

“So wherever you go in the world, tell everyone the Good News.”

—Mark 16:15, GWT



## The Essential

Simple, isn't it? That's what Jesus expects of you and me. Think of it as our response to salvation. Christ did something for us. This is what He asks in return, not to purchase salvation, but because we have incredibly good news to share.

Some of us forget Jesus' instruction to every Christian, and that's sad. He intends that through word of mouth and organized preaching of the Word, your neighbour, your co-worker, your family member, will have opportunity to accept salvation. You and I are part of heaven's strategy to confront society with an important choice.

It seems to me that we ought to be talking more about our plans to take this text seriously. That's why I'm excited about what I'm hearing from Edmonton. There, church members and church leaders are working together, all the Adventist churches in the city, to share the Good News. They are taking Mark 16:15 very seriously. They are calling what they are doing "Impact 2015." Elsewhere in this Messenger, you will read more about it.

I'm delighted that all Edmonton churches are working toward a common, biblical goal. That's the way it should be, isn't it? Often it is easy for us to go our separate ways and do our own thing. The imperative of the gospel commission must move us beyond our everyday norm to cooperative effort toward mission.

Recently, I watched via the Internet as Jose Rojas and John Bradshaw led a weekend of spiritual emphasis as Adventists throughout the city joined together in worship and commitment. These are exciting days! I hope that you'll go to the website, <http://www.impact2015.org/>, and stay up to date with developments as they take place.

But more than that, throughout Canada we need to be praying for our brothers and sisters in Edmonton and for this act of faith and mission on their part. We must not underestimate the importance of what they are doing. But beyond that, we need to be asking what we should be doing in our own communities. What would God have us do where we live and work?

I believe that Jesus is returning soon. All across Canada, let's live like we believe that, shall we? ■

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

Messenger

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# WHAT'S INSIDE

## March 2014



### FEATURES

- 22** **OUTREACH** Edmonton's Impact 2015 Convocation Weekend
- 24** **COVER STORY** Impact 2015
- 28** **OUTREACH** Sharing Jesus with "the Least of These"

### IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2** **HEART TO HEART**
- 5** **PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
- 6** **TEEN TALK**
- 7** **CREATION CORNER**
- 8** **CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**
- 10** **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
- 11** **PLANNED GIVING & TRUST/ON THE ROAD**
- 12** **A BETTER WORLD**
- 13** **THE CONNECTED CHURCH**
- 14** **REFRESH WITH TIA**
- 15** **APP REVIEW/PRAYER LIFE**
- 16** **EDITOR'S Q&A—STAFF INTERVIEWS**
- 18** **BARRY'S BLOG**
- 20** **ADRA CANADA**
- 21** **LITERATURE EVANGELISM**
- 23** **MUSIC MINISTRY**
- 30** **KINGSWAY COLLEGE**
- 31** **A NEW ADVENTIST ASKS**
- 32** **YOUTH FEATURE**
- 33** **EDUCATION**
- 35** **NEWS**
- 42** **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 46** **FROM THE EDITOR**
- 47** **A BACKWARD GLANCE**

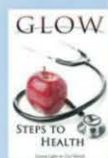






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**GLOW Canada** is an outreach initiative that stands for **G**iving **L**ight to **O**ur **W**orld. You may have seen it featured on the Hope Channel or the Adventist Review. The focus of the initiative is to bring hope and wholeness to the thousands across Canada who need it. The GLOW outreach is specifically designed for church members who are too shy to talk to strangers, but still want to work for God while going about their everyday lives. Whether you want to get involved in French or English, visit [Lifestylecanada.org](http://Lifestylecanada.org) to find out more about GLOW, and how you can contact us to start "glowing" for Jesus.



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**Deadline for Submission of Applications: April 15, 2014**



Help sponsor the yearly distribution of GLOW tracts, and History & Hope (Great Controversy full edition) to over 300,000 homes through our own Literature Evangelist Missionaries. Call, or donate online at:



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If you want to learn how to combine your interest in healthy living with your desire to share God's plan for a healthy body, mind and soul, the iHeal Lifestyle Coaching certification may be just how God can use you. This new program combines principles of health education evangelism with literature evangelism principles to reach the secular public. To become certified, you can either choose to study online at your own pace, or sign up for our intensive training. We are told that "Of this work there is great need, and the world is open for it." – MH, p. 146. Visit [iHealOutreach.com](http://iHealOutreach.com) to learn more about the iHeal approach and training offered.

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# For Zion's Sake...

For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns.—*Isaiah 62:11*

I have been enjoying my devotional reading of the book of Isaiah. It is thrilling to notice the impact that the Lord had upon the prophet's life and ministry. Prior to the direct and very personal encounter he has with Christ in Chapter 6, Isaiah's message to the church of his day is notably harsh. His denunciation of God's people as "a sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, and children who are corrupters" (1:4) may have correctly articulated a truthful standing of some who were outside of God's will, but in my understanding of a broader reading of Scripture, the tone of his comments do not reflect the spirit and passion that the Lord has toward those who err.

Christ's direct revelation to Isaiah, which clarified to the prophet his need to identify more closely with his people, reveals the compassion and patience of our Lord. With a fuller understanding of the holiness and purity of God, Isaiah exclaimed, "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts" (6:5). Apparently, there is nothing quite like a clearer revelation of Jesus to bring us to a humbler view of ourselves and of those to whom we minister.

I also appreciate the thought that the Lord Himself will directly intervene and communicate His will towards us in terms that are clearly understood, should we err in our witness. My experience tells me that not only the message we bear but also the spirit in which we deliver the message is of great concern to our Lord. To do the right thing the right way in a manner that

is truly God-honouring is only possible as we root ourselves safely and humbly in a relationship with Christ. His grace is truly life-changing and transformational!

As a conference president, I can attest that my eyes have been opened as to the intensity of the conflict, yet in every situation, the grace of God has always been present, and time and care has always been taken to seek the Lord's will carefully and prayerfully. I am proud of our church! I am proud of the balance we can find in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy writings. I am grateful for the richness I have found devotionally. The church has been to me a vessel God has used to bind me to Himself. Daily, it has been my practice to bask in the beauty of His blessing. It is this practice that God offers to each of us through the ministry of His Spirit in the church.

"For Zion's sake," I would urge you, regardless of your situation, to intentionally take your stand with Christ and purpose to prayerfully work for the spiritual well-being of God's people. May our grace filled witness extend peace to others and truly fulfill our Lord's desire for us to focus on the mission of the church. To this end may the Lord truly be honoured in our individual and collective witness. ■

*Ron Nelson is president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*





# teen talk

**Q:** What are your thoughts about the salvation of a person who commits suicide?

**A:** First of all, if you or someone you know is in a crisis and needs immediate assistance, go to the nearest hospital or call 9-1-1.

Personally, I look at depression-induced suicide as the equivalent to involuntary manslaughter. Why? Because severe depression is a disease that clouds and distorts your thought process in such a way that killing yourself seems to be a valid option. You heard of impaired driving, right? Well, similarly, think of depression as impaired thinking because of a disease.

Jesus is quick to forgive our sins, even when we are aware of our wrongdoing. He takes in consideration our sinful nature and constant battle with temptation. Paul had that problem, you know, doing the bad things that he didn't want to and not doing the good deeds he wished to do. So if Jesus shows mercy in those circumstances, won't He be merciful when our wrongdoing is caused by a disease that takes control of our mind?

There is also guilt-induced suicide, like the one Judas committed. Or when somebody is caught doing something really bad and doesn't want to face the consequences of his or her actions. Still, even in those circumstances, we can't judge or presume that we know what was going on in that person's mind when that person killed himself/herself.

Most importantly, we are not God. So let's let Him deal with the final answer, shall we?



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



## Squid

The squid is a strange animal. It has the largest eyes in the animal kingdom, each one as large as your head. It's got a beak like a parrot and a tongue like a giant file. The giant squid has eight arms and two longer feeding tentacles that each have more than 100 suckers that stick like suction cups to their prey. When a giant squid catches a deep-sea fish, it draws the fish to its beak, which chops the food into smaller pieces. The tongue grabs the food and pushes it into the squid's esophagus. The swallowed food goes through its brain to get to the stomach.

Perhaps one of the strangest things about the squid, though, is that it has three hearts. One heart pumps blood to the body, while the other two hearts pump blood to the gills.

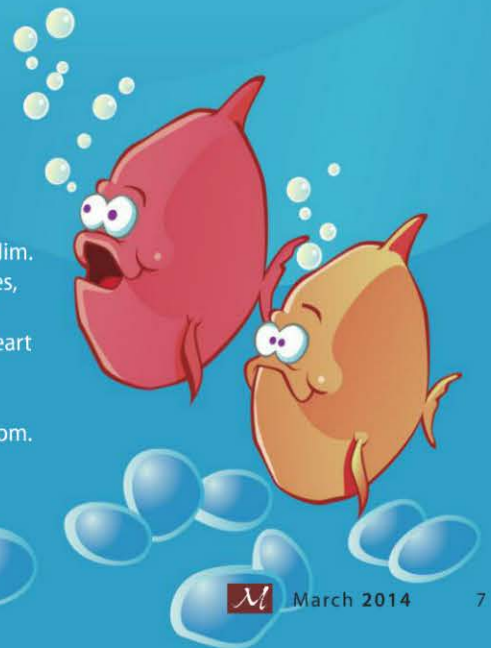


## Think about it.

Maybe God made humans with only one heart to teach us that we must be single-hearted to Him. Unfortunately, many of us spend more time, energy and money on things that take our hearts away from God. God wants to give us one heart so that we will want to worship and serve only Him. After all, He knows that is the only way we can be truly happy.

## Do it!

The more time you spend with Jesus, the more time you'll want to spend with Him. Look for Him in the Scriptures, seek Him in prayer. Pour out your heart to Him. Ask Him to give you a heart single to Him, and He will. To see a video and learn more about the squid, visit [creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com](http://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).



# Christian. unity



Doug Matacio

*This is the first part in a series on  
Christian unity by CUC professors  
Doug Matacio and Bruce Boyd.  
Next time we will hear from Dr. Boyd.*

KING SVATOPLUK I WAS FOUNDER OF THE GREATER MORAVIAN EMPIRE (modern Slovakia) and defended it from 870 to 894. Before his death he called his three sons, gave them each a stick and ordered them to break it. Each one did so easily with his two hands. When the king put the sticks together in a bundle, none of his sons were able to break it. Svatopluk had demonstrated the importance of unity as a means to ensure the prosperity and invincibility of the land. Yet, after the king's death, his sons engaged in a power struggle, Hungarian raiders attacked and the empire collapsed.

## **WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MISSION AND UNITY?**

Today the church has a mission to serve human needs and persuade people to embrace Jesus Christ. Every unit—Pathfinder club, Sabbath school class, conference, women's ministry, university, hospital, union, and General Conference—participates in this mission. If mission is the purpose of the church, what is the function of unity? Jesus prayed that his followers "may all be one" so that the world might believe that he was sent from the Father (John 17:20-21). Again he prayed that his followers "may be brought to complete unity" (NIV), so that the world might know (and believe) that he had been sent by a loving Father (John 17:23). For Jesus, church unity is the means by which the world will believe and know the gospel.

## **WHAT IS UNITY?**

Paul emphasized both the oneness and the diversity of the church as the body of Christ. He mentioned different kinds of gifts (see 1 Cor. 12:4-11), and different kinds of ethnic and economic groups (verse 13). "For just as the body is one and has



many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:12, 13, NRSV). Paul visualized the church with two main characteristics: (1) oneness “with Christ” through the Spirit and (2) pluriformity rather than uniformity with regard to spiritual gifts, ethnicity and economic status. We may then define Christian unity as pluriform oneness with Christ through the Spirit.

#### **How is unity possible?**

Jesus prayed that the glory He offered His followers would result in their unity. “The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one” (John 17:22, NRSV). What is this glory that makes unity possible? A few days before Calvary, Jesus declared, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (John 12:23). There was glory in Jesus’ self-sacrificing act of going to the cross. When the followers

of Jesus die to self and drink fully of the Holy Spirit each day, they receive the glory that enables unity.

#### **What is the goal of mission?**

When the gospel is proclaimed throughout the world as a testimony to all nations—the end will come (Matt. 24:14). This “end” is the end of rebellion against God and the beginning of the unending unity of all nations with God. “Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, ‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever’” (Rev. 5:13). In this light, unity is not only the means by which mission may be accomplished but also the ultimate goal of mission. ■

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*Doug Matacio is a professor of religious studies at Canadian University College.*

## CUC, Canada’s Seventh-day Adventist University Canada-Wide Offering 2014



We are excited that the Canada-wide offering for March 29, the last Sabbath of March, will go towards Canadian University College and the continued education of our young men and women across this vast country of ours. CUC has seen remarkable growth over the years, and we are proud to be Canada’s choice for higher education. Our students come from every province in Canada, the N.W.T and internationally. They are your children, grandchildren and members of your congregation. Our alumni have settled not only all over our country but also around the globe, and they serve as your teachers, doctors and pastors.

In the past year, we have felt your support and we were blessed to receive a 20 percent increase in donations. We thank you for

your continued support. Please plan to participate again in this special CUC Canada-wide offering by committing to a gift, helping promote it to your friends and continuing to pray for CUC and our students’ continued success. Special donation envelopes and materials will be made available at your local church. If you wish, you are also able to donate anytime online by visiting [www.cauc.ca](http://www.cauc.ca) and following the prompts to donate now. ■

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



where are they now

# Where Are They Now



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

*Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.*

**Messenger:** *Where did you spend your childhood?*

**Raymond West:** I was brought up in Halifax, N.S., in a Seventh-day Adventist home. I had a couple of older brothers and a younger sister. We had a fairly strong church group. In the summers, I went swimming a lot in the Northwest Arm in Halifax, and I kept out of mischief. I was baptized at the age of 11.

**M:** *You took premed courses at Oshawa Missionary College (OMC). Can you tell me what sparked your desire to study medicine?*

**R:** I went off to OMC at the age of 14 in 1937 and graduated in 1941. Then I took another year of premed classes at OMC. My father was in the Canadian Army, so we lived near the military hospital. I would see the ambulance coming in with the siren blaring. So I was in the right circumstances to get a feel that it was good to help people who were in trouble. Even in my early teens I had the mindset of being a physician and helping people, and being able to serve the Lord.

**M:** *You served as a Royal Canadian officer for three years. Throughout your time there, were you able to keep the Sabbath?*

**R:** Yes indeed. There was a set of rules called the KR (King's Rules) and AI (Ad Morality) instructions that if an ordinary sailor said that he wanted time off to go

to church, then that was his right and he was to be released to go ashore and go to church. By the grace of God, my commanders and my officers acquiesced to that. Each time I went to a different ship's company, I would tell the leader officers that I was a Seventh-day Adventist and I would get all Sabbaths off. It was pretty wonderful.

**M:** *How was your time at Rest Haven? Can you share a story of how you saw God working?*

**R:** There was a little girl, in Rest Haven, and she got the dreaded complication of measles, when the virus affects the brain. She went into a coma and had to be fed by a gastric tube. She was in a coma for six weeks, and the likelihood of her ever coming out of it was not very good. And so I got the hospital chaplain, the director of nurses, the administrator and the parents of the little girl, and we prayed over her and anointed her. The next morning when I went to see her, she was perfectly well. That was the closest I've ever seen to a dramatic heavenly intervention. And wonder of wonders, probably about 10 years ago, I got a letter from the girl. She was married and living in northern British Columbia. She wanted to thank me and perhaps confirm what her parents had told her about the experience because, of course, she didn't remember anything about it. This was nice and exciting.

**M:** *How does ministering through health provide opportunities for you to share your faith?*

**R:** I don't know how many times I have told patients throughout the years that all healing comes from heaven. I invited them to recognize that what I did for them and what the nurses and what the lab tech did in the hospital for them—we were only hands that work and God did the healing. Incidentally, I always prayed with patients before surgery.

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

**R:** We live in a little town called Belfair, Wash. It's just across the great city of Seattle, and near the town of Bremerton, which is a Navy shipyard. Julia and I moved up here partly because we had three little grandchildren and we wanted to be with them in their growing years.

We have just recently built our own church. Our congregation is only less than 40. A kind man who is not a Seventh-day Adventist donated most of the money for us to build our church. Another doctor and I in the church are planning to do a Breathe Easy Non-Smoking plan in a few weeks. I have been retired for a little over 20 years, and I still work just a bit. I still go to an office in Seattle and see patients for disability exams. Of course, we thought that the Lord was coming long before now. So we are still here, and waiting. ■



Part 2 of 3. Continued from February 2014 issue.

# Whom Should I Name as My Executor?



"In this third session we will begin to consider several types of clauses commonly used in a will," the Planned Giving director announced.<sup>1</sup> "The first clause is an 'Identification and Revocation' clause. It includes your full name, where you live, and it states that this is your last will, revoking all of your previous wills.

"The next clause is extremely important," the director warned. "In it you name your executor.<sup>2</sup> Your executor should be a person you trust, someone you have complete confidence in to carry out your wishes. Your executor will oversee your funeral arrangements and protect your assets from the moment you pass away. He/she will take care of all the business of your estate, finalize your Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) tax returns and distribute your bequests.

"It is best to appoint an executor who lives in your province, because an out-of-province executor may be required to post a bond before the court will allow him to administer your estate."

"What if there are no business brains in my family?" asked Susan with a grin on her usually serious face.

"Depending on your circumstances," the director explained, "you could ask a friend, a lawyer, an accountant or a financial institution. If you have no one to designate, the conference vice-president of finance may consider taking on the responsibility.

"Most importantly," emphasized the director, "do these three things for your executor:

- 1) Ask the person if he or she is willing to act as your executor,
- 2) Tell your executor where to find your last original will,
- 3) Remember your hard-working executor in your will!" ■

<sup>1</sup> This is general information and not to be considered legal advice.

<sup>2</sup> Also referred to as a personal representative, administrator, or executrix.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE  
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE APPLE CREEK AND PHILADELPHIA  
CHURCHES IN ONTARIO.

*It's Sabbath morning and a metre of snow has fallen overnight. You have a snow blower/plow, and your neighbour, who is in his 50s, has a broken leg. Do you plow his driveway? Why or why not?*

**Lucille Fraille:** I would help my neighbour, because if I were in that situation, I would need someone's help.

**Kathleen C.:** Regardless of my neighbour having a broken leg, I think I would plow his driveway. I'd already be out, and I think it is the neighbourly as well as the Christian thing to do. It's also a way to witness, as I often reflect on what Jesus would do.

**Georgia McLaren:** I have time to plow my driveway; I certainly would do his, too. I would do it because he is my neighbour and likely my friend. I am usually a neighbourly person, so my neighbour and I would be friends.

**Patricia:** It is always a rewarding feeling for me to do good deeds, so I would certainly use my snow blower to help clean my neighbour's driveway, and more, because he is unable to do so, because of his broken leg. The Bible states that it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath, and I am sure if Jesus was here, He would help him. I think this would be a means, too, of witnessing to him and also to others.





**Top left:** A Calgary Alberta team in partnership with the Kona Bike company assembled and delivered 200 bicycles to Kenyan students, removing another barrier to education: transportation. Kona Bike has designed a special bicycle for the African terrain and shipped it to Kenya from their factory in Vietnam. The Calgary team of 22 travelled to Kenya in May with A Better World.

**Top right:** In May another school was opened in Afghanistan by Azalea Lehnndorff. Construction will start on two more schools in 2014. To date, 8,000 students in Afghanistan are in a better learning environment.

**Right:** In July a Lethbridge teaching team of 22 traveled to Kenya and provided workshops for teachers.



# A Better World Highlights of 2013

Thank you for your generosity



In October, 34 members of the Lacombe Rotary Club and friends traveled to Kenya and Rwanda to open schools they had funded. In Rwanda, the Rotarians opened a school for the deaf and participated in the first graduation of deaf children in this school. In Lodwar an elementary school was opened.



In November, a 23-member medical team arrived in Kenya. The team consists of dentists, a cardiologist, family doctors, nurses and support staff. This is the fifth annual medical trip organized by A Better World.



# Retaining Our Young People

Photo credit: Lincoln Merani.

The beginning of the new year is always filled with hope. When I first saw this picture of a child looking into the worship service at Oakridge church, my heart melted. The most recent statistics of the “great departure” is startling — indicating that young people are leaving the church in record numbers. According to Barna Research, 59 percent of young people who grew up in the church are leaving.

What is your church willing to do to stop the bleeding? What are we willing to change for the sake of our young people? Wayne Culmore, British Columbia conference president, recently asked, “Are we willing to give up our traditions for the sake of our children and grandchildren?”

While many leaders have focused on the problems with the church and reasons why young people are leaving, let’s take a closer look at why they are staying. If we can focus on the positive outcomes, perhaps we can learn to make improvements in our churches based on what’s keeping them in the church.

## 54 PERCENT SAY THEY ATTEND CHURCH “TO BE CLOSER TO GOD.”

Young people are less interested in the big business of church, and traditions, and instead desire to focus on a personal relationship with Jesus. Question for church elders: What opportunities can you provide to young people who want to grow deeper? Do you have small groups organized? Can you provide leadership training for young people so they can start Bible study groups? What are the elements in your worship service that include contemplative time to experience God in all of His grandeur?

## 31 PERCENT SAY THEY ATTEND CHURCH TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD.

Many churches believe they should teach Adventist doctrine. Young people are yearning for an experience that will take them

beyond doctrine and dogma. They want to learn about the character of God. They want to know how to navigate through life, how to make decisions at work and school that reflect the life and teachings of Jesus. Question for your church elders: How would your church transform if you studied the life of Jesus for one year? What would happen if sermons, small groups and discipleship groups became studies about Jesus Christ?

## 16 PERCENT SAY THEY WANT THE CHURCH TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS.

Young people are interested in social justice. This isn’t a fad. They believe the church should serve as the voice of people in the margins. They would rather spend the day in a soup kitchen serving homeless people instead of attending church. They believe the church should serve the community for the sake of Jesus. Question for your church elders: What kind of service opportunities are you providing for your church? How can the adults in the church participate together with the young adults in serving the community?

If we are going to think of ways to retain our youth, perhaps we should consider this as an evangelism challenge. If 59 percent of our young people are leaving the church, what if we were to set aside 59 percent of our evangelism dollars on retaining and reaching young people? ■

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*Kumar Dixit is the senior pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church, in Vancouver, a city where seven out of 10 people have no religious affiliation. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Secular World. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.*



## IMPERFECT



Words by God —2 Corinthians 12:9, NIV

Giving Grace. What comes to mind when you hear those words? Do you think of giving grace to somebody who hurt you? Giving grace to a friend? How about giving grace to yourself? To me that is often a foreign concept, giving myself grace. But as we are ever growing and learning, there will be times when we mess up or things just don't work out the way we wanted. Today I was all ready to dive—or rather fall—into my studies, organized and prioritized my time with God and school. ... That readiness seemed to become the obstacle that continued to grow as the day went on, and I did not finish what I had set out to do.

I was feeling pretty discouraged by the end of the day, and something I'm realizing is that this is a part of the grace God had in mind when He died for me. He knew there would be days we would feel discouraged or incapable, and for those days as well as every day of our lives, He has given us His grace, not just for those around us and in our treatment of them—but for us too! The grace God offers us is not just for the wrong stuff we do. He offers us grace in our imperfection, shortcomings and every part of our lives. When God looks at your day, what do you think He sees?

Luke 12:25 says, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?" (NIV). The truth is we can't add an hour to our day to get in one more assignment or one more project. Instead of worrying about it, stressing or beating yourself up about what you could have done better, give that part of your heart to Jesus and ask Him to guide you through it. Give yourself grace for not being perfect. God knows our hearts, He knows every day of our lives and He is not worried about your organizer or the "to do" list you have in your binder. Those things are important to Him, yes, but He has everything in His hands. Nothing is out of control for Him and nothing is too big of a mess for Him, because He can use it all to help us grow into grace. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (NIV). ■

### Be Blessed

*Tia Lawrence is 19 years old. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—[refreshwithtia.com](http://refreshwithtia.com)*



Watch "This is the Stuff" by Francesca Battistelli on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/smX8u>







# review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

app review

**App:** 3ABN

**In Brief:**

If you have ever wanted to be able to watch 3ABN on the go, then this is the app for you. You can watch the 3ABN live broadcast as well as broadcasts of the SonBeam Channel (for kids), Dare to Dream Network (for urban audiences) and 3ABN Proclaim! (24-hour preaching and teaching). As well as live video, the radio broadcast for 3ABN is also available. A newsfeed and the full broadcast schedule for 3ABN are offered and easy to browse, but it would be nice to have the schedules for all channels instead of just 3ABN. The main 3ABN video and radio feeds are also available in Spanish and Russian.

**Wow Factor:** Watch or listen to 3ABN live, along with other 3ABN channels.

**Meh Factor:** Schedule only lists 3ABN programming and does not list the other 3ABN channels.

**Developed for:** Three Angels Broadcasting Network

**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).

prayer life

## Prayer Movement

*Evangelism has power when saturated with prayer.*

In August 1727, a group of Moravians covenanted to pray hourly so that every hour around the clock someone was praying. They took the words of Leviticus 6:13 to heart, "The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out." This prayer 24/7 continued for 100 years. There is no wonder that the Moravians have made such an impact on missions and also influenced such notables as William Carey and John Wesley.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians sensing the nearness of Christ's return, should we not inspire a prayer movement across Canada? This would mean that the majority of our members would be intercessors for the salvation of people and the expanding of God's kingdom. Every church should be a house of prayer for all people. Communities can be transformed through prayer. Evangelism has power when saturated with prayer. World mission has a new effectiveness when powered by the united prayer of God's people.

In the Christian world, there is an inspiring emphasis on prayer. One example is the Global Prayer movement, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International endeavoring to break down the stronghold of Satan and establish new monuments for Jesus Christ.

I praise God for the 65,000 Adventist Christians in Canada and the approximate 380 churches and companies. Much effective ministry and prayer is taking place today—but perhaps we can reach beyond our present experience. One hundred and twenty Christians united in prayer 2,000 years ago and revolutionized the world for Christ. If our members, churches, leaders and schools all made prayer a new priority, similar results would happen in our day. Let's start a prayer movement in Canada. Let's warm up Canada with prayer! ■

*Donald Corkum is prayer ministries coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and church planting coordinator for the Alberta Conference.*



March 2014

15

# Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

*I had the privilege of meeting Rose Jacinto back in the late 1980s when our family relocated to Oshawa. My eldest daughter was in her class at College Park Elementary School, so I got to know her a little and was always impressed with her even temperament. It is hard for me to comprehend at times that she is all grown up with children of her own. Come meet Rose, whose office is just a few steps away from my own.*



Domenick, Jonathan, Austin, and Rose Jacinto

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

**ROSE:** I grew up surrounded by my extended family—my grandparents, my mom's seven siblings and eventually their spouses and my cousins. My grandparents live on a farm where they have no indoor plumbing, no electricity and no running water. When I was a child, I spent a summer there playing with barn cats, catching frogs and leading my pet goat Jumbo around on a leash.

My mom values Christian education, and that is what she wanted for me. As a single mother, she worked hard and sacrificed to provide that for me. I started attending an Adventist school in Grade 1. My mom wasn't able to take me to school, because she was a nanny for my two younger second cousins (whom I think of as my brothers),

so I traveled to and from school on the streetcar in Toronto by myself. The following year, the school moved to a different location, and my mom found a family that lived close by that I could commute with.

When we moved to Oshawa, my mom found employment with College Woodwork (where she still works) and housing with Kingsway College. This made my commute to school a five-minute walk. I started Grade 4 at College Park Elementary School that fall, and my teacher soon realized that my reading abilities were below what they should be, so I was put back into Grade 3. Two teachers were instrumental in helping me improve my reading skills: Connie Janes and Florence Jerome.

My mom married my stepfather the summer before I started high school. They chose not to have any children,



so I remained an only child. I met my husband on a Kingsway College Florida choir tour. My friend Lisa and I sat in the four-seater on the tour bus facing two Filipino guys. If you stare at someone long enough, things happen. We started dating at the end of our sophomore year and continued throughout our college years at Canadian University College (CUC). We married a couple of years after graduation. My husband, Domenick, currently works in the business office at Kingsway College; he is the accountant. After six years of marriage, we were blessed with two boys: Jonathan and Austin. Jonathan is turning four in May and loves dinosaurs. Austin is 18 months old, and we can't keep him away from the stairs.

**EDITOR:** *Have you have always been an Adventist? What was your experience growing up in an Adventist home?*

**ROSE:** Yes. I am at least a fourth generation Adventist. When I was little or visiting my grandparents, we would have home church because they lived too far away from a church. In the afternoons we would go for walks and enjoy nature. While we lived in Toronto, we commuted to church on the bus and subway. We would spend the whole day there. Once we moved to Oshawa, I always enjoyed campmeeting weekend. Our house would be packed with family from out of town.

I was impressed to give my heart to Jesus while at CUC during a spiritual retreat weekend that featured the Christian band Big Face Grace.

**EDITOR:** *What would you say to someone who says he or she cannot afford to go our Adventist universities?*

**ROSE:** If you can't afford it, then you can't afford it. But if you're willing, God is willing. We are influenced by our surroundings and we all want the best for our children. The best you can provide is Christian education with Christian friends and Christian teachers.

**EDITOR:** *How did you connect with General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS)?*

**ROSE:** During my fourth year at Canadian University College, my accounting teacher, Mrs. Ng, recommended me to GCAS when they called her for a reference. I had an interview with GCAS shortly after graduation, and my employment started less than two months after graduation. I was very blessed to find employment right out of school without having to look for a job.

This was not the first time that I was blessed with employment through a reference. My student employment at Kingsway College and Canadian University College in the school libraries were also through a positive reference from a teacher and a friend, respectively.

**EDITOR:** *You have had the privilege of working for GCAS since college; what do you do with them? What are your day-to-day functions?*

**ROSE:** I plan, perform and wrap financial audits with my co-workers. We review the financial records of organizations that are affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist denomination to ensure that their financial statements are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. We also conduct compliance tests of denominational policies.

**EDITOR:** *What do you look forward to the most in your position?*

**ROSE:** I enjoy the field work when we go to a client's office. I enjoy interacting with the client. I also enjoy joining them for worship and finding out throughout the week or two weeks how the last year went and what plans they are making for the future.

**EDITOR:** *How many days a year do you have to travel? Are there any challenges that come with travelling, and how do you cope with this? Also, what are the blessings of travelling as part of your career?*

**ROSE:** How much we travel varies from month to month. We are busy in the spring with December 31 yearends. For the first seven months of 2014, I will be away from home for seven weeks. It is difficult being away from my husband and children. But Domenick is super-dad while I'm away, serving breakfast and cleaning up puke and poop. Sometimes, it's nice to get out of the house/office for a week—different surroundings and different food. Being away for two weeks is harder. It's nice when my husband and children can come with me. We are looking forward to attending my continuing education meeting in Orlando in June.

**EDITOR:** *Do you have a favorite Bible text that you would be willing to share?*

**ROSE:** "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord" (Jer. 29:11-14, NIV). I like this text because it gives me hope for the future. If things aren't going so well, it encourages me to keep going because God has plans for me. ■

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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.*



## barry's blog

"Religion is seen as the boogeyman—there is no tolerance for an obnoxious belief."

# Dealing with Unpopular Beliefs

**There seems to be a growing impatience** for the expression of religious belief. When a religious position is deemed unacceptable in light of modern sensibilities there is a seemingly never ending cascade of negative press against religion. The recent uproar at York University is but one example.

Paul Grayson, a sociology professor at York University in Toronto, was asked by one of his male students in an online course to be exempt from a requirement to work on a group project which included women. Being with women in that kind of a setting was against his religious beliefs. Grayson denied the student any religious accommodation, and the student withdrew the request and ended up working with the female students in his class. As Peter Stockland points out, the case should have ended there. Stockland notes:

- "1) A man made a request.
- 2) The request was considered.
- 3) There was internal disagreement over how the request should be answered.
- 4) The man withdrew his request.

No one died—or lived—as a result. Nothing actually happened. Zero."<sup>1</sup>

However, what ensued was a frontal attack on religion.

"This takes us back to the dark ages as far as I'm concerned. It's completely unacceptable," said Grayson.<sup>2</sup> Grayson took offense to the request based on the motivation behind the request. It was repugnant to Grayson that any male student would have a religious belief that forbade him from having to associate with female students. Indeed, it does appear to be strange, odd, and peculiar, if not some other description, to have to handle such a religious accommodation request. It indeed goes against our liberal democratic sensibilities. However, religious accommodation is not based on whether we agree with the belief or not—it is based on whether we can accommodate to the point of undue hardship. This was the message Grayson got from the University's administration.

Grayson approached his Dean to get the administration's view of what should have been done. York University took the stand that because no rights of the women in the class would have been violated accommodation should have been granted. The dean also noted that Grayson had exempted another student from the project because of distance—so obviously accommodating the student with the religious objection would not have been a problem. The only reason for the denial to the religious student, the dean reasoned, was because Grayson disapproved of the students' religious beliefs.



Grayson took umbrage with the dean and argued that the geographical limitation is not parallel with a “preference” not to work with women<sup>3</sup>

Grayson followed with an op-ed<sup>4</sup> comparing York University’s position to regimes that “enforce strict religious codes.” He bemoaned the fact that elementary and secondary schools in Ontario allow prayer meetings that segregate boys from girls and “in some publically funded swimming pools, boys are separated from girls for religious reasons.” These accommodations Grayson argues, “are likely to engender feelings of inferiority in girls” and boys will “assume they are superior to girls.”

Paul Allen, a professor of theology at Concordia University in Montreal, suggests that there are other reasons why boys and girls may be separated—and it is has little to do with religion as it does with the “highly sexualized culture.” Many girls from different cultures coming to Canada are not used to nor appreciate the “lewd remarks about physical appearance in mixed company.”<sup>5</sup>

What can we learn from this tempest in a teapot?

First, religion is seen as the boogeyman—there is no tolerance for an obnoxious belief. For Grayson it brings us to the Dark Ages. Extremist religious views taint the entire field of religion. These anomalous viewpoints are taken as proof positive of the destructive role of religion in society. Whenever there are extremist religious views, religion is perceived as the problem.

Second, there does not appear to have been a review of the sincerity of belief by York University. If there was a sincerity of belief the law would support accommodating that belief. The Supreme Court of Canada has outlined how such matters ought to be dealt with: greater latitude is given to a person’s belief than to the practice of such belief. In 2001 the Supreme Court stated:

*Clearly, the restriction on freedom of religion must be justified by evidence that the exercise of this freedom of religion will, in the circumstances of this case, have a detrimental impact on the school system.*

*Instead, the proper place to draw the line in cases like the one at bar is generally between belief and conduct. The freedom to hold beliefs is broader than the freedom to act on them. Absent concrete*

*evidence that training teachers at TWU fosters discrimination in the public schools of B.C., the freedom of individuals to adhere to certain religious beliefs while at TWU should be respected. The BCCT, rightfully, does not require public universities with teacher education programs to screen out applicants who hold sexist, racist or homophobic beliefs. For better or for worse, tolerance of divergent beliefs is a hallmark of a democratic society.*<sup>6</sup>

Albertos Polizogopoulos, a lawyer in Ottawa notes:

*We may not agree with the beliefs that underlie this student’s request, but his requested means of accommodation does not violate anyone else’s rights. ... Men and women have the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of their sex, but there’s no right for men or women to be in a study group with students who may not want to be in a group with people of the opposite sex. There is no legal balancing of rights necessary in this case because there are no competing rights in this case. If the student had asked for female students to be excluded from the classes he participated in, that would be a case of competing rights. In the balancing of rights in that scenario, request denied!*<sup>7</sup>

Third, there is a complete lack of knowledge about religion. Public discussion centres on the abnormal and the extreme. It fails to appreciate the benefits that religion has given us as a society—including human rights. Grayson’s contempt for religion and religious belief is expressed in his idea that there are “secular human rights” and “parochial religious rights.” The “secular human rights” are of course far superior under his view. This position ignores the religious origins of the so called “secular human rights;”<sup>8</sup> and the protection of the “fundamental freedom” of religion in Section 2(a) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which is a very secular constitutional document. ■

Barry W. Bussey is 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> Peter Stockland, “Journalistic Effort Not Worth a Tweet,” *The Cardus Daily*, January 16, 2014, [www.cardus.ca/blog/2014/01/journalistic-ambiguity-not-worth-a-tweet](http://www.cardus.ca/blog/2014/01/journalistic-ambiguity-not-worth-a-tweet).

<sup>2</sup> “York University Student’s Request Not to Work With Women Stirs Controversy,” *CBC News*, January 9, 2014, [www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/york-university-student-s-request-not-to-work-with-women-stirs-controversy-1.2490514](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/york-university-student-s-request-not-to-work-with-women-stirs-controversy-1.2490514).

<sup>3</sup> Tristin Hopper, “York University Dean Who Granted Student’s Request to Keep From Female Classmates Says He Wishes He ‘Had Another Choice,’” *National Post*, January 13, 2014, <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/01/13/york-university-dean-who-granted-students-request-to-keep-from-female-classmates-says-he-wishes-he-had-another-choice/>.

<sup>4</sup> Paul Grayson, “York Professor at Centre of Religious Rights Furor: Rights Code is the Issue,” [www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/my-quarrels-not-with-york-but-ontarios-rights-code/article16350272/](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/my-quarrels-not-with-york-but-ontarios-rights-code/article16350272/).

<sup>5</sup> Paul Allen, “Professor Grayson’s Crusade,” *First Things: Religion and Public Life*, [www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2014/02/professor-graysons-crusade](http://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2014/02/professor-graysons-crusade).

<sup>6</sup> *Trinity Western University v. College of Teachers*, (2001) 1 S.C.R. 772, 2001 SCC 31, at paras. 35-36.

<sup>7</sup> Albertos Polizogopoulos, “The York University Question: It’s Not About Sex—It’s About the Law,” *The Cardus Daily*, [www.cardus.ca/blog/2014/01/the-york-university-question-its-not-about-sexits-about-the-law](http://www.cardus.ca/blog/2014/01/the-york-university-question-its-not-about-sexits-about-the-law).

<sup>8</sup> See for example John Witte (Editor), *Religion and Human Rights: An Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011).



# Putting Down Roots

## *A Genocide Survivor Finds Community Among Fellow Gardeners*

It is dinner time in a small community in the Mwiri District of Rwanda, and smoke can be seen rising from the many kitchen buildings scattered across the village. Here most people cook on mud-brick ovens over wood fires. As a result, most families have built a separate kitchen building to keep the smoke and soot out of their living and sleeping quarters.

Mary<sup>1</sup> emerges from her three-oven kitchen with a delicious dish of freshly prepared vegetables. Mary is the wife of the president of the local community agriculture cooperative. Most of the food she has prepared was grown in her backyard as part of ADRA Canada's Learning Environmental Adaptation for Food \security (LEAF) program. Thankfully, one activity of the LEAF program is to install smokeless stoves in the kitchens of program participants, to help address the respiratory conditions and diseases caused by smoke inhalation. Mary doesn't have a smoke-free stove yet, but she's eagerly

awaiting its installation.

In many ways, Mary leads a stable, peaceful life on her small plot of land. She is surrounded by banana trees, vegetable gardens, fields of maize and plots of tree seedlings (as part of the LEAF project's reforestation component). This reforestation is an effort to prevent soil erosion and restore nutrients that have been depleted through years of repetitive farming.

Mary's life has not always been this peaceful. Years ago, during Rwanda's genocide, she nearly died at the hands of a violent mob. She was being chased by a group of men, and only survived by hiding in a dense thicket of thorn bushes. Her pursuers assumed that no one would dare venture into the thicket and left her there. Severely cut and bleeding, Mary nonetheless survived. Her children were not so fortunate—all but one were killed. Sadly, Mary saw some of her children killed right in front of her eyes.

Now Mary is a member of a community



Mary, a participant in ADRA Canada's LEAF program in Rwanda.

agriculture cooperative. By participating in ADRA Canada's LEAF program, she received nutrition training that she now uses to teach her fellow co-op members. Her main message to villagers is to eat more green, leafy vegetables, which contain nutrients that many of villagers are lacking.

Through ADRA Canada's LEAF project, Mary and her village have learned how to use mulching, composting and other techniques to improve soil moisture and nutrients.

As dusk approaches, children and women from the village begin congregating at the village wells and water taps. Toting large, yellow jerry cans supplied by the government, they socialize as they collect the evening's water.

Surveying the peaceful community scene, Mary sighs with contentment. Turning to the ADRA Canada worker who related this story, she says "Thank you." A translator conveys the message, and everyone shares a smile. "Thank you for helping our community!"

We here at ADRA Canada want to extend Mary's thanks to you. Without your support, Mary may have never experienced the security and satisfaction she enjoys through the LEAF project. ■

*Story by Ryan Wallace, as related by David Kozarichuk, ADRA Canada's senior monitoring and evaluation coordinator.*



This plate of homegrown food that Mary prepared contains potatoes, cassava, beans, banana flower and dodo (leaf amaranth), a nutritious leafy green vegetable common in Rwanda.

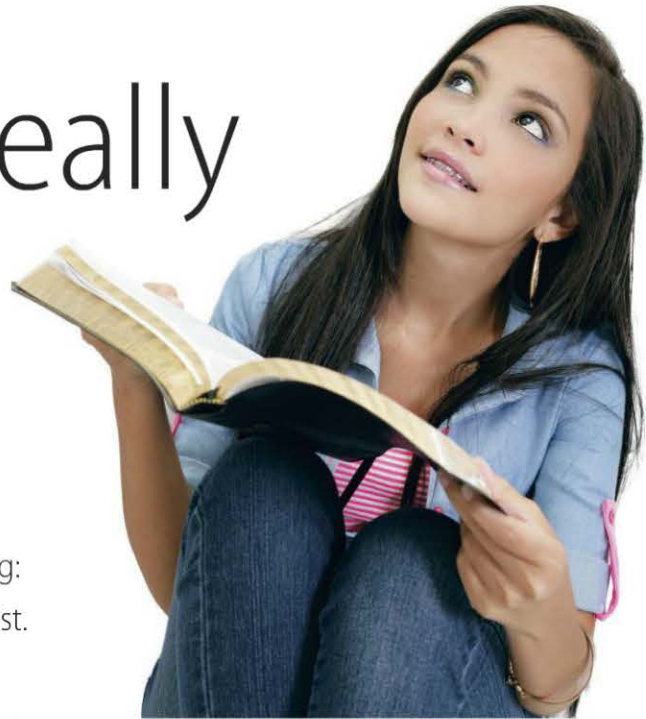
The large demonstration garden maintained by Mary's co-op uses a variety of water conservation techniques to ensure a year-round harvest in Rwanda's warm climate.





# God must really love you

Although she had a good upbringing and was taught strong moral values, there seemed to be something missing: a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



ANTONETTA WAS BORN IN TORONTO and raised in a family who were strong believers in the Catholic faith. Although she had a good upbringing and was taught strong moral values, there seemed to be something missing: a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Never doubting the existence of God, she went through a series of trials, mistakes and stressful situations that led her to seek after God more earnestly.

Antonetta was not attending any church at the time a friend invited her to a local Seventh-day Adventist church. There she was put in touch with Hopeton Blake, a literature evangelist, who studied with her faithfully on a weekly basis. At the Toronto Central church, she found a loving church family who was interested in her as a person and in her spiritual well-being. Although she had many questions, she found in the Word of God the answers to the needs of her soul and was baptized just a few months ago.

Antonetta's story actually began 13 years before meeting Hopeton, the literature evangelist. She had bought a book called *Your Bible and You*, published by the

Seventh-day Adventist Church. She initially kept it because of the beautiful pictures but soon discovered it offered much more. "That book touched my life," she said. "It would give me hope when I was down and lonely."

In all the moves she made in the last decade, the book would go with her. She always placed it right next to her bed and read it frequently. Just a few weeks ago, she showed a church friend the book and mentioned to him how much she loved it because of all the guidance and comfort it brought her. He looked at her and said, "Antonetta, God has been calling you all this time. God must really love you."

The Word of God presented in *Your Bible and You*, studied in the Bible Guides, and exemplified in the life of Hopeton Blake, made all the difference in her life. There is power in the Word of God to change the world around us. As God says, "So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isa. 55:11).

Not only should we live out the

principles of His Word, but God is also calling us to share His Word with others. "Let every believer scatter broadcast tracts and leaflets and books containing the message for this time" (Review and Herald, November 12, 1903). Why scatter them? Because "if there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 390). And the Scriptures are guaranteed to change lives. God may be calling you to get involved in the literature ministry. There are others out there who need to know that God really loves them. Won't you respond today?

If your heart is right and you are sincerely seeking after God, Antonetta would like to share this final thought with any who may be struggling: "Never give up. Always have hope and faith that God will guide you on the right path to where you are supposed to be." ■

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Jonathan Zita is the director of Lifestyle Canada Education Service



# Won by One

## Preparation

### Edmonton's Impact 2015 Convocation Weekend



Church members in Edmonton received a foretaste of what God plans to do through Impact 2015, the city-wide evangelism planned for Edmonton over the next 14 months. In order to gather all 18 Edmonton-area congregations together in one place, the Greater Edmonton Ministerial Association (GEMA) planned a convocation weekend from January 17 to 19, 2014. Evangelists Jose Rojas of MOVEMENTUM and John Bradshaw of It Is Written came to inspire and motivate church members to get involved in the “sowing” portion of the evangelistic outreach.

John Murley, chairman of GEMA and senior pastor of Edmonton South, has been involved in planning Impact 2015 for the past two years. His goal for the convocation weekend was simple: share the vision of reaching as many people for Jesus as possible.

“While we have set a baptismal goal of 300, it is my personal belief that as God’s people ‘press together,’ God will bless exceedingly and abundantly more than we can imagine,” says Murley. “We have been praying that God will give us a ‘tithe’ of the membership of all of our Edmonton churches and that 300 people will come forward and take the training that is being offered so that they will be fully training lay Bible workers. If 300 members rightfully trained become engaged and are led by the Holy Spirit,

and each won only one soul to Jesus in the next 14 months, we will have met our baptismal goal of 300 people.”

Speaker/director of It Is Written, John Bradshaw, had a similar objective for the convocation weekend:

“My hope and my belief is that people will come away inspired and with a vision of how God can use them to share Jesus effectively.”

Before the convocation weekend got started, Jesse Johnson, president of NetAserve, was in Edmonton to train more than 50 pastors and lay members in the use of the Study Tracker program, the software program that will be used to track interests and attendance for Impact 2015.

Then on Friday night, Rojas motivated hundreds of people to answer the call and pledge to win one soul for Christ. On Sabbath morning Elder Bradshaw spoke to a congregation of approximately 2,000, encouraging them to become labourers together with God. Sabbath afternoon both Rojas and Bradshaw shared their vision for Impact 2015.

“This is a miracle in the making,” shared Jose Rojas. “Never before have two evangelists worked as a complementary team for an evangelistic crusade.”

Their plan is to show up and just “plow the fields” after lay Bible workers have been sowing the seeds in Edmonton.

It was clear that the Holy Spirit was in attendance on Sabbath, because on

Sunday morning 248 people showed up for the first of four lay training modules. These attendees made a commitment to win at least one person for Christ during the next 14 months. It was a full day of training with the It Is Written team of John Bradshaw, Yves Monnier and Karen Hamilton, and Jose Rojas.

With plans to mail out 400,000 Bible study enrollment cards in Edmonton, the newly trained lay Bible workers will soon have an opportunity to study with those who are seeking.

At the end of an intensive day of training, both the organizers and the evangelistic team were excited about how God was leading this outreach.

“I have been doing this for over three decades, and I have never quite seen this before—a city coming alive with a vision of discipleship for God,” says Rojas. “This is not evangelism as an event. It is truly the experience of church members relating to Christ as disciples and now prepared to make more disciples. It’s unprecedented.”

God truly blessed the convocation weekend, and it’s clear that He has big plans for Impact 2015 when Rojas (March 2015) and Bradshaw (April 10 to May 9, 2015) come to reap what has been sown. ■

*Linda Wilkinson writes from Edmonton where she is the principal of Anvaya Communications.*





# Spotlight

## Katherine Bowes

*Since as far back as Katherine can remember, music has been the driving force in her life.*

Katherine's music can be found at: <http://goo.gl/Phmfhp> and her scores at: <http://goo.gl/Enp38i>.

Since as far back as Katherine Bowes can remember, music has been the driving force in her life: from lessons and practice sessions with her father by her side on the piano bench to countless special music performances at churches in her hometown of Calgary, Alta. She went from first-place finishes at festivals to pushing beyond the boundaries set before her to pursue her dream of singing one day, a dream that had begun while watching the Canadian University College (CUC) choir visit her church year after year on tour.

But with the mention of auditioning for the choir at Parkview Academy, she was greeted with a snide, "You'll never get in—you can't sing" by a young peer in her family. Luckily, the comments did not fully discourage Katherine, and with a few singing lessons under her belt she not only made the choir but also became a soloist! It is no wonder that Katherine's strong love for music led her to graduate years later from CUC with a BA in music and a B.Ed.

Katherine continued to perform extensively throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. She made television appearances on *The Quiet Hour*, *It Is Written* television, the Hope Channel, 3ABN and more. It all began with an opportunity that was never intended to be, an invitation to sing at an event when another artist had unexpectedly dropped out. This led to the miracle of being introduced to the people who could produce an album for Katherine, something she knew she could not afford financially. But with a step in faith, somehow the money became available.

But life has thrown Katherine many curveballs. At the tender age of 13, she lost her father to a brain tumor. She says, "My life shattered into a million pieces. . . . But God still held me in His hands," a sentiment she expresses in her song "At Your Feet." And a few years ago, she suffered the loss of her voice, with the fear

she may never get it back. But through prayer she relied wholly on Christ, and somehow every time she needed her voice, it was there.

But it wasn't until her vehicle was rear-ended by a Mackie Moving truck three years ago that life truly changed. Her injury took her away from everything she knew and loved with her family and career. She could no longer be social and active or teach music in the way she had grown to love. She found herself secluded in silence. But God would not let her down. After six months, she chose to purchase a program to compose music, and from simple songs written to bring joy to her students, she found herself writing more advanced material until over 100 songs were composed for voice, violin, cello, viola and piano as well as string orchestra, string quartet, children's and adult choirs and hand bells.

Today Katherine Bowes is a part-time music teacher, choir director and a full-time mom, wife, and composer in Oshawa, Ont., where her husband, Scott, is president at Kingsway College. She continues to sing and record and hopes to see more within the church. "I would love to see the addition of a "music minister" position within the conference, or the development of an organization within the church that could work to organize and promote Adventist musicians, composers and artists and to nurture youth who also have these talents. Conferences, seminars, evangelists and speakers could look to this group to provide inspirational music to enhance their meetings."

And I couldn't agree more! ■

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



# IMPAC

## "Big City Evangelism Initi

**EDMONTON, THE CAPITAL OF ALBERTA, IS THE** largest northernmost city in North America. With a population of nearly 1.3 million, it is the fifth largest city in Canada. For a number of years now, the City of Edmonton has been experiencing tremendous prosperity and growth. Sociologists agree that much of Edmonton's growth is being spawned by an aggressive oil industry that lies just to the north. With an

average annual household income of \$98,857, Edmonton attracts thousands each year. People come not only from other parts of Canada but also from all over the world: Russia, Asia, South America, Europe, Philippines and many other places. This migration has not only increased the need for more housing but has also helped drive additional economic growth.





# “Active” Targets Edmonton

While Edmonton is growing rapidly, the city is not without its struggles. Gang violence, drugs, alcohol and domestic violence are on the increase. In 2011, Edmonton received the distinction of being the murder capital of Canada, with 47 reported homicides. Homelessness figures show that over 2,100 people live on the streets of Edmonton, including more than 200 dependent children.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a presence in Edmonton. It has just over 3,000 members who attend 18 churches that are spread out over the Greater Edmonton area. The Alberta Conference also operates one nursing home, Sherwood Care, in nearby Sherwood Park. The church also has a presence through an Adventist chaplain at the Edmonton Maximum Security Prison.



In the spring of 2010, the pastors of the Edmonton area churches met and formed a professional association called the Greater Edmonton Ministerial Association (GEMA). They meet monthly to provide encouragement to one another and to organize and coordinate the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the City of Edmonton. With the support of the Alberta Conference, the association has been instrumental in bringing the city churches together and encouraging them to work together as a united team for Christ.

With the outreach of the church on their hearts, these dedicated pastors and chaplains came together in early 2011 to seek the Lord's direction in what they could do to advance the kingdom of God in the Greater Edmonton area. As a result, GEMA members felt impressed that He was asking them to do something really big, namely to conduct the largest evangelism program ever seen in the Province of Alberta: IMPACT 2015 was born.

As the GEMA meetings continued, members decided that this three-year plan, to be completed by 2015, would serve as part of the Big City Evangelism Initiative of the General Conference. But the group decided that this effort was bigger than any one church; it would go forward only by the spirit of unity and the cooperation of all pastors and churches. This evangelistic initiative plans to see a minimum of 300 baptisms and two Seventh-day Adventist church plants located in new-growth areas of Edmonton.

Each church committed in writing to participate. As the vision became clearer, each congregation agreed to train and mobilize its members, and each church board agreed to help fund the project. With faith, the members of GEMA approached the Alberta

Conference and shared the vision that God had given. This was not to be a program led by the conference, but rather a program driven by lay members and local pastors. Excitement built as the executive committee voted to assist with \$460,000.00 in funding. In September 2013, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada voted an additional \$125,000 in funding and declared that Edmonton was to be the site for Big City

Evangelism in Canada in 2015. Additional funding is currently being sought from the North American Division and the General Conference. The budget for this event will be in excess of \$900,000.

Having cleared the hurdles of bringing pastors and churches together and securing funding, GEMA faced their next hurdle: finding and selecting the right evangelist to conduct the meetings. Several well-known speakers were contacted, and interestingly, four of the denomination's top evangelists all expressed interest in coming to Edmonton. Whom would they choose? Again the pastors of GEMA went to their knees in prayer. Amazingly, the group felt that God was impressing them to choose two men who would work together to conduct one large series. One large series with two top evangelists!

After considerable discussion, Jose Rojas, president of MOVEmentum, and John Bradshaw of It Is Written International (IIW) were selected. Both speakers are excited about the plan. Rojas has agreed to 10 nights of meetings with a deliberate emphasis on reaching the secular mindset, such as those who do not know God or those who may have given up on God. The goal of Rojas's meetings will be to reach a segment of society that our Adventist message seldom reaches. These meetings will then lead naturally to the second phase of the project, when It Is Written speaker John Bradshaw will conduct a series of meetings showing the great truths of the Bible. Two different approaches, two different styles, two dedicated servants of God coming together to tailor their messages to reach the maximum number of people.

GEMA recognizes that the key to success of IMPACT 2015 is careful preparation, hard work and a lot of prayer. With that in mind, all 18 Edmonton area churches are working together in preliminary outreach events throughout 2014. Prayer conferences and neighbour prayer walks are being coordinated. Health expos and cooking classes are being offered. Marriage enrichments and family financial seminars are being held. Daniel and Revelation seminars are planned, and each church will be conducting its own local series of evangelism meetings in the fall of 2014. GEMA has also planned special events through 2014 for the purpose of bringing together and inspire our members.

One of GEMA's major initiatives is that we have asked God to provide us with a "tithe" of our local membership and train 300 lay people to each win one soul to Jesus. If those 300 dedicated and trained lay members can each bring just one soul to Jesus, the goal of 300 baptisms will be assured long before Elder Rojas and Elder Bradshaw ever begin their meetings! We are pleased that the Soul Winning and Leadership Training team (SALT) from Southern Adventist University in Tennessee will be here to provide training in addition to training and support already being provided by our 10 Bible workers.

In addition, GEMA will be working with the Change School of Evangelism, an Alberta Conference Bible worker training school. Their students will be provided an opportunity to be a part of this amazing soul winning effort. In addition, the CUC Department of Religious Studies has voted to direct their religious studies students to us for training and involvement during the



John Bradshaw, speaker/director of It Is Written International



years 2013, 2014 and 2015. Also confirmed is that the young men and women of the ACTS for Christ group have agreed to hold their annual convention in Edmonton just one week before the series begins. They are planning to labour and work alongside us as we work the field and prepare a large group for the reaping series. GEMA is excited to see the youth and young adults in our church play such a meaningful role in this amazing event.

Prayer is an integral part of what is happening in Edmonton. A prayer ministry led by a growing group of dedicated lay member meets regularly. No matter is left to chance. Members pray for the people of Edmonton, the speakers, the Bible enrolment cards, the Bible studies, the Bible workers, the students, the churches, the pastors and for the Holy Spirit to fall upon us. Already the power of prayer has been demonstrated in miracles. God has provided us with a tremendous venue that will result in anticipated savings of nearly \$250,000.

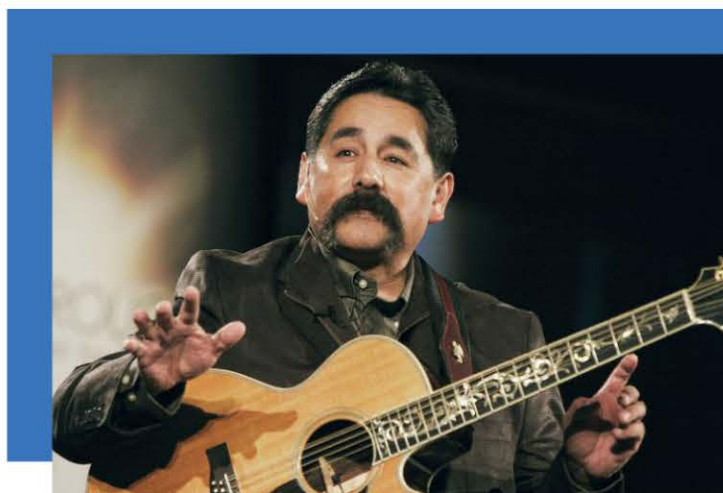
In January 2014, GEMA held a citywide IMPACT 2015 convocation weekend. It was an important opportunity to roll out the vision that God had given to the members. In faith, two large non-Adventist churches were rented. On the evening of Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, Rojas spoke to a near capacity crowd. His appeal for members to get involved resulted in over 700 members coming forward. They came to dedicate themselves to God, to commit themselves to His service. The Holy Spirit was moving!

The next day on the Sabbath of Jan. 18, GEMA had rented the largest Pentecostal church in Edmonton. Evangel Pentecostal Church has a seating capacity of over 2,000 people. The place could not contain the excitement as Bradshaw spoke to the members. Later Sabbath afternoon, Rojas and Bradshaw took to the pulpit with a message and theme of moving forward together. Members were so excited. The vision had been cast, and it was well received!

On Sunday, Jan. 19, a total of 248 members representing all 18 local churches came to the Edmonton Central church and were trained as soul winners by Bradshaw, Rojas and the It is Written team. Now the team of trained lay members, students and youth are ready to move forward and do what God has asked of all members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church: "to make disciples."

GEMA has ordered 400,000 Bible study enrolment cards as part of this initiative—to be distributed by hand rather than by Canada Post. In addition, over 10,000 specially produced electronic paper Bible study enrolment cards will be available for members to share with a friend. These cards contain a special USB drive that, when inserted into a computer's USB port, will take the person to a Bible study and will have them sign up for additional studies. A record of them signing up will automatically be sent to the outreach coordinator here in Edmonton for follow-up. GEMA has trained over 50 pastors and lay members in the use of Study Tracker, a software program that helps to keep track of interest, Bible studies and attendance at meetings.

Rojas's meetings will be held beginning March 13, 2015.



**Jose Rojas, President of MOVEmentum**

Bradshaw will conduct his full-length series from April 10 to May 9, 2015. Music for the series will involve Charles Haugabrooks, Fountainview Academy, the Edmonton area SDA Orchestra, the CUC music department, as well as a large number of local vocalists and instrumentalists.

GEMA and its steering committee are now busy setting up the various committees that will be required for such a huge event. Hundreds have volunteered to help, but there are still opportunities for others to get involved. God is moving here in Edmonton; His people have seen the vision!

We are working with the HOPE Channel, who has indicated an interest in broadcasting the meetings. Our own Alberta Conference will make the meetings available via live streaming from the Alberta Conference website. It is possible for churches around the country, and indeed around the world, to tune in and be a part of this tremendous program.

We ask the people of Canada to remember us in your prayers. If you have non-SDA loved ones in and around the City of Edmonton, consider calling them and telling them about IMPACT 2015. Send us their contact information, and we will do our best to give them a personal invitation to the meetings. GEMA asked God what they should do, and He has replied "IMPACT your City for Christ!"

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*John Murley is the senior pastor of the Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church and the chairman of the Greater Edmonton Ministerial Association.*





## Sharing Jesus With “the Least of These”

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.—Matthew 25:35, 36, NIV*

In Alberta, the third weekend in February is the Family Day long weekend, and while most people focus on spending time with their own families, an Edmonton group called the Hymningbirds were more focused on sharing joy with the city’s homeless. And it’s clear that many at the Hope Mission homeless shelter appreciated the inclusiveness of their actions.

“Give ‘er, girls,” yelled out a Sudanese man as a group of young women sing “Our God is an Awesome God.” Several others showed their appreciation, either by nodding in agreement or saying thanks at the end of the program. One young woman even wanted an explanation of

the word “omnipotent,” which she had heard in one of the songs.

So who are the Hymningbirds? They are a group of about 12 Adventists—both adults and young people—who go about sharing God’s love in Edmonton. They are often joined by others, and sometimes their group grows to as many as 25 people.

“One of the unique features of our group is the diversity of our members. While the core group has always been made up of Adventists, occasionally we are joined by Christian friends from other denominations and faiths,” shares Ken Forgách, the group’s organizer. “It wasn’t long ago that a Muslim girl joined us as we prepared a meal for the families

at Ronald McDonald House. We enjoyed having her with us, and she seemed to enjoy herself too. Quite likely she will come again.”

The Hymningbirds community outreach is also diverse. They spend their Sabbaths singing to seniors in nursing homes and hospitals; taking food to share with sick children at Ronald McDonald House; preparing food, handing out clothing and singing for homeless persons at Hope Mission and Boyle Street Community Services; and taking a message of hope to prisoners at the provincial correctional institution and the federal penitentiary. They have also adopted a family who enjoy helping



them with gifts of food and clothing. Plus, they help out with other campaigns like walk-a-thons for the homeless, local food drives for the food bank, clean-up campaigns for Edmonton's river valley and even church planting.

"It all started some eight or nine years ago when we—some friends and I in church, and some of the children in the Sabbath school class I was teaching at the time—decided to do some Christmas caroling. We had so much fun doing it, and we saw how much joy it brought to so many people, that we decided to continue singing the rest of the year," explains Forgách. "The kids, as young as eight at the time, invited their friends and their friends invited more friends, and gradually we grew to a sizable number over the years. Many of those kids have grown up and moved on, but others have joined us since."

What keeps this group going strong is the collective desire to make a real difference in the world. Corporate prayer at church is powerful, but the Hymningbirds wanted to go a step further and reach out to the people they were praying for.

"I firmly believe in the power of prayer, but what stopped us from actually doing something? What hindered us from going across the street and visiting our poor brother and sister languishing in the hospital? Why must they remain alone in their hour of greatest need? If we pray and ask God to be merciful, should we not also be merciful? Those were the questions we asked of ourselves, and we answered them by venturing forth and visiting our brother or sister, even if we didn't actually know them personally. It's been one beautiful experience after another ever since then," says Forgách.

One of those beautiful experiences was a visit to Boyle Street Community Services. The Hymningbirds expected to assist the kitchen staff by peeling carrots or chopping peppers. Instead, they ended up preparing the whole meal for 200 people because the kitchen staff didn't show up.

"The situation they [the Hymningbirds] walked into was unexpected, and the task was daunting. They easily could have walked away, but they didn't," says Forgách.

"This was one of our best moments!"

"I really love coming to this program, love making a small change in our community, to show that Jesus' love can reach all people," shares Crystal Bruno, a regular member of the Hymningbirds. "It's hard also because many youth nowadays aren't interested in knowing the seniors or caring for the hungry. It's more about friends, partying and hanging out with the right crowd. So it's hard to introduce the program to friends who aren't interested in what we do."

In spite of apparent apathy, not all invitations to join the group have been ignored. Qin Yang (also known as Key) and Chang Chen (also known as Esther) are two international students who have become involved in the group after being invited to get involved. These two young people are still learning English but have stepped out to help make a difference in Edmonton.

Kai Forgách, long-time Hymningbird member, sees community service as a wake-up call. "It is incredibly easy to get bogged down in one's own troubles and completely forget about the world around you. Having trials in life is unavoidable, but having the ability to go out into the world and try to make someone else's life just that little bit better makes your problems seem few and far between."

Other members of the group—from youngest member, Kate Pruneau, who enjoys making people smile, to founding member Lydia Yoh—feel that doing community service is immensely rewarding. Yoh recalls one of her most significant experiences. "The most moving moment for me was speaking with a homeless couple who stopped to ask me for food. We ended up talking about religion, and they asked me to pray with them. It was the first time that anyone had ever asked me that question, and I couldn't keep the tears away as I asked God to bless and protect them. I felt like what I said impacted them, and even though I didn't have food to give them, they received the gift of God instead," says Yoh.

Forgách asserts that you don't have to be a gifted orator and skilled singer to become involved in this type of community



**Ken Forgách, local pharmacist and group organizer of the Hymningbirds.**

service. All it really takes is a continual reliance on God.

"A few years ago, if someone would've said to me that I'd be sharing the gospel message with a room full of inmates at the local prison, I would've said they were crazy. 'Me? Never!' But that's what is happening. And glory be to God for that!"

It's true that the Hymningbirds sacrifice their time, energy and resources to make a difference in their community, but they believe the rewards are worth it.

"That warm handshake, that great big bear hug, that chorus of laughter, that tear rolling down a face, scarcely able to contain an ear-to-ear smile, that's our reward. That's how we measure our wages, and that's what makes it all so worthwhile," shares Forgách.

Ken Forgách is thankful for all the members of the Hymningbirds, especially the young people who contribute their time and enthusiasm to regular community service: founding member Abraham Yoh (age 20); founding member Lydia Yoh (age 19); founding member Nya Guet (age 19); Qin Yang (age 20); Crystal Bruno (age 19); Shawna Bruno (age 18); Kai Forgách (age 16); Azariah Davis (age 15); Kendrick Pruneau (age 14); Dawson Bruno (age 12); and Kate Pruneau (age 11).

The Hymningbirds welcome new additions to their group. If you live in Edmonton or are visiting on a Sabbath and would like to experience the joy of giving, please contact Ken Forgách at 780/619-1816. ■

*Linda Wilkinson writes from Edmonton, where she is the principal of Anvaya Communications.*



# Not just a maintenance man



Rob Scott

For many, getting a call at 3:00 a.m. would be unnerving, to say the least. But for Rob Scott, this is a frequent occurrence. Some of the days Rob's experiences would have most of us crying by the end. Faced with countless calls, sometimes simultaneously, he handles it all with an infectious smile.

Consider the countless roads and walkways that are plowed in winter, long before most people are awake, or all the attention required by the boiler that heats the campus and has to be maintained 24/7. Working well over 50 hours some weeks, Rob still finds the energy to get involved with extracurricular activities like assisting with Ski Club and Outdoor Club, driving tour groups to their destinations, and so much more.

It is with a deep desire to have a positive impact on the young people at Kingsway that Rob pours himself into his work. Rob says, "When I was a student at Kingsway, I was fortunate to work in maintenance

with Earl Dunhill. He was tough, don't get me wrong, but he taught me the value of being on time, responsibility, working hard and being able to see what needs to be done. I remember thinking that when I grew up, I would like to work in maintenance at Kingsway so I could mentor students the way I was mentored."

It was Rob's mother's desire to make sure her children had the opportunity to get an Adventist education, something she had only limited access to in her younger years because of family finances. Rob knew in his heart he wanted a Christian education but wasn't so sure he wanted to leave home to get it. Today he is very happy he decided to come to Kingsway, because the Christian mentors he had helped him stay on the right track at a critical time in his life. He has great memories of living in the dorm, weeks of prayer and of caring deans and teachers. These people took the time to talk with students, reminding them of their value,

and when they faltered, often giving them a second or third chance.

In 1986 Rob began working for the maintenance department full-time. In 2000, he took over from Earl Dunhill as department head. Rob enjoys his job because it brings new challenges every day. Along with the ones already mentioned, some of the equipment and buildings on campus are aging and require a lot of ingenuity and elbow grease to maintain.

Rob has persevered through good and bad because of his love for Kingsway College and young people, a passion that began many years ago as a student. It was at Kingsway College where he met his wife, Kelly-Jane Ritchey (class of '82). He confesses that he stayed at Kingsway all these years in part because of the commitment he and his wife had to provide a Christian education for their two sons, Ben and Jason. Because of their own positive experiences, they felt this was vital. Rob appreciates the job that God has provided for him through Kingsway and understands why God has placed him here. With all the years he has dedicated to Christian education, you can be sure that more than a few students have been blessed and encouraged by his mentoring. Rob's contribution to Kingsway College truly exemplifies the school's motto of "Service, Not Fame." ■

*Pam Lister is the manager of the Eastern Canada Adventist Book Centre and Remy Guenin is the enrolment services director at Kingsway College.*



# A New Adventist Asks

Becoming an Adventist has changed my life. I sense that I am being called to become a pastor. How do I know if this is from God?

Congratulations on your most important life decision. Making a covenant with God the Almighty and accepting Jesus as your personal Saviour is always a choice with eternal blessings.

Your desire to serve your Saviour in such a capacity after you've made this important decision is a natural outcome in the life of God's children. During recent months or years, you have most likely spent time with a pastor or a very close friend as you studied the fundamental truths of God's Word. As a result, you have been gaining a new perspective that involves reexamining professional activities, leisure time, family values, etc. Consider the following advice during this important phase of your life as we draw valuable, applicable lessons from five important characters in Scripture.

## **Cherish and guard all convictions in your heart. Be like Mary, mother of Jesus.**

Don't forget the moments of high spiritual enlightenment. These will be precious to you during challenging times. Act as did Mary. The Gospel of Luke says, "His mother kept all these things in her heart" (2:51, NKJV). Don't allow space in your heart for disappointment as you determine whether the call to become a pastor is legitimate or whether to continue your current profession. Ellen G. White states, "When temptations assail you, when care, perplexity and darkness seem to surround your soul, look to the place where you last saw the light. Rest in Christ's love and under His protecting care" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 250).

## **Prepare to listen. Be like Samuel.**

It is wise to have the attitude of the young Samuel, who learned how to stay open to God's directions: "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Sam. 3:10, NIV). Our heavenly Father uses different channels to communicate His will to us: through our friends, while reading the Bible or a book, during important events, when we pray alone or in a group, etc. But don't trust your friend or a book more than God Himself. God cannot contradict His everlasting manifestation of love expressed through the pages of the Bible.

## **Work tirelessly for the edification of the body of Christ. Be like Paul.**

To work for God implies mainly to work for His church. This is why the community of believers ought to recognize all callings. The example of the apostle Paul confirms that reality. When he met Jesus on the Damascus road, to his question of what is next on the schedule, Paul received the divine answer: "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:6, NKJV). God could have simply told Paul to go ahead and start his ministry to the Gentiles. However, His plan was to preserve harmony and unity among church leaders. In His wisdom He sent Paul to the "General Conference" office of that time, to Damascus first and then to Jerusalem, to connect him with elders and apostles who would continue to provide other instructions. Thus, we can conclude that even though the call is individual, the personal inner conviction should be accompanied by and confirmed by the church's recognition of each spiritual gift in order to render it effective and edify the saints.

## **Accept the preparation as the highest form of service. Be like Moses.**

The level of our preparation indicates the importance we attach to our ministry. Those who work for the King of kings should have this kind of spirit, doing everything with excellence. In this way, remember Moses and his 40 years with the sheep before he led God's people out of Egypt. Think also about the apostle Paul and Jesus, who didn't neglect time to prepare. Consequently, if you desire to work as a pastor, the years spent and the education gained at a theological seminary will help you learn many aspects of pastoral ministry at His feet.

## **Verify everything. Be like Gideon.**

You have the right to verify your call. When God wants to use someone, He will not hesitate to confirm His will on a regular basis. Very quickly you will understand that a call is in essence recurrent and that God shows you, in small details and in the overall guidance of your life, His desire to see you acting mightily for His kingdom. This is an outstanding protection against the emotional decisions taken in some particular, exceptional situations. Hence, share your ideas with persons of experience, pray with intensity and wait for His answers.

As you walk with Jesus and follow these steps, you will certainly receive assurance of what God is recommending for your life. May His will be done, and may you enjoy giving the best of yourself for the glory of His name. ■

*Daniel Stojanovic is the vice-president of administration at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.*

If you're a new member and have a question you would like answered, please email [newmember@adventist.ca](mailto:newmember@adventist.ca). We would love to hear from you.







# LIFE-CHANGING SUMMERS

**F**OR THE PAST 13 YEARS, I have spent a portion, if not all, of each summer at camp. Because of the many things I have seen and experienced there, I know firsthand how powerful this ministry can be. I could tell you the amazing statistics of baptisms and decisions to follow Christ that happen at our summer camps, but I believe the strongest proofs are the stories of lives changed there—mine being one.

I grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home going to church every week and going to church school. I grew up with the knowledge of God. I began going to summer camp as a child and made memories there. I always heard messages of God's love throughout the weeks I was there. I remember one time at the end of an amazing week, all of us linked arms and sang a song about wanting to hold God's hand always.

I later became one of the staff and so continued my love for camp. I could tell you many stories of things that could make you smile or laugh outright or maybe even bring a tear to your eye. But I want to tell you the story of how God reached out to me.

As I said earlier, I had always known of God. However, I had a difficult time actually knowing that God was present in my life. Early one summer our camp director decided to pray that we would have a week of 100 campers at our camp. She invited the staff to join her in her day of prayer and fasting. A few others and I decided to join her, and we all gathered into a room to pray throughout that day. During our last prayer time together, I was kneeling with the others when I had this overwhelming feeling of God in the room. I had never experienced anything like that before—I was at a loss for words. From that moment on I have known God and His power. I have had the privilege to see His hand working in and guiding my life. I truly met God for the first time at summer camp.

As I have had the opportunity to work at camp for years, I have seen other people's lives changed by experiencing God out at camp. I can testify that our prayers for 100 campers in a week were answered, though not in our timing. I could tell you stories of staff who have come to camp as Christians and then left as Christians on

fire for God! I could tell you stories of campers who fought during the week but who, by the end of the week, hugged each other and cried in repentance. I have seen campers come to camp not even knowing who Jesus is and staff lovingly sharing night after night the stories of Christ. I have seen staff boldly stand up and testify of God's leading and campers touched and inspired to not give up. I have seen the Holy Spirit move at camp and children and staff alike give their hearts fully to Jesus.

Now I know that God uses many things, people and places to share His love. But for me, camp has shaped and moulded me into who I am today. There I find people actively working for the Lord as in the book of Acts. There I find the fulfillment of Psalm 46:10, a place to hear the quiet voice of God. And there I find a place where I can see the Lord's hand at work in people's lives. Camp is a special place. I would encourage you to give your children the chance to have a life-changing summer. ■

*Sandra Koch is the assistant camp director at Camp Whitesand in Saskatchewan.*





Just a few minutes' walk from the Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) campus, a house stood surrounded by love. Hand-in-hand, students, faculty and staff of PAA wrapped the house of their dear friend who had been recently diagnosed with breast cancer in prayer. This was love. This was community.

**WE ENROL OUR CHILDREN IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** to ensure not only that they build a solid academic experience but also so they can be part of a caring Christ-centred community. For the students at PAA this sense of community extends in both directions. When they learned that one of their own was diagnosed with cancer, they immediately wanted to help and support. The students wanted to show Pattie they loved her. "We were inspired by the strength and courage we saw in Pattie through her devoted service in her job at PAA, despite her condition, and in return we wanted to show her love and support community-wide," states Deepa Johnny, a Grade 11 student and Student Association president.

With the help of their religious studies and English teacher, Kristy Grovet, the PAA Student Association (SA) started the Pink 4 Pattie week. It began as a fundraising project to raise awareness about the disease and to also raise money for the local Ronald McDonald house. The goal was to raise \$500 in four days, and as an incentive, vice-principal Rod Jamieson agreed to dye his hair pink when the goal was met. The first two days of the project started slowly, but more and more students started to join the cause. Students began dressing in pink while the SA sold cupcakes decorated in pink, which the Foods class had baked. In four short days, the students had surpassed their goal of \$500 and at their assembly were able to present to a Ronald McDonald representative a cheque for \$1,387.61.

At the end of Pink 4 Pattie week, more than 130 PAA students, faculty and staff made the short walk to the Reasor residence. The group surrounded the house, hand-in-hand, and for 30 minutes prayed. Pattie went around the circle visiting and praying with students. "The prayers of the students were so touching,

and many of us were weeping, including myself. My neighbors saw this act of love and faith and were very touched," remembers Pattie. The students' experience of sharing love and prayer has changed them. "This experience has impacted us all. As a student body I feel like we have all grown closer and are more supportive and understanding of the need for encouragement. ... Doing something good not only blessed Pattie and her family but also blessed us as students. I personally felt as if Jesus was smiling at the moment. I feel like He would be proud of us. I felt that I had made a small difference in the world. This is my first year at PAA, and this is one special memory I will never forget," remembers Grade 10 student Tierra Kurtz.

The prayers of her PAA family have helped Pattie battle through her chemotherapy and radiation treatments. She is forever grateful for all the support that she has received and continues to receive. "My husband and I have found many blessings throughout all of this. I'm thankful to God that other than cancer, I'm in good health."

While good and terrible things take place in this world, the students, faculty and staff at Parkview Adventist Academy know that they are part of a community that won't let them go through it alone. "We did this for Pattie to give back to her and her family. ... We know that this is not an easy road to travel, but with the help of family, friends and God, we know she'll push through it all. Pattie and her family are a part of PAA, and we all love them very much," states Tierra. ■

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