. Pray for them on a daily basis.

**EDITOR:** *Do you have a favourite Bible text of encouragement that you would be willing to share with others?*

**GLORIA:** Yes, Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Regardless of whether things are good or bad, I know I can trust in God to get me through. He has been my strength throughout the years. ■

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



# IMPACT

## South Africa

*This is truly Nelson Mandela's land, as his name appears everywhere—street names, schools, gardens—and it is pronounced with so much pride and reverence.*

**T**his past summer a delegation of 39 participants from all over Canada had the opportunity to travel to South Africa for the World Conference on Youth and Community Service sponsored by the General Conference Youth Ministries Department. Great was our wonder when we landed in this majestic land. The beauty of the flora and fauna are nearly indescribable.

This is truly Nelson Mandela's land, as his name appears everywhere—street names, schools, gardens—and it is pronounced with so much pride and reverence. Our Canadian group joined forces with over 3,200 other Seventh-day Adventist youth from all over the world with a mandate to "Impact South Africa for Jesus."

During the first phase of our stay (July 1–5), thousands of youth invaded major cities engaging in community service projects such as orphanage visitation and improvements, construction, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, school developments, community beautification projects, health expos, sports training and evangelism. Throughout this first week, each participant had the privilege of sharing the warmth of the lovely host families and getting a better understanding of their history and struggles.

We had the pleasure of spending some time sightseeing, which included the famous Table Mountain Top, a moving visit of Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robben Island, as well as Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope. Our week ended with the gathering of hundreds of volunteers stationed in Cape Town



worshipping together, as well as exchanging many warm and tearful goodbyes.

The second phase (July 8–13) brought all Impact South Africa delegates to Pretoria, where we had the opportunity to be equipped for a better service in church global development through small groups, discipleship, focused mission training and worship. We then celebrated joyfully what had been achieved through the youth in the various service and outreach projects to the glory of our Lord and Saviour.

On the last Sabbath, the church service was held at a local soccer stadium. All the attendees were joined by an even larger number of local worshippers and guests. In the afternoon, all delegates were loaded onto buses and sent out all over Pretoria to meet the local people and distribute over 20,000 copies of the

book *The Great Hope*, which is an abridged format of Ellen G. White's book *The Great Controversy*. The conference as a whole was a spiritually uplifting experience for all who were present. For many diverse cultures and nations to be able to worship together as one was truly a glimpse and foretaste of what heaven would be like.

We left our new friends in South Africa in a society whose wounds are still healing. There is hope for the future because of the legacy of a man of faith and determination whose story has impacted the whole world, but also because there is love and reconciliation. ■

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*Philippe Martin is 26 years old  
and a teacher at Deer lake  
Seventh-day Adventist School in B.C.*

*Clarissa Nolasco is a young adult nurse  
in Quebec who has a passion for service.*



## barry's blog

Can religious  
beliefs be put on hold?

# Only a little pork in the soup

Loyola, a private high school in Montreal, is being forced not to teach according to its Catholic convictions when it teaches the Quebec government's Ethics and Religious Culture course (ERC). The Quebec Court of Appeal appeared to suggest that Loyola need not be concerned, because it has the rest of the week to teach the Catholic faith outside of the ERC. "That would be like telling an observant Jew or a Muslim not to worry, because there is only a little bit of pork in the soup," wrote Loyola's lawyer in his submission to the Supreme Court of Canada.<sup>1</sup>

You may have noticed that Quebec has been a cauldron of angst recently about all matters religious. The current debate over the Charter of Values<sup>2</sup> is forming a dynamic backdrop to Loyola's opposition to the government's imposition of the ERC as it is now preparing to have its case heard in Ottawa.

The school does not object to the ERC goals (recognition of others and pursuit of the common good by teaching students

the principles and values of respecting others, democracy and building a common public culture that takes diversity into account). However, when the school asked for an exemption to the ERC and the right to use its own curriculum instead, the government said no because the school's approach was faith-based rather than a "cultural" approach. In cross-examination government officials agreed that during the course a Catholic teacher could not favour one moral position over another such as marital fidelity.<sup>3</sup>

The Quebec government is also making a strident argument that religious corporations do not have a right to religious freedom. Religious freedom, they argue, is only for individuals. I think it very doubtful that the Supreme Court will buy into that position as the Court has recognized in the past that religious freedom has communal aspects.<sup>4</sup> However, the Court has not categorically defined exactly what the parameters are for the religious freedom rights of religious bodies

as distinct from individuals. This case is a prime opportunity to address the issue.

Should the Quebec government convince the Court otherwise, then we can expect serious challenges to the operations of religious communities in the future—particularly their internal governance. Religious organizations help define individual perspectives on beliefs and practices. They are the glue that bind like-minded individuals into a communal order that makes culture possible. They are formative institutions—that is to say, they inculcate the faith for the new generations and give them a sense of identity and perspective on the world around them.

This is one case you will want to watch. It is expected that the Supreme Court of Canada will hear this case in March 2014. ■

*Barry W. Bussey, vice-president of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. You can read his blog at [www.lawandreligion.ca](http://www.lawandreligion.ca).*

<sup>1</sup> Appellants Factum filed at the Supreme Court of Canada (File No. 35201) at para. 99.

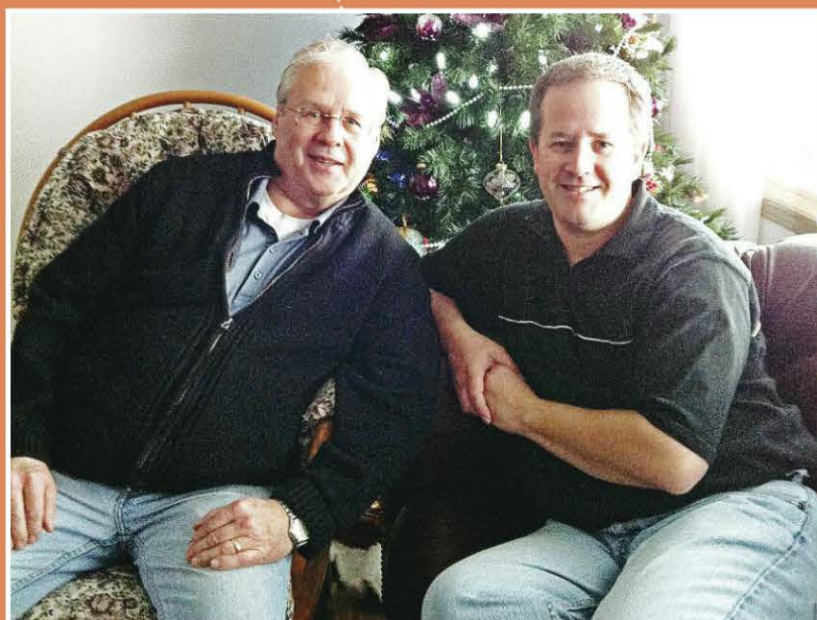
<sup>2</sup> "Bill no. 60: Charter affirming the values of State secularism and religious neutrality and of equality between women and men, and providing a framework for accommodation requests," Assemblée Nationale Québec, <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/projets-loi/projet-loi-60-40-1.html>. (See the tab "Parliamentary Proceedings" on the website.)

<sup>3</sup> Appellants Factum filed at the Supreme Court of Canada (File No. 35201) at para. 21.

<sup>4</sup> *Alberta v. Hutterian Brethren of Wilson Colony* (2009) 2 S.C.R. 567.



# Coming home



Doug Hill and son, Sean Evans-Hill

“ I began to deliberate (in a destructive manner) on the tenants of Christian faith and raised disparaging questions on the legitimacy and efficacy of the Christian belief in God’s love and our freedom of choice. ”

I remember my mother being true to Proverbs 22:6 when I was a boy. She would take me to church so I could learn about Jesus Christ and His love for me. However, my mother's commitment evoked ridicule and personal belittling from my father. And because a child needs and looks to his father for approval and acceptance, my father's negative reaction wounded me, and I therefore began to withdraw from the worship of Christ.

As a result, I began to develop a self-protective indifference to Jesus' love and appeals. I distanced myself from the activity that I concluded was the source of the pain between me and my father. I also harboured shame about my church attendance and worship of Christ. This shame developed because of my assumption that most people would react the same negative way my father did if they knew of my beliefs.

Over time the continual strife in our home fostered in me an embittered distaste for the Christian doctrine and rebellion toward a God who seemed aloof and seemed not to care about the suffering and sorrow of the human predicament. I began to deliberate (in a destructive manner) on the tenets of Christian faith and raised disparaging questions on the legitimacy and efficacy of the Christian belief in God's love and our freedom of choice. I chose to be an agnostic in my beliefs, resisting God and His plan for my life.

As I grew older, my life as a husband, father and employee became busy, and I allowed these responsibilities to consume all my attention. These cares became part of the "self-imposed distancing," which took the shape of comfortable, non-committal day-to-day living. Only when challenged to commit my life to the Lord did I become irritated—even enraged. I used philosophical arguments and questions designed as a diversionary tactic in an attempt to derail the challenge, to attack the call to the Christian faith. But my Lord continually and patiently worked on my heart. However, the miracles of my sons' births, the love of a woman who loved me despite all my shortcomings and the prayers of loved ones and friends began to work on a disillusioned soul.

At one time in my life, I was visiting my mother after she and my father divorced. I began to berate her, demanding to know, Where was her God who allowed her to suffer all these trials even though she served her God faithfully?

Right after leaving my mother's rental and attempting to get my family in the car for the drive home, my son got away from me. As a toddler he had the exasperating habit of running off. Out from between parked cars, he ran onto the street and into the path of an oncoming car. The car's bumper struck him in the head and knocked my son down onto the icy road. But thanks to the

miraculous intervention of the Lord, my son was pushed forward by the front wheels of the car and was therefore not crushed by the tires rolling over him! Here was the Lord's answer to my cynical question about where was God!

Despite this miracle, it still took many years of gentle, loving efforts of the Holy Spirit, as well as prayers by loved ones and friends to bring into focus the truth of my internal conflict.

There are three major questions in a person's life: Why am I here? What is the meaning of this life? and Where am I going? My life with "I" in control could not answer any of the three questions and therefore left me with the feelings of emptiness and a life without purpose or fulfillment. These feelings haunted me and fed my dark view of life. This descent into a state of hopelessness and despair coloured all of my life and affected those close to me. I will forever have a burden about how I have negatively affected those I love and respect. In my anger and hopelessness I have lashed out at those who only expressed concern and wanted to offer help. I am ashamed of my ugliness and the hurt that I spat at those around me!

My despair and shame, over a span of time, started to have an interesting opposing effect; I began to look within myself and see that if I was going to get anything out of this life, I would have to find something that could provide value and meaning to this life! This yearning was the tender prompting of the Father calling this prodigal son back to the fold. Also during this time, several DVDs, (some of which included Doug Batchelor's presentations), were sent to me, and God began to open my mind and heart as I listened to these messages. As God was answering prayer, He began to change my life. It was at this point of my spiritual journey that God brought into my life a friend who showed me how I could receive Jesus Christ into my life by faith. I prayed a simple prayer to receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord by faith. Since then, my life now has purpose and meaning. Through receiving Christ by faith into my life, I have received eternal life, salvation, peace, forgiveness of sins, the hope of heaven and much more. Every day I can experience and enjoy Jesus Christ as my wonderful Saviour, my great Shepherd and my all Sufficiency. I praise and thank God for this wonderful gift, the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:16! ■

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*Doug Hill is president of a condominium board and vice-chair of the High River and District Health Care Foundation in Alberta. Previously he was a training officer for the Calgary Light Rail Transit System. He currently facilitates a Sabbath school class in the Calgary Central church.*



# a special

## in the Heart of a Child

Raising children in this world is not easy. I have come to learn that being a parent takes much more than becoming one. Parenthood is a journey, not just a destination.

When a woman is pregnant, what is her number one wish during pregnancy? To have a healthy baby with 10 little fingers and 10 little toes. Well, this is where my story begins, with the birth of our third child; our daughter, Gabrielle.

In 2007 our only daughter was born with spina bifida. It was a shock to all of us when she was born at home. Throughout my pregnancy, all my tests came back normal, and it wasn't until birth that we found out about our daughter's condition. You can imagine the shock we felt that day.

When Gabrielle was born, a small portion of her back was open and exposed. I was staring at something that was going to change our lives forever. Spina bifida is a neural tube birth defect (NTD) that occurs within the first four weeks of pregnancy. The spinal column fails to develop properly, resulting in varying



# gift



degrees of permanent damage to the spinal cord and nervous system. So you can say life for us had turned down a different street.

It was the neurosurgeon at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ont., who told us that Gabrielle's spinal cord and nerves developed outside her body and were contained in a fluid-filled sac that was visible outside her back. The exposure of these nerves and of nervous tissues made Gabrielle more vulnerable to life-threatening infections. I remember sitting there dazed as we listened to him. The type of spina bifida Gabrielle was born with is called Lumbosacral Myelomeningocele at L5-S2. This name indicated the level and function of the spinal cord. It's the most severe kind of spina bifida.

The neurosurgeon explained to us all of the issues that Gabrielle would have. Gabrielle experiences some muscle weakness and some loss of sensation in her legs and under her feet. Due to the nerve damage in her feet, the posterior and outer surfaces of Gabrielle's lower limbs were in question, which included the inability for her feet to plantar-flex. In other words, Gabrielle is unable to point her foot down or stand on her tippy-toes; her feet flex upwards and inwards. Braces called ankle-foot orthotics (AFO) would be needed to address Gabrielle's muscles and joint problems by compensating for weakness or correcting any deformities.

Gabrielle also has issues with bowel and bladder function. The doctor explained that drainage tubes called catheters would be needed to manually drain Gabrielle's bladder regularly in order to protect her kidneys and bladder. Gabrielle will be on medication indefinitely and would have to be catheterized as







“When our desires line up  
with His will, we will, in time,  
come to understand.”

well every two hours. And hydrocephalus was also detected when Gabrielle was one week old; it's a common complication of spina bifida. We were warned that 95 percent of babies born with spina bifida will also have hydrocephalus. This is the buildup of spinal fluid in Gabrielle's brain. To correct this, a ventriculoperitoneal (VP) shunt had to be surgically inserted into her brain.

Gabrielle needed surgery immediately to reduce the risk of infection and to protect the spinal cord from greater damage. It was heartbreaking to watch our daughter undergo surgeries in the first week of her life and to listen to her doctors talk about her many deficiencies that she will have to live with. I felt as though I was in an awful dream. I wanted to wake up to a whole new world that never spoke the words “spina bifida.”

I was scared to be alone with this new baby, even though she was mine. I didn't know how to feel because my mind had so many other emotions rushing about. I had no idea what spina bifida was or how it was going to impact all our lives. I found myself slowly becoming angry with God. Angry for giving me a child whom I labeled as broken and, in my eyes, couldn't be fixed. I was extremely upset, because prior to this God gave me two healthy boys, and now that we gave birth to a girl, He gave me something I didn't want, not like this. I was hurting. I was scared. I felt lost. I felt so ashamed. I was fighting with the Lord because I felt that He had let me down.

What I failed to realize was that in my moment of darkness, in the midst of the struggle, the Lord had broken me. In the middle of all my distress, God had everything in place. I was reminded of Isaiah 41:10: “So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (NIV).

Over the years I have learned from the Scriptures about the character of God. The Scriptures taught me what I could expect from God, concerning His actions toward me in my present circumstances. God has a specific purpose and plan for each person's life. We just have to trust and obey. Trust that He knows what's best for you and your family and obey the way He shows you to go, believing that His plan is the best plan for your life.

Coming to terms with a child's disability can be one of the hardest things a parent ever has to do. Just knowing that they may have ongoing special needs throughout their lives. In my darkest hours I would always mourn Gabrielle's lost potential,

and many of her conditions become more troubling over time. But I thank God today that I can now see how her challenges make triumphs sweeter, and her weaknesses are accompanied by great strengths.

My days are regular like any other mother's: cooking, cleaning, running errands to grocery stores with the kids hanging off the cart, the never-ending piles of laundry, assisting with homework, and the bedtime battles. What makes us different is the special care we have to give Gabrielle in order for her to have a normal life.

This journey I'm on is God's plan for me to bring others closer to Him. Through our story, people will come to know that God is an awesome God and He will take care of you. My journey still continues with Gabrielle. We have many important tests and follow-up appointments ahead of us. I'm relying on God by accepting His will for our lives. I now have learned that for every disability Gabrielle has, she is blessed with more than enough abilities to cover her challenges.

I have learned that prayer heals us in our circumstances. It opens the channel of God's blessings. God answers prayers that are in agreement with His will. His answers are always in our best interest. When our desires line up with His will, we will, in time, come to understand. When we pray passionately and with determination, according to God's will, God responds powerfully!

In 2011 I turned my darkest moments into something good. I published a book called *Gabby's Gift: Hope in the Heart of a Child*. I wanted to help other families who need to heal from their journeys and let them know that they are not alone. It's through this book that I have connected with so many people, who too have similar stories. It is such a comfort to know that God brings people into your life to help ease the pains and sufferings.

Sharing our testimony is not easy, but I know that it's a story that must be told. And that is why God has been using me as His vessel to share my testimony in many of our Adventist churches for over two years.

June is spina bifida month across Canada, and our family takes part in the “Gabby's Gift” walk to help raise funds and bring awareness to our communities. Through our annual walks, it's important for my children to see the love and support that a community gives when they are touched by a testimony. To celebrate our fifth annual walk this year, in faith, I published a children's picture book called *My Silly Feet*. This book aims to encourage all children to appreciate their differences, no matter how big or small they may be, as well as to both understand and appreciate the experiences and diversity of other people.

Since the birth of our daughter, Gabrielle, I have learned to accept what I cannot control and to focus instead on the gift given to me from the start of that incredible journey. That gift was one of hope for a better tomorrow, the hope that resides in the heart of a child. ■

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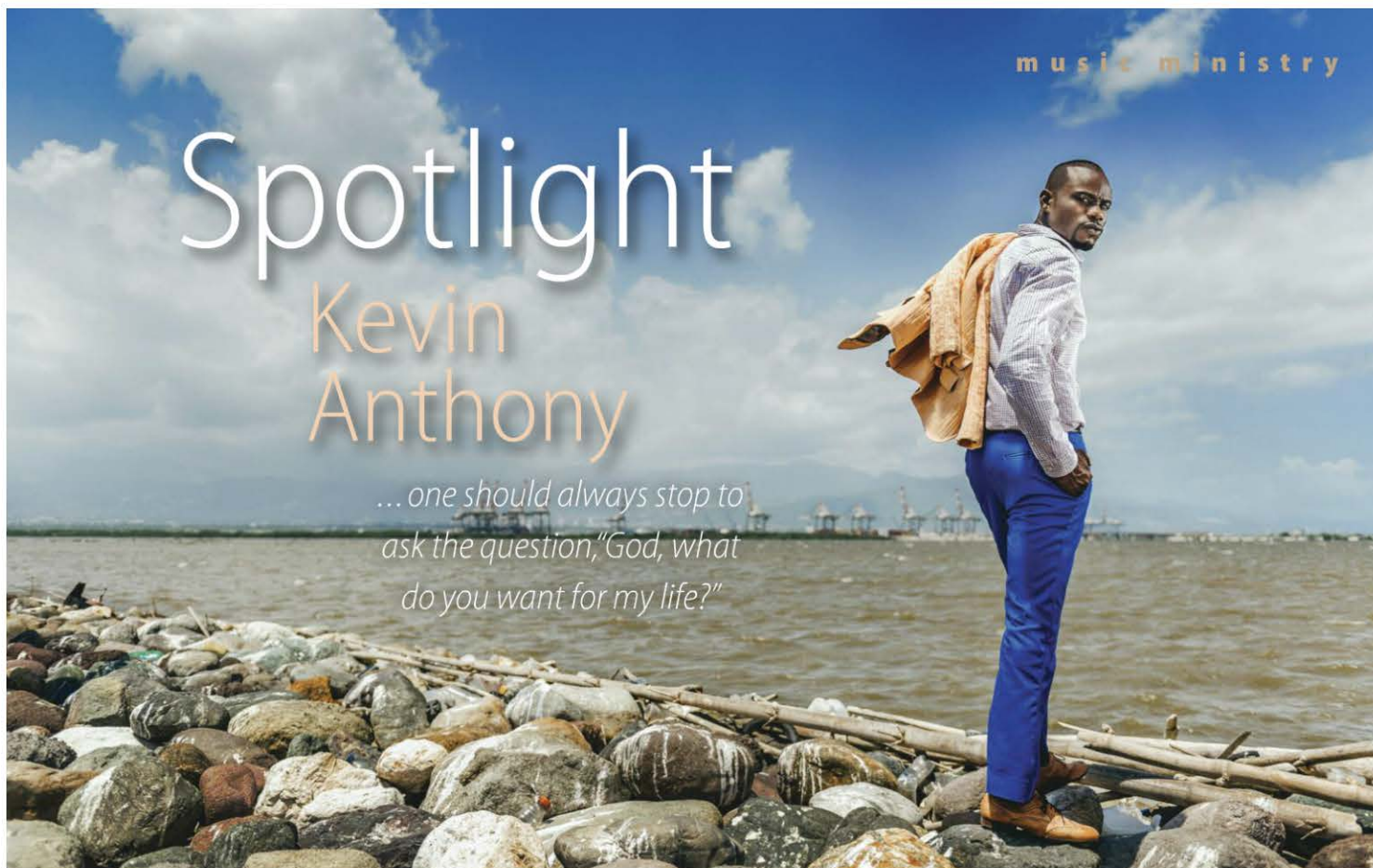
Sharon Ennis is the mother of Gabrielle and the  
author of *Gabby's Gift: Hope in the Heart of a Child*.  
Visit [www.GenesisOnePublishing.com](http://www.GenesisOnePublishing.com).



# Spotlight

## Kevin Anthony

*... one should always stop to ask the question, "God, what do you want for my life?"*



Referred to as a champion sprinter, excelling at track meets and headed for superstardom, Kevin Anthony "K-Anthony" Fowler had no idea God was about to redirect his path.

Born on the beautiful island of Jamaica in the oceanside city of Montego Bay, Kevin (after running competitively since Grade 3) was enrolled by his mom into a conservative high school that did not participate in competitive sports, because of the Sabbath. Although it must have felt like his dreams were being crushed, he accepted this way of living wholeheartedly, even turning down an athletic scholarship to an American university because of competition and events being scheduled on Sabbaths. It could have seemed as if his future was ending, but for K-Anthony, it was only just beginning. It was through this change and adjustment that Kevin began refocusing his attention toward his second love: music.

If you speak to Kevin today, he will quickly tell you that music and running are his passions, and they have been since the beginning, but music has taken precedence. He strongly feels it was a divine plan of God's to close one door in order to open the other. As a teenager, unable to compete in running, he began singing at churches and outreach events. This new outlet for expression was inspired by his earlier years, when he rearranged hymns and formed singing groups. It led Kevin to enroll in college as a music major to garner classical training.

While at Trinity College, London, he travelled with the Chamber Choral group on multiple tours to the United States and again with a church tour. He completed his education

with a B.A. in music and an emphasis on voice. But as any graduate these days will tell you, it is difficult to leave school and step directly into a fulfilling dream job. The real work begins after school ends. But putting dreams and aspirations aside, one should always stop to ask the question, "God, what do You want for my life?"

Following in his family's footsteps, Kevin recently migrated from the warm south island to the chilly but warm-at-heart north country of Saskatchewan, Canada. Embracing a new culture and environment, Kevin is hoping he can fully immerse himself in music ministry and grow this passion into a full-time career here in his new home, if it is God's will. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Kamelia, and writes and arranges his music with the hope that it will be heard by many. It is what his family would say he "eats, sleeps and dreams about." His music has an island flare, although he describes it as contemporary gospel/inspirational. The goal? "I want my music to positively influence others, motivating them, helping them get through whatever issues or problems they may have in their lives and telling them about Christ and His soon coming."

To learn more about K-Anthony, his music and ministry, you can find him on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/KAnthonylive](http://www.facebook.com/KAnthonylive)) and on Reverbnation ([www.reverbnation.com/KAnthony](http://www.reverbnation.com/KAnthony)). ■

*Naomi Striemer is a Chapel recording artist, Pacific Press book author, Christian recording artist and sought-after speaker.*



# When you become their world: a purpose with meaning

TYLER DOOKS



In his senior year at Kingsway College, Tyler was on the Aerials team. He recalls a time when he was asked to tell the children's story at church on one of their tours. Being up front made the majority of the Aerials team nervous. Thankfully, Tyler stepped up to lead, with the encouragement of his uncle, Gary Dooks, who was the coach at the time. Assisting him was a close friend of his, Glenn de Melo. Tyler's willingness to lead helped him gain a blessing by being a blessing.

Tyler is one of the most recent additions to the Kingsway College staff. He graduated from Andrews University in May 2011 with a major in fine arts and an emphasis in graphic design. This had always been a passion of his, but he felt that something was still missing; he wanted something that would give him the opportunity to work with people interpersonally. His interest in working directly with youth began through his experience at Camp Frenda as a boys' and ski dock director, and at Andrews University as an RA. It opened his eyes to deaning and counselling. This purpose is exactly what led him to Kingsway College, again.

Tyler has always been affiliated with Kingsway College because of his family and friends. He remembers running around campus and in the woods having tons of fun as a child several years ago. Although he had always been in close proximity to KC, surprisingly enough, he attended Kingsway only in his senior year, in 2006/2007. He admits that his time at Kingsway College has always been a blast, then and now.

As a staff member, Tyler appreciates when students confide their deepest

stories and secrets. By developing close relationships with the students, Tyler realizes, "You really are their world because being available to give them the openness they need, and someone to talk to and receive counsel from, gives my purpose a whole new meaning."

Tyler believes that "Christian education is a safe place for many reasons. Firstly, it educates children with their academics. Secondly, it is a place of counselling, a place to help students grow and to provide support." Tyler's definition of Christian education is so practical: "Frankly, for even the most flawed child, this is a place to find love, accommodation and understanding. It's no doubt that we all fail from time to time to fulfill this, but the hope is to strive for it. Thirdly, at the end of the day, it's the goal to show these students God and to help them find a balance spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally." It is no wonder students look up to Tyler; he is young, energetic and very caring.

Tyler is motivated by this thought: "Every day, if I don't get out of bed to care for these students, who will?" He is placed at Kingsway College because he believes "it's up to me to motivate, love and care for these students." His daily goal is to contribute to keep the school in good order and do everything that encompasses spiritual, physical and mental aspects of the school and, most importantly, to uphold everything Kingsway needs of him. In life it's similar, because Tyler dedicates his life to being a helpful and productive member of society, representing God in all that he does.

Romans 8:38, 39 says, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ" (NKJV). ■

*Ashley Arriola is the communications assistant at Kingsway College*

## *I am not a Christian.*

I know that sounds very strange and almost rude, but it's true. I came to Deer Lake School (DLS) in Grade 8 knowing only that it was a small, private school and knowing absolutely nothing about the Seventh-day Adventist faith. I remember one of my first questions to one of my peers was "Who is Satan?" My classmates laughed and asked if I was joking, but honestly, I did not know. That was the beginning of my journey of getting to know God and myself better through a religion that I had never fully acknowledged before.

At first, I was very confused. Never before had I been surrounded by people who considered God their first priority. I came from a public school where teachers just taught from a textbook and did not really bond with me or the other students. It was my first time being in a school where the teachers challenged me to become a better person. I was taught how to work on my weaknesses and use my strengths to benefit others. After coming to Deer Lake, the importance of depending on God and letting Him guide my path became clear to me. I realized that at this Adventist school I was able to find my hidden academic and leadership talents. For instance, my teachers and friends motivated me to run for student government in Grade 10, and I absolutely loved it.

Through Christian education, I learned that leading is not all about managing and taking control but also about serving others and leaving a legacy behind for generations to come. I can definitely say that the roles I took on and the values I was taught at DLS have started molding me into the person I would one day like to become.

I also got the chance to go on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. During the trip one story truly touched my heart. We had come to lead in Vacation Bible School at an orphanage, and we invited many others in the community. One lady and her daughter came to visit the orphanage, and I will always remember that the daughter constantly had a beautiful smile on her face. Later we found out that behind her smile was a horrible secret. A fire had completely ruined her house, and they had no place to stay. We all decided to chip in some money for both the mother and daughter. On the last day, when we presented them with the gift, the mother broke into tears. She told us that she compares her story with Job in the Bible. That gave me shivers, and I started crying as well. I could not imagine how someone could be so happy and still love God after all of those terrifying events. She became an inspiration for me, and I realized that you must come closer to God when bad things happen to you.

I would never have learned all these things and had such life-changing experiences had I not gone to Deer Lake School. I got the opportunity to make a difference in the global community and also to have a better relationship with God. I came to Deer Lake knowing very little, and I came out as a better person in all aspects of my life. I think God was working in me, and I believe that He is the one who told me to leave public school and go to Deer Lake. Christian education means something different to everyone, but to me, in the simplest form, it is life changing. ■



*Through Christian education,  
I learned that leading is not all  
about managing and taking control  
but also about serving others  
and leaving a legacy behind  
for generations to come.*

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*Gaurika Sharma is finishing up her last year of high school at Deer Lake Seventh-day Adventist School and plans to attend post-secondary school to pursue a business degree.*



# Parkview Profiles



**Pradeesha Gnanasekeran**

Initially, Pradeesha Gnanasekeran did not want to move to Alberta from Scarborough, Ont., much less to the small city of Lacombe. She is 16 years old, is an only child, originally comes from Sri Lanka and is a fifth-generation Adventist. Her family came into the church because of the work of a missionary. Her great-great-grandfather Storer was a strong Hindu, and after meeting with the Adventist missionary, he converted to Adventism and then converted another 50 to 60 people himself.

Pradeesha attended private school in her native country, but when she was 13, her family moved to Canada. Pradeesha says she went through a high degree of cultural shock. The behaviour of students in the public school was very different from what she was used to. For one, in Sri Lanka educators are highly respected. Also, on her first day of school a student was giving her Grade 7 class a tour of the school, and another student offered the whole group any "supplies" that they might need during the year; Pradeesha had never been offered drugs prior to this, and it was shocking to her. She was determined not to change, but she watched as the innocent seventh-graders she had befriended started to change.

While she was attending school, three students were shot and killed between the school building and the local pizza place. Fortunately, even though she witnessed the shooting, she was spared.

Pradeesha's parents started looking for new jobs, and

when her mom was offered a job with Canadian University College (CUC), they jumped at the chance to move. Pradeesha wasn't so excited, though. All of her friends were telling her that Alberta was a very racist place and that no one with a different ethnic background would be happy there. But in spite of this, in February of her Grade 9 year, the family picked up and moved to Red Deer, Alta. Pradeesha finished that year by doing home school, and then she started Grade 10 at Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA).

On the first day of school she remembers everyone being friendly and looking for new friends. She also found the kids to be more mature than her friends in public school. She quickly realized that Lacombe wasn't the racist place she had been led to believe.

Pradeesha is currently in Grade 11 and serves as the vice-president of the Student Association. "PAA is like a big family. Everyone looks out for everyone else," she described. She attributes this family feeling to the fact that students and staff see one another outside of school hours. She feels that because the teachers all stay after school and are involved in weekend events, she is able to get to know them personally, not just in the typical student-teacher relationship.

Pradeesha is happy to have the opportunity to attend an Adventist school where she feels safe and secure. ■

*Pattie Reasor Communications,  
Parkview Adventist Academy*

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## Alberta

### Thirteen Master Guides Following the Master Guide



For many Adventists, knowing that they have been (or are) involved with Pathfinders in some way is a great feeling. They don the uniform and beret with pride and honour. After so many years of reciting the pledge and law, the words just flow off the tip of the tongue like running water. And who could forget the aim: "the Adventist message to all the world in my generation."

As the Pathfinders pass through the ranks, they feel a sense of prestige. In their hearts it is evident that Pathfinding is something special and dignified.

But one of the proudest moments occurs when one has toiled and laboured through all the hard work of becoming a master guide.

On Oct. 19, 2013, at the Bridgeland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Calgary Alta., 13 master guides did just that; for over a year they toiled through injury, sweat and tears. Some even collapsed during the five-mile hike trying to make it through a backpacking honour.

Under the leadership of the Alberta Conference master guide director, Tendai Mashonganyika; the Bridgeland Cimarrons director, Griffin Webster; and the deputy director, Karen Massiah, 13 Pathfinders graduated to the level of master guide.

It was a momentous occasion. All 13 candidates looked sharp in their master guide uniform. They talked with dignity, held

their heads up with pride and walked humbly before the congregation knowing that it was Christ their Master who had guided them through this process.

There to assist in the ceremony were the northern Alberta area coordinators, Glenn and Diane Hawthorn. Glenn spoke with humour and passion about what it means to be a master guide. Dianne presented the Pathfinder Leadership Award and shared about the importance of being a leader.

As conference Pathfinder director, I concluded the program with an inspirational message to all the master guides invested that day, exhorting them to remember that God is counting on each one of them to be leaders within the church and their community, encouraging them to guide those they lead to the Master Jesus Christ.

Reynold Ferary, the senior pastor of the church closed the ceremony by offering a special prayer of dedication upon all the master guides. By the end of the service, there was no doubt that God's presence was there presiding over this wonderful occasion. All in all, what this means is that 13 more leaders were empowered and equipped to lead God's people! ■

—Lyle Notice, associate youth director, Alberta conference



## CHANGE School Builds Friendships in Camrose



Ken Wiebe, Mark Johnson, Joy Fehr, and Sandra Silva at the inauguration ceremonies for CHANGE School of Evangelism.

Imagine a school of evangelism in Canada that equips you to do evangelism wherever you are! This was the dream that Sandra Silva presented to the Alberta Conference and to Canadian University College (CUC). The group unanimously embraced the vision and united to create CHANGE School of Evangelism, the first of its kind in Canada. On May 1, 2013, CHANGE School of Evangelism opened its doors on the campus of CUC to 16 eager students ready to embark on a journey of transformation.

The students, ages 17 to 67, came from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the United States to attend CHANGE. In addition to these students, more than a dozen CUC students joined the CHANGE accredited classes: Christian Spirituality and Conflict Resolution.

The inauguration of CHANGE School of Evangelism began with a note of thanks from Sandra Silva for God's faithful leading. Silva expressed deep appreciation to the members of the CHANGE committee for their hours of dedication and support in making this

dream a reality. Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, gave a special charge and dedicatory prayer before the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The first day of classes began with a passionate message on the subject of CHANGE presented by Pastor Ken Wiebe, Alberta Conference president. Each day was filled with devotional thoughts by the students and guest speakers along with classes on prayer, doctrines, Spirit of Prophecy, Daniel and Revelation, and much more. Presenters came from all over North America to inspire and educate the students in biblical truths and to provide them with practical tools for soul winning.

Speakers included Cindy Tutsch, Jay Rosario, Dave Fiedler and many others, as well as CUC faculty and Alberta Conference staff. Camrose, a small city northeast of Lacombe, was chosen as the location for evangelistic outreach. On a weekly basis, students sought Bible study interests by walking the streets of Camrose, knocking on doors and doing health expos in the community. Over 300 surveys were filled out with many indicating an interest

in Bible studies. On the opening night of the evangelistic series in Camrose, only a few non-Seventh-day Adventists were in attendance. By the end of the series, God increased that number to 65! Following the evangelistic series, six individuals gave their lives to Christ through baptism and profession of faith. Currently, over 19 of the non-Seventh-day Adventists who attended the meetings are regularly attending the Camrose Adventist Church.

Presently, two Bible workers are following up interests and giving Bible studies.

Starting January 2014, CHANGE is launching a new online program. For more information, please visit [www.changeschool.ca](http://www.changeschool.ca). You can become part of a life-changing experience with God. Applications are being accepted for the 2014 online and summer sessions commencing May 1. Please continue to keep Camrose and CHANGE School of Evangelism in your prayers. ■

— Sandra Silva, personal ministries/CHANGE School of Evangelism director, Alberta Conference



## SAGE Alberta Helps the Drumheller Church

One of Drumheller's oldest churches is getting a facelift this month. Starting on Tuesday, demolition will commence on the front entrance and lobby of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

"We're going to be starting the demolition with the backhoe on Tuesday. We'll be replacing it with a new entrance that is wheelchair accessible, with handicap washrooms. We have some members who are getting older, who weren't able to participate, and we wanted to do a little modernization," said Wanda Wiebe, treasurer.

Demolition of the front entrance and lobby on the church will commence on Tuesday, August 6. Then, later in August and September, the Seniors in Action for God with Excellence (SAGE), a provincial group, will help rebuild and renovate the church.

To help rebuild the front entrance, the church is receiving help from a provincial group of seniors dedicated to helping churches.

"Our conference, the organization for the province, has a group called SAGE. ... They'll be coming in September, but we're getting the demolition and concrete work done ahead of time so that when they come out, everything is ready to go for them," said Wiebe. "They don't necessarily do renovations. They do various things that need to be done. It's a service group of seniors, like painting, and they do a lot of more fun stuff, too. This will be their first major construction project."

Originally, the Drumheller church had intended to complete the renovation in May. However, delays in getting SAGE to Drumheller caused the timing of the construction to be pushed back to August and September. Wiebe feels it was a fortuitous turn of events.



SAGE volunteers put years of experience to a charitable use.

"We were originally going to start in May, but we're so grateful we didn't, because with all the rain, we would've had a flooded church! The delays also let us come up with some better plans," said Wiebe.

In addition to a new entrance and lobby, a new family washroom with a shower will be installed. Any leftover funds will be used to do smaller renovations to the interior of the church. For the time being, services will be held at the Grace Lutheran Church. "They've graciously allowed us to use their church for the months of August and September," said Wiebe. ■

*Troy McQueen, communications director, Alberta conference*

## ACT I: Bringing the Artist Community together

Over the last several months since returning to Lacombe, I have met many different people of various ages who are interested in artistic expression—whether it's parents who are concerned about their naturally artistic child who has no supportive outlet within the church or a young person who would like to share and showcase his or her new dance choreography.

These encounters have been too numerous to count, and almost every time, I leave the conversation wondering, *What does the Adventist Church have in place to meet the growing needs of our growing population of young artists?* And

I came to one conclusion: that something must be strategically and intentionally put in place in order to serve the needs of our Adventist artistic community.

What started off as just a simple conversation about ideas and vivid imagery between Dane Alexandre (third-year psychology student) and me a year ago became a live and in-living-colour program. Artists Coming Together (ACT) would become an initiative to create a sustainable environment that brings artists together and allows them to support one other as they develop, express and hone their craft.

On Oct. 26, 2013, ACT I took place on the Canadian University College

(CUC) campus at the student lounge called "Social Eyez."

Walking into the packed room—lights dimmed, the DJ playing familiar "old skool" instrumental tunes—you could feel the vibe; something special was happening. It was art displayed on the backdrop of a crisp Alberta evening portrayed through the form of song, music, poetry and spoken word.

It felt like a place where people could express themselves and be who they were at the core, on the deepest level, with #nojudgment. For once they were within a safe environment around friends and likeminded people who appreciated art



no matter what the form.

With over 80 people in attendance, you could feel anticipation with every act. Words rolled off tongues from passionate poets, notes resounded off the

walls as guitars were strummed. At one point, if you looked closely, you could see an artist painting a picture of a beautiful woman as the program went on.

ACT I is just the first scene of many

ACTs to come. Stay tuned for ACT II! ■

—Lyle Notice, associate youth director, Alberta conference

## British Columbia

### 2013 B.C. Conference Youth Retreat, MVSC, Nov. 8-11



Guest speaker, Lyle Notice, "Keeping it Real" at the 2013 British Columbia Conference Retreat.

Teenagers from across British Columbia gathered together over the Remembrance Day long weekend at Mountain View Summer Camp (MVSC) to worship together, connect with one another and connect more deeply on a spiritual level with God.

Centered around the theme "Storyline," the weekend focused on how the story of our own lives parallels the stories of the Bible and the ways in which God is at work in our joys, sorrows, successes and even in our failures.

The guest speaker for the weekend was Lyle Notice, associate youth director for the Alberta Conference. "Keeping it

real" was a thread that ran through each of the messages he shared. Drawing upon the experiences of his own teenage years and the ways in which God pursued him, Notice built a bridge that helped many of the youth see that their own stories are not that different from the experiences of Bible characters. Worship music was provided by the youth praise team from the Abbotsford Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Throughout the weekend teens experienced a level of caring support from their peers that many who come from smaller churches don't always get to enjoy. Teens would break into "family groups" and share experiences and learn from one another.

They also participated in a number of adventure challenges that helped them learn to work together and bond as a team.

On Sunday evening many young people gave personal testimonies about the struggles and challenges they face. It was an amazing opportunity for each of them to realize that others go through similar challenges and to receive affirmation and encouragement from one another. ■

—Grant Misseghers, youth pastor, Abbotsford Seventh-day Adventist Church; assistant youth director, B.C. Conference



## Quebec

# New Media Training Program launches in Quebec

“I see being one of the pioneer students in the Better Living media missionary program as a great opportunity to learn to depend fully on God as the great Creator and to pave the way for other young people to follow.”

Better Living Ministry (Mieux Vivre), a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Victoriaville, Que., is launching a one-year media missionary training program free of charge where students can learn how to produce Christian television and radio programs, create websites and work with virtual sets and green screen. The program is Christ-centered and targets young people who are looking for training in media that will equip them to use their creativity for Christian service and ministry. Students will receive hands-on training in every aspect of how to start and operate a small television recording studio.

Better Living wishes to extend a special invitation to Canadian students. The media training program is bilingual, so both English- and French-speaking students are welcome.

Better Living was formed in 2009 by a dynamic team of young people who recognized the need to share the gospel with French-speaking Canadians. The history of the Quebec population has resulted in a culture that is, largely, closed to Christianity, particularly through public evangelism avenues. Media penetrates many of those barriers, reaching people in the non-threatening environment of their own homes.

Radio and television programs produced by Better Living are broadcast on Hope Channel and 3ABN. They reach an even broader audience, however, through on-demand web distribution via Roku, mobile, apps, smart TV platforms and desktop browsers.

Our web presence is one of the most powerful methods of bringing our



Media student, Frida Torstensson, taking photos.

Christ-centred and health-conscious content to the masses. We reach French-speaking people not only in Quebec but also around the world.

It was during a recent mission trip to Honduras that Wayne Atwood, president of Better Living, became inspired to establish the media missionary training program. While on that mission trip, Wayne met Frida, a student from the Matteson Mission School in Norway. She told Wayne she was looking for a place to do a media internship.

“In a personal prayer,” Frida says, “I promised God that I was willing to go to Quebec, Canada, for the program if that was His will for me. Since then God has worked in my life in answering that

prayer. He has changed my future plans, and I have felt convicted to trust Him by joining the first group of media missionaries. I see being one of the pioneer students in the Better Living media missionary program as a great opportunity to learn to depend fully on God as the great Creator and to pave the way for other young people to follow. It is also one step closer to finding out more specifically God’s plan for my life.”

The first Better Living Media Missionary program starts on January 13, 2014. Tuition is free of charge, but students are responsible for covering their own room and board. Prior media experience is a plus but not a prerequisite. Applicants of all ages are welcome to apply, but the program will target young people between the ages of 18 and 25.

Apply online at [www.media-missionary.me](http://www.media-missionary.me). Email [missionary@betterlivingministry.org](mailto:missionary@betterlivingministry.org) or call 1-800-651-1275 for more information about the program.

Skills learned: operating a video camera; green screen and virtual sets; video editing and graphics design; multi-camera switching; live-to-disk recording; web-based content delivery; DVD and Blu-ray authoring; maximum quality on minimum budget; and how to start and run a media ministry ■





## Manitoba-Saskatchewan

### Visiting Nunavut



José and Ghadihela working with Inuit children at Sabbath School. Fifteen children attended the program—a normal turnout.

Recently I read this inspired quotation from the writing of Ellen White: “New territories are to be worked by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. New churches must be established, new congregations organized. At this time there should be representatives of present truth in every city and in the remote parts of the earth. The whole earth is to be illuminated with the glory of God’s truth. The light is to shine to all lands and all peoples. And it is from those who have received the light that it is to shine forth. The daystar has risen upon us, and we are to flash its light upon the pathway of those in darkness” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 24).

The Spirit of Prophecy is clear. We must establish new congregations in every city and in the remote parts of the earth. I recently had the privilege of visiting one of our church plants in one of the remote places of the earth—Nunavut. The Iqaluit church meets in the home of Bill and Lisa Neish. I was there for worship on the Sabbath of September 21, 2013. There were 47 individuals in the Neish home that Sabbath! People were in the living room, the dining room, the kitchen and the hallway. (This church desperately needs to find a new worship venue!) It was my privilege to conduct a dedication for five precious children.

The families of the children that were dedicated in the Iqaluit Adventist Church on the Sabbath of Sept. 21, 2013, are as follows: Arille Siwa Allain, Jasmine Grace Enook, Jonathan William Neish, Tamara Vaalori Killiktee, and Violet Eemelayou Killiktee.

In Iqaluit, Bill picks up children for Sabbath school each week in his Ford Expedition. The program starts at 11 a.m. The worship service is at 2 p.m. On Sept. 21, we also had a special communion service to close out the Sabbath. Then we went to jail on Saturday night to study the Bible with inmates.

For the last five years Bill and Lisa Neish have

opened their home Sabbath after Sabbath. God is blessing richly as they establish relationships with the people of Iqaluit. Bible worker José Quezada has done an amazing job of identifying Bible study interests, teaching them God’s Word, and encouraging them to grow in God’s grace. José’s fiancée, Ghadihela, is the assistant manager at a local hotel. She is devoted to working with the children each Sabbath and often has teenage girls over at home during the week.

Recently José moved to Igloolik, a community where we have another house church. God is really opening doors in Igloolik through the efforts of Illisipee, one of our Inuit members, who reads the Inuktitut Bible on the radio each Sunday evening. She reads and explains the Scriptures to her people in their native language. Illisipee is also translating the book *Steps to Christ* into Inuktitut. Please pray for the work in Nunavut. There is an abundant harvest there. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send more workers into this field. Our goal is to plant a vibrant Seventh-day Adventist Church in each of the 25 communities in Nunavut. ■

—Jeff Potts, executive secretary,  
Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference

## Newfoundland and Labrador

### Happy Birthday Richard Stagg



Richard Stagg

September 7, 2013, started out like any other sunny Sabbath morning. Richard Stagg had his driver's license renewed the week before, and he was happy to drive himself and his wife, Dorothy, to the Bay Roberts Seventh-day Adventist Church, just as he had done many times before.

But this wasn't just another day. This was Mr. Stagg's birthday, his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the church was packed. There was standing room only as friends, family and community members came together to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Mr. Stagg's son Ron gave us a glimpse into his father's life. Mr. Stagg was born

in Cape Freels, Nfld. In the early 1940s, he married Inez Elizabeth Stokes, and together they had four sons: Ronald, Wesley, Cluney and Eugene. The family moved to Bay Roberts in January 1959 so that the children could attend an Adventist school. On April 18, 1959, Richard was baptized and became a charter member of the Bay Roberts Seventh-day Adventist Church. On Thanksgiving Day of 1980, Richard's dear wife, Inez, passed away, and at 67 years of age, he was left to carry on alone. Thirteen years later, at 80 years of age, he married Dorothy Drodge.

The highlight of the celebration, for me, was when Mr. Stagg, his wife, Dorothy, and his daughter-in-law, Rowena, stood side by side on the platform and sang together "In Times Like These." I don't know if there was a dry eye in the church as his strong, steady, sincere, 100-year-old voice sang out above the others, "I'm very sure, I'm very sure, my anchor holds and grips the solid rock."

When asked about his secret to living to be 100, Mr. Stagg's answer was "being outdoors, spending time in the garden."

His wife, Dorothy, continued, "I can't believe he's 100. He has so much energy; I've never seen him tired."

At campmeeting, just six weeks before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mr. Stagg offered the opening prayer for the Sabbath worship service. He prefaced it by saying, "I am very happy to be here today as a living witness to the saving and keeping power of Jesus Christ, my loving Saviour who came down from heaven to ransom me, a sinner." And what a witness you are, Mr. Stagg, to your family, your friends, and your community. One hundred years of faithful service. No wonder you are so greatly loved.

Whether you call him Richard, Pop, Uncle Richard or Mr. Stagg, one thing's for sure: once you meet this God-fearing, hardworking, fun-loving man, you'll never forget you met him. Oh, and by the way, he's not likely to forget you either. ■

— Gail Dempsey,  
communications director,  
St. John's Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

## Ontario

### 1913 to 2013: 100 Years in Kingston



"Beyond Today ... Eternity in View"—the chosen theme for the 100th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kingston, Ont—is a salient and relevant challenge to the mission and vision of our church.

One hundred years ago when our church was organized, our faith-filled pioneers had a vision of God's work going forward to evangelize Kingston and surrounding area, with the good news of Christ's soon return. Since 1913, what started out as just a company of about 27 Sabbathkeepers has developed into a truly international and dynamic congregation of 153 worshippers who continue to uplift the name of Jesus.

Over the years Christian education has been one of our church's most valued resources, with schools being established



in 1913, 1980 to 1983 and 1992 to 2000. A vegetarian soup kitchen was established in 1995 and continues to the present. Because of the presence of Queen's University, St. Lawrence College, Royal Military College, Canadian Forces Base and many federal prisons in the area, we have had many varied ministries for these institutions.

The celebration for our church took place on the Sabbath of Sept. 7, with guest speakers Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, for the divine worship service and Gary Hodder, executive secretary of the Ontario Conference, for the afternoon service. Our guests for the afternoon included Chaplain Rodgers from the Frontenac Correctional Institution; Eric Bogstad, manager of administration for the YMCA; Ted Hsu, MP; John Gerretsen, MPP; Mark

Gerretsen, mayor of Kingston; former pastors Daniel Dupuis, Herb Sormi, and Djojo Sekulic. The musical selections were provided by the Ottawa East Seventh-day Adventist Church choir, our local children's choir, as well as the male chorale. The Durham Adventist Choir completed the celebration with a concert titled "Give Me Jesus."

In the words of our pastor, Daviceto Swaby, "Our only hope for eternity rests with the God of yesterday, today and forever." He continued by quoting from Ellen White, who stated, "We have nothing to fear for the future except we forget how God has led us in the past." ■

—Dorothy Knapp,  
communications officer, Kingston church

## Adventist Community Volunteers Honoured



College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Services volunteers.

A luncheon in honour of the Community Services volunteers was held on Nov. 11, 2013, Remembrance Day. It was also a time to say farewell to Pastor Edgar Nunes, who faithfully supported the Community Center in Oshawa for many years. Nunes is moving on to pastor the Portuguese church in Toronto. The newly appointed associate pastor at the College Park church, Jayson Levy, will assume responsibilities at the centre.

Theodore Sargeant, of the Ontario Conference, presented service award pins to volunteers who have served from five to 15 years. Four individuals ranging from 90 years and up were given special honours: Mable Jeffery, Cora Tripp, Violent Prouty; and Ruth Mohn and Bill and June Bell, who are in charge of the food department, were commended for their hard work and dedication.

We volunteers appreciate working with the headships of Jackie Guenin, Felicia Weststrate, Barbara Hall, Ron Hall and Gail

Culmore. These dedicated folks put in long hours of service. In the capacity of volunteering—a joyful experience—you can see the joy in the faces of those who work so faithfully to serve others.

The initiative of College Park church ministries serves over 400 families each month. If you like to be with people and see them smile and you have the time, contact Barbara Hall. More volunteers are needed. It is really rewarding and it's a lot of fun.

The community centre opens Wednesday and Thursday of each week and provides food and clothing as well as encouragement and inspiration to our clientele. We sincerely thank the community at large and our sponsors for providing the means without which the centre would not be able to meet the needs of those who come to us. To various volunteers we say thank you, and to God be the glory. ■

—June Polishuk,  
College Park Church, Oshawa

## SDA Church in Canada

### 2014 Excellence in Education Award

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is now accepting nominations for the 2014 Excellence in Education Awards.

#### The Process for Nominators

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

member) and one from School Community (parent, student or church member).

#### Nominee

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

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

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

**Excellence  
in Education  
Awards  
2014**

*Nominate  
your Adventist school  
principal or teacher*

**Deadline April 15**

Forms can be found on CAT~net:  
<http://catnet.adventist.ca>  
under Resources > SDACC >  
Excellence in Education Award  
or you may call the  
SDACC Office of Education at  
905-433-0011




thanks for having them as excellent teachers in our school system.

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

### VOAR Looks to Increase Repeater Sites in 2014

The management and staff of VOAR would like to wish all of you a happy New Year. We are here to bring you the best in Christian Family Radio in 2014. One of our priorities this year is to add to the 36 FM transmitters that are already broadcasting God's Word across the nation. This may be possible in your community. We have identified 71 sites in Canada that could qualify for a low-power VOAR FM transmitter. We are also looking into more areas that may meet the requirements. If your church is interested in finding out if you can rebroadcast VOAR Christian Family Radio to your community, we will work with you and your conference office to find out. To set up a VOAR

repeater site is a financial commitment, but it is a positive outreach for your town, so prayerfully consider if this ministry is for your church.

We thank you for your continued support of this Seventh-day Adventist-owned Canada-wide radio broadcast service. God bless. ■

*R. Brian Matthews,  
VOAR chief engineer  
[bmatthews@voar.org](mailto:bmatthews@voar.org)*



>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Nov. 30, 2013, there are 450 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,281,380. There are 80 loans with a value of \$20,251,343.

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





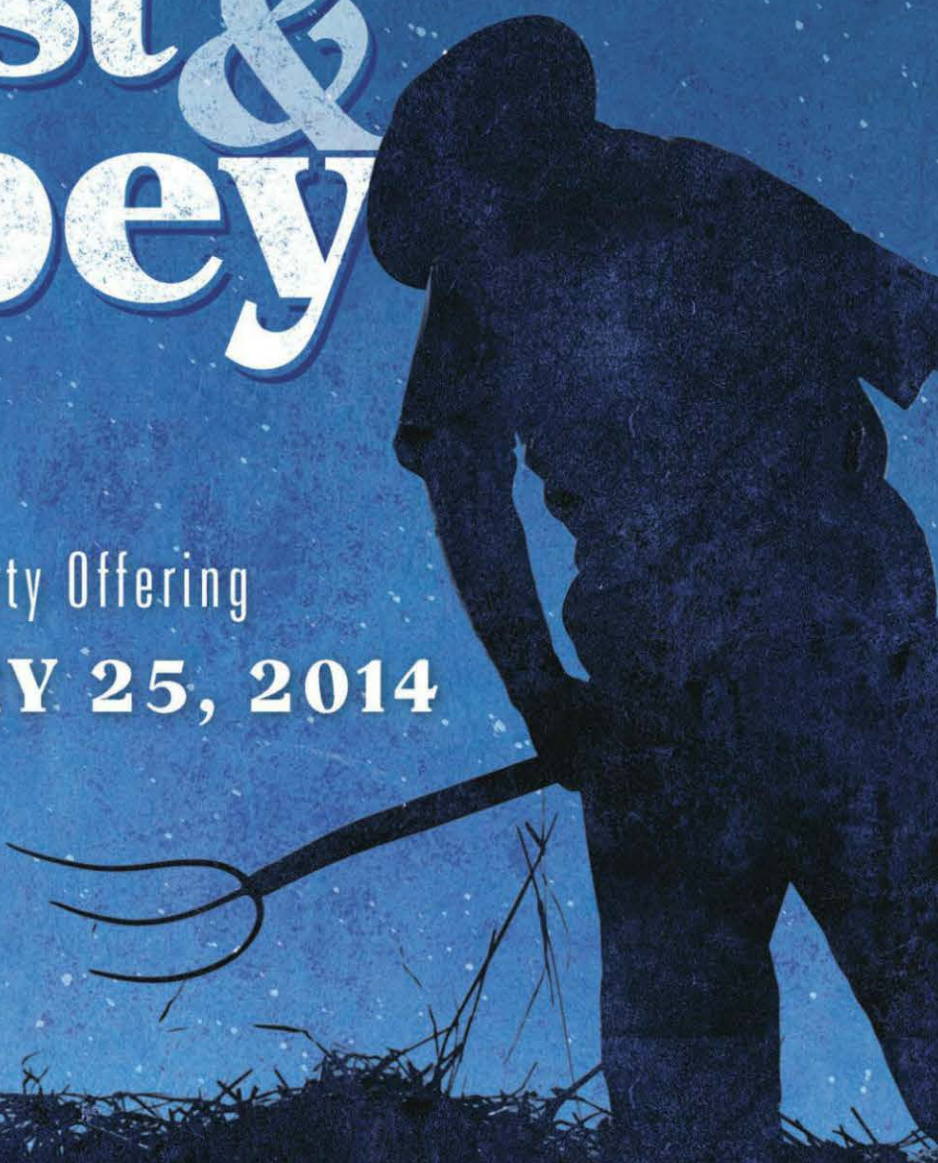
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## ■ Announcements

### PROCESS:

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

## ■ Announcements

**Are we looking for you?** We are if you are a former member or pastor of the North Sydney Seventh-day Adventist Church! We are planning the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cape Breton, and we want you to join us. Plan now to be with us on August 8, 9 and 10 of 2014. To get more information and to register, go to [100yearsofcb.adventist.org](http://100yearsofcb.adventist.org). There you will find a place to share some of your stories and pictures that hold a warm spot in your heart. Hope to see you there!

**The Prince George church is looking for the following missing members:** Ayanda Chakawa, Agnes Marti Koll, Jessica Lee, Edith Mae Loyie, Shawn Maker, Bobby McClair, Cheris McClair, Sheila Naeth, Vasile Nechita, Veronica Nechita, Bryant Pinchbeck, Luang Thokuboum, Nyamool Thokuboum, Pal Thokuboum, Jonathan Topolovic. If you have information on how any of them can be reached, please contact Anna Phang, church clerk, 250/563-4548, [aphang@hotmail.com](mailto:aphang@hotmail.com).

**Crawford Adventist Academy celebrates its 61<sup>st</sup> Alumni Homecoming Weekend** on May

23-25, 2014. We welcome all our alumni and families, former administrators, board members, chaplains, faculty & staff, parents, friends and supporters. Honouring our TJA Classes of 1979, 1974, 1969, 1963 and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2004, 1999, 1994, 1989 and 1984. We are looking for 2 representatives for each honoured year as well as volunteers to help in various areas for this event. Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB - Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, 416/633-0090 / toll free 866/960-2125 ext. 234 or [dhall@tadsb.com](mailto:dhall@tadsb.com); Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant ext. 248 or [jgamez@tadsb.com](mailto:jgamez@tadsb.com). Visit our official website, [www.tadsb.com](http://www.tadsb.com); follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook "The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group." (5/14)

## ■ New Members

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Yolanda Fowler** was baptized on Sept. 21, 2013, by Ron Dame. She is now a member of the All Nations Centre in Terrace, B.C.

## ■ Anniversaries

**Thomas Glynn** and **Eileen Davies** of Novar, Ont., celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 22,



2013. They were married in Peterborough, Ont., where they were both raised. Glynn served as a pastor in Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Alberta. In 1988 they retired and moved back to Ontario where they built their retirement home on Bay Lake east of Novar. They continue to enjoy good health and love living among the trees and wildlife at the lake. They enjoy travelling and visiting family. The Davies have four children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Russell** and **Carol Tataryn** of Lacombe, Alta., celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 28, 2013. They celebrated with all of

their children and grandchildren during the week of July 14–21, on Lake Whatcom near Bellingham, Wash. The Tataryns have three children and six grandchildren.

## ■ Birthdays

**John William Reynolds** of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on



Oct. 7, 1918. His daughter and four grandchildren celebrated with him.

## ■ Obituaries

**Nettie (née Wiebe) Fehr** was born on July 29, 1927, in Osler, Sask., and died Oct. 5, 2013, in Swift Current, Sask. Nettie enjoyed reading her Bible, and she loved and prayed daily for her children and grandchildren. She was a long-time member of the Swift Current church. She sang while she worked and enjoyed quilting, gardening and baking. The wheelchair lift in the Swift Current church was initiated for Nettie. She is predeceased by her husband, John, and sons Elmer (Elaine) of Wymark, Sask., and Lester (Patty) of Swift Current, Sask. Surviving: sons Norman (Bev), Gale (Vera) and Lyndon of Wymark, Seymour (Helen) of Swift Current, Sask.; daughters, Nancy Thibault of Pontiac, Sask., Gloria Olfort of Swift Current and Shirley (Tom) DeWitt of Carberry, Man.; 25 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

**Dennis Weldon Heintz** was born on Aug. 26, 1943, in Regina, Sask., and died Aug. 27, 2013, in Lacombe, Alta. Dennis's first career was as an electronics technician; however, he soon realized that his true calling was the church. He studied theology in Michigan, and for over 30 years, Dennis pastored in Ontario and British Columbia. He was deeply devoted to his family, his faith and his church. He is survived by his wife, Marlene; son, Nathan of Red Deer, Alta.; daughters, Kaily and Aimee of Red Deer; and sister, Donna Loreth of Weyburne, Sask.; one grandchild.

**Nettie (née Martens) Klokeid** was born on Feb. 10, 1933, in Rosthern, Sask., and died Oct. 11, 2013, in Kelowna, B.C. Nettie worked as an RN for 20 years. She spent many

years teaching children in Sabbath school, volunteering at Deer Lake School (B.C.), helping with Pathfinders, and as camp nurse at Hope, B.C., junior camp. She is predeceased by her brothers, Peter, Abram, John and Isaac, and sisters, Annie, Mary, Helen, Katherine, Agatha and Jessie. Surviving: husband, Grant; sons, Brian and Lorne; one grandchild.

### **Lily Ethel (née Campbell) McKeith**

was born on Oct. 22, 1917, in Okotoks, Alta., and died Sept. 22, 2013, in Oliver, B.C. Lily always had a smile and a word for the Lord with encouragement to a needy soul. Ethel served as deaconess, and superintendent of the adult Sabbath school. She also taught the children's class and was involved in Vacation Bible School throughout her life. Lily is predeceased by her husband, Harvey, and sons John and Donald. Surviving: son Daniel (Alice); stepsons, Dale (Sharon) and Hugh (Laurie); daughters, Joan Young and Joy Sawatzky.

**Lydia (née Ferguson) Paul** was born on April 3, 1923, in Youngstown, Alta., and died Sept. 19, 2013, in Kelowna, B.C. Fergie served on the Northern Light. She was a dental assistant, helping in the First Nations villages along the coast. Fergie served her church as an elder, Sabbath school superintendent and teacher. She was a church visitor to the hospital for many years. Fergie was a poet and wrote many poems. She was generous and loving to all. She is predeceased by her husband, Mel Paul, her brother Eric, and her sisters, Edna, Gloss, Hazel, May and Margaret. Surviving: sons, Del (Lynn), Dean (Nancy), Ted (Nancy) and Harley (Jackie); brothers Calvin (Ellen) and Tom (Betty); six grandchildren.

### **Alma Grace (née Mitchell) Sparling**

was born on Jan. 24, 1928, in Kincaid, Sask., and died Sept. 12, 2013, in Lamont, Alta. Alma was most recently known for knitting over 1,000 sweaters, which were distributed to children throughout developing countries over the last several years. Her working career began at the Swift Current Home in 1967 and continued at the Sherwood Park Nursing Home from 1970–1978. She was active in the following churches: Regina, Swift Current, Edmonton, Sherwood Park, Oliver and Penticton, in addition to several in Arizona. Alma is predeceased by her husband, John Sparling. Surviving: son, Braden Caldwell; daughter, Maureen (Lorne) McCallister; two grandchildren.

**David Thomas** was born on Feb. 5, 1941, in Kingston, Jamaica, and died Oct. 2, 2013, in Stettler, Alta. David



served his church faithfully as a dedicated treasurer and elder for many years. He also had a real love for mission trips, particularly to Peru. David is survived by his wife, Hazel; daughters, Tamara (Shane) McPherson, Rachel (Kevin) Trenchuk, Ruth, Sue (Dave), Rosanna (Randy) Thomas-Trenchuk; and brother, Michael of Jamaica; seven grandchildren.

## ■ Tribute

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF WONDERFUL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

Kenneth Hanna (January 1991)  
Phyllis Hanna (January 2013 in her 100<sup>th</sup> year)



We can't have the old days back,  
When we were all together,  
But secret tears and loving thoughts,  
Will be with us forever.

Much loved and missed by,  
Ruth, Sandra, Jeff, Rod, Natasha,  
Lateisha and Marlo

## ■ Advertising Policies

### PROCESS:

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

### RATES:

**Classified advertising**—\$30 for 50 words or less; \$5 for each additional 10 words.

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### Central Valley Christian Academy

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### Planning an evangelistic series or health seminar? Have questions?

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**Now hiring:** children's English teachers to be based in Chengdu, China. Competitive salary package based on competence and experience. Native English speaker, hold a bachelor's degree, preferably with some teaching experience. Education centre run by Adventist professionals. Visit <http://sgg.com.sg/career/jobs.htm> or email [gateway@sgg.com.sg](mailto:gateway@sgg.com.sg) for more details. (1/14)

**Looking for authors** who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc.). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/ doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800/367-1844. (7/14)

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Go to [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger) to view the online edition, upload stories and photos, get ad rates, and submit announcements.

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## from the editor

### Things I have learned ...

Next month it will be two years since I was asked to consider—and since have accepted—being the editor of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*.

Here are some things I have learned:

- Less than half of the Adventists in Canada were getting the *Messenger*.
- Using an American spelling for a word, or other tiny errors, will get more responses from readers than the article itself.
- People would rather read about a success than listen to the words of the inexperienced theorist circulate their wisdom about sharing Christ.
- Quebec City is one of the friendliest places in Canada.
- The board of directors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada are incredibly talented and gifted.
- Facebook pages get way more traffic than traditional websites.
- People really like the “Where are They Now?” feature.
- Our youth are very active in sharing and caring.
- The union office is the most stress-free building I have ever worked in.
- The national leadership of our church has to make tough decisions.
- Connecting with and travelling with editors of other religious magazines has been a most rewarding experience.
- My mother, in Airdrie, Alta., likes it when I write most anything.
- Adventists who are currently not connected to a local church are thankful to get the *Messenger* in their homes, and for many it is their only contact with the church as an institution.
- People like to have visionary leaders, at all levels.
- Over the past two years, I have been blessed by having incredible co-workers and friends.

*PS: I would challenge everyone to start reading at least one new Adventist book this month, and finish it. Then drop me an email telling about your experience with it. If you are far from an ABC, you can get our books online at [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com), or they can be called at 800/765-6955.*



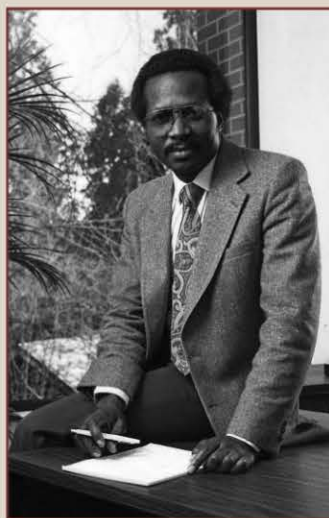
**IT'S A NEW YEAR, AND WITH IT COME NEW BEGINNINGS.** Throughout the years, the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* (formerly known as the *Canadian Union Messenger*) has seen quite a few changes, gradually developing into what you hold in your hands today. However, without the hard work and dedication of those who have gone before us, the *Messenger* would not exist today. This month we decided to go back about 25 years to take a look at some of the people who were featured in the January 1988 issue. They, among many others, are the ones who have made our progress possible. We couldn't have done it without them.

## "Beginning Again"

by Roy Adams

Whoever invented the year did a marvelous thing for us. Don't know about you, but 365 days are all that I can stand in a year. Sometimes, one day more—but only one.

Newly appointed editor, Roy Adams.  
January, 1988, *Canadian Union Messenger*.



## MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE MESSENGER



Left to right—June Ulett-Culmore,  
Allan Collieran and June Polishuk.

**June Polishuk**, a life-long resident of Oshawa, and a graduate of Kingsway College has worked with Maracle Press for the past 25 years as proof-reader. Her husband, Don, works in insurance, and they have two married daughters, Janice and Lynne. With her many years of experience at the press, she brings stability and expertise to the *MESSENGER* as Associate Editor.

**Allan Collieran** started out with the Ontario Conference in February, 1977 working with Ad Graphics. In this portfolio, he was involved in developing all the evangelism and youth camp promotional materials for the conference. When Maracle Press bought Ad Graphics in 1983, Al stayed with it. He and his wife Sylvia have two boys: Trevor 22, and Shawn 16. Al works as Art Director for the *MESSENGER*.

**June Ulett-Culmore** is a graduate of Kingsway College. She started out with the Ontario Conference as secretary in the treasury department. In 1985, she moved to the SDA Church in Canada headquarters, working as secretary for the Foundations (Voice of Prophecy, It Is Written and Faith for Today). June is married to Don Culmore. She serves as secretary for the *MESSENGER*.

<< A portion from "A Letter  
From the Editor" addressed  
to *Messenger* readers.  
January, 1988, *Canadian  
Union Messenger*.

Our *MESSENGER* committee recently voted an extensive list of new guidelines for the paper. We'd be sending copies to all our local conference/mission correspondents. We encourage our church communication secretaries/directors to consult with them if you have questions about any copy you are preparing for the *MESSENGER*. There are a few general items I wish to mention here, at random:

1. All copy for the *MESSENGER* should be sent first to the local conference correspondent. The conference correspondent will forward to us only copy which comply with *MESSENGER* guidelines.
2. Copy sent directly to us is subject to be returned to the local conference correspondent for authorization to publish, thus causing needless delay.
3. To be published in the following month's issue, copy should be received by the editor on or before the 5th day of the current month. Make allowance for postal delays.
4. We are committed to getting the news in print immediately, once you meet the deadline. And we are eager for news—especially evangelistic news, from all sectors of the Church. (We should note, however, that space may sometimes frustrate our purpose to publish all we get. But we'd keep on trying.)
5. Be sure your article answers these basic questions, wherever necessary: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Give full names of persons mentioned in your article, or at least two initials.
6. Keep articles short. Omit the flowery plaudits. Stick to the facts. Wherever possible, say it with pictures. We encourage photo journalism. However, photos must conform to certain publishing standards of quality. Consult your conference correspondent, or write to us, for details.
7. Don't send us long, unsolicited articles on general topics. We cannot publish these. The *MESSENGER* is primarily for news about the work in the Canadian field. (This could change, however, if our opinion survey warrants it. See item 9 below).
8. Commencing immediately, we would welcome *Letters to the Editor*. These should deal with matters of concern to the Canadian church. Other specifications will be published in our next issue. Of course, we may not be able to publish all the letters we receive.
9. A survey instrument is currently in preparation to canvass the opinion of *MESSENGER* readers. The results would guide us in making changes and introducing new features in the paper.
10. If you know of any Adventist family in your area who does not receive a copy of the *MESSENGER*, please supply the name and address to your conference correspondent for forwarding.

# ~ THE ~ BLESSED HOPE



“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing  
of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13

**FEBRUARY 8, 2014**  
**~ ANNUAL OFFERING ~**

It is our calling to share God's love  
across Canada, and you can be a part  
of this movement. **On February 8,**  
**bring a special offering to support**  
**the ministry of It Is Written Canada.**



watch It Is Written Saturdays, 11 AM on CTV

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