

Messenger

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april 2014



CHANGE

School of Evangelism
beating the odds
in Camrose, Alberta



PLUS Overcoming Anxiety (p. 13)
Exploring Nature, Discovering God (p. 20)
Mission Lifeguard (p. 30)

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“Come unto me, all ye
that labour and are
heavy laden, and I will
give you rest.”

—Matt. 11:28, KJV



Looking Over God's Shoulder

I believe I've mentioned before how much I enjoy reading the great stories of the Bible: the woman at the well, the healing at Bethesda, the men with demons. As I read these stories, I try to imagine how I might have felt if I'd been there when they happened.

The Gospel biographies of Jesus hold many stories about transformation. Christ, the holiest of anyone who has ever lived on earth, did not steer away from troubled people. The struggling, the damaged and the difficult all found compassion and restoration in Him. They were welcome to eat with Him, to visit with Him. Although they were not at all like Him, He treated them with respect. He gave them dignity.

It seems strange to me that sometimes we seem to avoid the very situations where we can best see Christ do His work. You see, the church is designed by God to be the place where we can peer over His shoulder and watch as He changes people at their very core. He does not do the superficial. There are no Band-Aids. His work is deep, and often it takes time.

God has far less trouble restoring the broken than He has with those of us who are pretty sure that we're all right, that we don't need His help. But that in itself is nothing new, is it? When you read the stories of Scripture, you find that Christ's hardest work was to soften the hearts of those who, in self-assuredness, knew that they were right, that nothing was wrong. They were difficult and many of them never changed.

So the church must be that place of transformation, where all of us—broken and in need of healing—can see what Christ does in others and in us as well.

It is in this context that I hear Jesus say, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30, KJV). ■

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Let's do it!



Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you.—Isaiah 60:1, 2, NASB

I can't begin to count the times I've been approached by fellow church members who believed Jesus would return within five years of their initial conversion. It always brings me back to my own experience and thinking the very same thing. Thirty-eight years later, I look around me, and yes, we're still here. And I can't help but wonder, "What could possibly have gone wrong?" I don't doubt for a minute that many are asking themselves the same question. Some may even be tempted to join the scoffers' chorus: "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (2 Pet. 3:4).

Really? Is our world today what it has always been? If my dad were to be miraculously restored to life today after having rested in the grave for some 35 years, he might think he was on an entirely different planet than the one he lived on. The technological world we live in today would be totally foreign to him. He knew nothing of personal computers, let alone "surfing the Internet." The idea that I can talk with my son on wireless cell phones while he drives his car somewhere in Tennessee or do FaceTime with my daughter and grandchildren in London, England, would blow his mind. GPS tracking systems, Facebook, Twitter and a host of other technological wonders would make our world completely foreign to him.

And what about the societal changes that have altered how millions of people view the subject of sexual orientation, physician-assisted suicide, the cry to legalize marijuana, to name a few?

I'm sure we could list a myriad of other examples, but the reality is that while our world has indeed changed, it is far from the new world we hoped would have come within five years of our conversion. And so again I ask, "What could have gone wrong?"

Maybe I should be asking this question from a more positive position: "What could we do right?" After all, didn't the apostle Peter assure us that we can play a part in "hastening the coming of the Lord" (2 Pet. 3:12)? I'm not going to pretend to

have all the answers. I don't. But allow me to share with you only one. I believe it carries a lot of merit. Perhaps you will too. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was raised for only one purpose. We've been given only one overarching mission: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14). Stated differently, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matt. 28:19, 20).

With whatever gifts God may have entrusted to us, this is His appeal to every man, woman and child who has accepted the call to be a Seventh-day Adventist. We have a mission, and while our message is moving forward in many parts of our world, it is at a snail's pace in other parts—including North America. What do you suppose would happen if every precious member of this church were to pause and pray, "Lord, what would you have me do? However small my portion, what part can I play in hastening the coming of Jesus?"

The book *Patriarchs and Prophets* states: "The Lord has ordained that the diffusion of light and truth in the earth shall be dependent upon the efforts and offerings of those who are partakers of the heavenly gift. He might have made angels the ambassadors of His truth; He might have made known His will, as He proclaimed the law from Sinai, with His own voice; but in His infinite love and wisdom He called men to become co-labourers with Himself by choosing them to do this work."¹

As the first two verses of Isaiah 60 compel us, I think it's time we let our light shine. It's time the earth was lit with God's glory. What do you think? By the grace of God, let's do it! ■

John Fournier is the president of the Maritime Conference.

¹ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1890), p. 528.

teen talk

Q: Thank you, but I'm not into God anymore.

A: I understand. You are not the first one.

As a matter of fact, this has been going on for many millennia. The most powerful, beautiful and intelligent created being went through the same situation at some point in his life. Actually, rather than not being into God anymore, Lucifer wanted to be more than God. He didn't succeed at it, but he definitely created a precedent and got his fair share of followers, our first parents included.

Lucifer (now called Satan) and his angels are still around. People who decide that they are not into God anymore don't cease to exist suddenly. You can live a pretty decent life as an atheist, agnostic or cynic. You can finish your degree, marry your soul mate, have beautiful children and be successful in life without entering into a single church building, praying or opening the Bible even once in your life.

You are free to let go of God, if that is what you want. But make no mistake, my friend. Even if you are not into God anymore, He is totally into you. He was so excited with the plans He had for you when you were born, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future, that He gave up everything for you a long time ago. You see, His attitude is not a "Follow me or die" but "Let's do great things together."

There you go, my friend. Some food for thought.

** This was the answer to a friendly follow-up text I sent to one of my former students.*

Do you have a question for Pastor Josué Sánchez? Email it to messenger@adventist.ca.



creation corner for kids

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.—Revelation 16:13

Northern Leopard Frog

The northern leopard frog is a brown or green frog with large dark spots. It's the largest frog on the prairies, with adults as large as a man's hand (5–13 cm). Being so big means that large northern leopard frogs don't have to be very choosy when it comes to eating. They'll eat just about anything they can catch including mice, fish and insects.

Until the 1970s, northern leopard frogs were very common. Now, though, they're rare across the prairies.



Think about it.

Frogs catch their prey with their long, fast-moving tongues. Jesus warned that just before He returns, froglike unclean spirits, the spirits of devils, would work miracles for kings and the whole world to see. Jesus warned us to watch and not be deceived. Sadly, many people will be deceived by these evil spirits because they don't know what the Bible teaches.

Do it!

Do you prayerfully study your Bible each day? If not, please start today.

Set goals to read through the Bible or even the New Testament, study your quarterly each day, do topical studies, word studies, etc. Whatever you do, set time aside to spend time in God's Word each day.

Ask God to give you wisdom, and He will.

To learn more about northern leopard frogs, see a video of a frog catching food with its tongue, or to find out how to help scientists studying frogs visit 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 or follow her blog at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.

CUC collaborates with local college to offer nursing



Canadian University College and Red Deer College representatives sign unique agreement that provides benefit to nursing students in our region.

Pictured in back row (left to right): Mark Johnson (chair, CUC Board of Trustees), Joy Fehr (vice-president for Academics, CUC), Linda Moore Martin (dean of Science, Sport, Health and Education programs, RDC), Brad Donaldson (vice-president for Academics, RDC)

Seated (left to right): Mark Haynal (president, CUC), Joel Ward (president and CEO, Red Deer College)

THIS COMING FALL, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1988, NURSING STUDENTS WILL BE PART OF THE CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CAMPUS AGAIN. CUC and Red Deer College (RDC) have completed a unique agreement that will afford nursing students the opportunity to benefit from what both campuses have to offer. The four-year agreement, signed in February 2014, will provide eight seats for CUC students to join RDC students in the University of Alberta Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at RDC. CUC students will have the opportunity to collaborate with RDC faculty and students while continuing to enjoy the CUC campus experience.

Dr. Mark Haynal, CUC president, is excited about the opportunity this collaboration with Red Deer College provides for CUC students. "Canadian University College students want to serve their communities with confidence, competence and

compassion. Many of our students and their families regard professions in the health care field as an important way to meet their communities' needs. The opportunity to earn a nursing degree at Red Deer College while living on the Canadian University College campus allows our students to realize their dreams of compassionate service."

With the current shortage of registered nurses in many provinces across Canada, post-secondary institutions like RDC are working to find innovative ways to increase seats in already over-subscribed programs. This collaboration is tailored for those students who want a nursing degree, a Christian campus experience and to stay in Canada. Joy Fehr, CUC vice-president for Academics, is delighted for the opportunities that this offers our students across Canada. "I am delighted that Canadian

students now have the opportunity to earn a nursing degree and enjoy the CUC experience. This collaboration between RDC and CUC allows students to realize their career goals at RDC while strengthening their spiritual and social lives through CUC's supportive environment."

CUC's previous nursing program started in 1980 with a similar collaboration with Union College in Lincoln, Neb. The previous nursing program closed in 1988 after administrators at that time were not able to negotiate a transfer agreement to a local college. Over 25 years have passed since nursing students have graced the hilltop. This fall a new class of nurses will take to the campus and make a new entry into the nursing history books at CUC that began over 30 years ago. ■

Graduation Livestream



Last year marked the largest-ever graduating class produced by the university. A large graduating class also meant a large audience, not just locally but all over the world. This year's graduation ceremonies will be live streamed on the Internet after last year's successful jump to online streaming. Graduates were able to have friends and family not able to make the trip to Lacombe still be a part of their memorable day. Over 460 viewers tuned in over the weekend from the United States, Mexico, Brazil, India, Barbados, United Kingdom and many other countries. The class gift to CUC from the graduating class of 2013 was a high-definition camera for use in live-streaming their graduation and future campus events.

Graduating class president Eric Anderson, religious studies, 2014, stressed the importance of having family and friends share in their education experience from afar. "Many have dreamed for years to be able to broadcast programming at CUC on the

Internet for parents, family and friends to enjoy and participate more fully in our educational experience. For these reasons we the graduates of 2013 are proud to present to CUC in recognition and thanks for the years of service and training and love you have shown us, as well as in thanks to our loving and supportive church family here at College Heights, a high-definition camera that will be used, is being used, to stream many events throughout the school year, not just here in the church but at the gym and other locations as well."

Join us this year online as we celebrate our 2014 graduates. To view the graduation online, visit www.cauc.ca and click on the Live Streaming banner. ■

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

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *What was your childhood like?*

Frances Chant: I grew up in a Roman Catholic home in a small community north of Kingston. I am the youngest of six siblings. We were raised on a fourth-generation family farm.

I was a Catholic when I married my husband. His influence and patience as I studied the Bible, together with the Holy Spirit's promptings and the influence of others, led to my baptism as a Seventh-day Adventist in 1970.

M: *How did you first become involved in literature evangelism?*

F: In 1981 I was working for a stockbroker. One Sabbath afternoon I remember distinctly being impressed that I should work for the Lord, so I decided to look into literature evangelism. My husband's family had been brought into the church by a colporteur by the name of Del Sudds in the 1950s. I began working as an LE for the Ontario Conference in 1981. I worked full-time in this ministry until we moved to Oshawa in the fall of 1984.

M: *Can you share an experience of how you saw God working through literature evangelism?*

F: On one occasion when my district leader, S. M. Isaac, was working with me, we drove to a remote area to follow up on

lead cards. We stopped at a convenience store and got directions to the home of a lady by the name of Constance. The directions took us down a long country lane that came to an end. We had to climb over a fence and follow a path through the woods. When we heard dogs barking, S. M. became concerned and thought we should retreat. I was somewhat concerned but not ready to turn back.

Just then someone yelled, "Stop!" The man had a shotgun pointed directly at us. He said, "What's your business?" I told him my name and that I was there to give the lady, Constance, information about the Bible story books that she had requested. He lowered the gun, introduced himself as her brother and told us to follow him. He led us down the path to their two-room cabin located right next to a lake. We showed them *The Bible Story* books as well as the *Conflict of the Ages* set. They planned to keep the *Conflict of the Ages* set for themselves and send the children's books to England for their niece. We had such an enjoyable time that day. I never saw them again, but I hope we will see them in heaven.

It is in our hands to share the message through opportunities. When the door opens, you can either walk through it or walk away. Keep your eyes open. It's amazing what opportunities God will make available to you.

M: *Where are the places you served in Canada?*

F: In 1985 I began working for the SDACC education department and then later for Health Benefits. I accepted a call to the B.C. Conference in 1990. I also served as western Canada leader for the publishing ministry under Pacific Press, as well as for CUC Advancement and the Alberta Conference as director of planned giving and trust services.

M: *What are some key lessons that you have taken away from your years of service?*

F: Change is inevitable. Your faith has to be intact if you're going to survive change. Philippians 4:7 says, "And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Without Christ, I can't even begin to understand the peace of God. Jesus is the pivotal point that grounds us in peace, and peace comes only through faith in Him. If we accept Christ as our Saviour, He will see us through any changes that we are confronted with.

M: *Where are you now?*

F: We live in Oshawa to be close to our son, Jim, and his family and our daughter, Janet. We spend summers at the lake north of Kingston from May through September. We love to be in nature. ■

Death and Debt 101



"I direct my executor to pay out of my estate all my debts, funeral expenses, estate administration fees, and taxes that may be due," quoted the Planned Giving director. "This is generally the next typical will clause.¹

"What happens if a person doesn't leave enough money to pay all their debts?" asked the director.

"Let's consider Martha, a single mother of three who died suddenly at age 53, leaving only her Canada Pension Plan Death Benefit of approximately \$2,000."²

Looking at one of the seminar attendees, the director asks, "Rosalie,

how could Martha have provided the money to pay the remainder of her funeral costs, the final rent, utility and household bills, the balances owing on loans and credit cards, and final income taxes, if any?"

"I don't know," Rosalie said. "She couldn't have saved much while raising three kids by herself."

"That's true," replied the director. "Does anyone have any ideas?"

Susan's hand went up. "I think a life insurance policy would have been a good way to take care of Martha's expenses."

"Yes," the director agreed. "One way to have enough money at death is to buy life insurance. The payout is usually very quick, and because insurance money does not go through the will, there are no taxes to be paid. Also, you can purchase only the amount of insurance that you or your family would need if you were to die."

"Sadly, because Martha did not plan ahead," the director finished, "her three young adult children were forced to share the burden of Martha's last expenses." ■

¹Wills Seminar topics are currently continuing from month to month.

²For Canada Pension Plan Death Benefit information, see "Death Benefit" on the Government of Canada's website, <http://goo.gl/IN74bs>. Or search "Canada Pension Plan Death Benefit."



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

If someone delivered a big bouquet of flowers to you, but there is no name, what would you do?

AT THE MOUNT HOPE AND ALDERGROVE
CHURCHES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Stephanie Schafer: First of all, I would probably think that it was from Todd. But if it turned out to not be from him, I would wonder and wonder and wonder. . . . I would probably feel greatly encouraged that someone loved me and had thought of me. I would thank God for His lovingkindness!

Pam Wahl: I would place them out for all to see and be proud of their beauty and thank everyone I see! I would hope the giver would hear somehow of my appreciation.

Anne Toope: I would automatically wonder who the giver was and whether it was a man, and if it was, whether he was cute. I would also be wondering what I did right, or even if it was a mistake!

"The project aims to increase productivity, decrease dropout rates and increase safety."

Kona Bike Project

Kiprengwe Primary School



Vincent Kipronoh, a student in Grade 7 at Kiprengwe Primary School, rides one of the Kona Bikes specially made for the children.

High in the hills of Kenya's tea country sits a school where several children show off their pedalling skills.

David Kikwai, head teacher for Kiprengwe Primary School, has invited students to take one of a couple of bicycles out for a spin around the schoolyard. A dozen volunteers with A Better World Canada watch as one eager participant after the other grabs the handlebars and takes off. Students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 were given a bicycle to use for the school year, thanks to the efforts of several partners.

Melissa Farahat and Kelly MacVicar, both of Calgary, had visited the school in 2009 as part of a tour with A Better World Canada. It's a 100 percent volunteer-run organization set up and governed by College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe.

The two women saw a need to help students get to school more easily. Some walked about five kilometres one way to get to class. The school is not far from an extremely steep hill—one that is a surmountable challenge for even the best of vehicles to climb, particularly after rainfall.

Farahat and MacVicar formed the Africa Bike Project and brought A Better World and Kona Bikes on board. A total of \$50,000 was raised for the bikes. Half of the proceeds came from bike races, organized by Farahat and MacVicar, and held in Canmore, Alta.

In May 2013, 205 bikes were delivered to Kiprengwe, including 45 to nearby Chepseon High School, where students go after Grade 8. Of those, 15 bikes were given to teachers at each school.

The bicycles were locked in a hotel room in the town of Kericho for a month, and over the course of two-and-a-half days, volunteers assembled them. Helpers slept overnight in the room, just to make sure the bikes were well protected. The bikes were then transported by truck to the two schools over several days.

Kona Mountain Bikes Co. designed the majority of the bikes to be kid-specific, something the company had never done before. It runs an office in Vancouver, B.C., and another in northwestern Washington.

"We give the child a bicycle after the parent has signed [an agreement]," said Kikwai. "The bike is then returned at the end of the term." As part of the

agreement, the parent is responsible for ensuring the bike is well maintained. If the bike is broken in any way, the parent must pay for the repairs, said Kikwai.

The bike project appears to be a hit in the community. Students and teachers have more time and energy to focus on studies. The program aims to increase productivity, decrease dropout rates and increase safety.

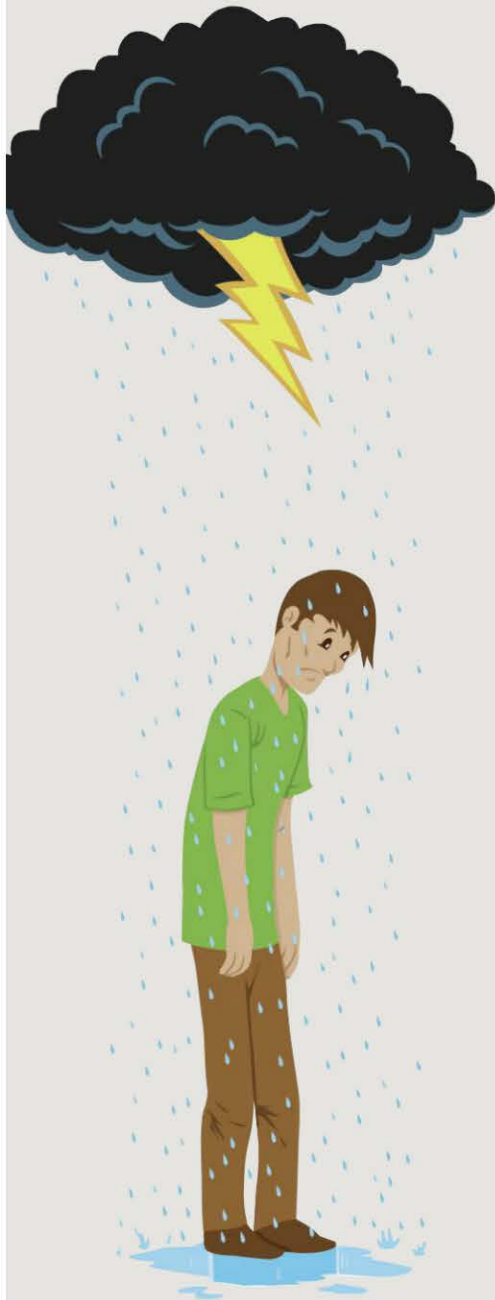
In its first six months of operation, only one student suffered a mishap. He broke his leg after falling down a large incline, said Kikwai. Kikwai remembers how the children didn't know how to ride the bikes when they were first delivered. And now, even the little ones can ride too, he says with pride.

Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World, deemed the program a success. "I followed up and discovered an additional 13 students who live about 10 kilometres away are now able to attend [school]," said Rajah. ■

Laura Tester travels with A Better World and is a freelance writer for newspapers.

>> To support this program, please contact erajah@abwcanada.org. <<

Overcoming anxiety and accepting God's abundance



Are you a worrywart? Do you find yourself fixating on one particular problem? Can it be all consuming? Many people are simply wired in ways to obsess over issues, even if they can't control the circumstance.

How do you deal with this? Are there any encouraging words from the Bible to help bring peace into your life? Read Philippians 4:6, 7:

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus" (NLT).

The apostle Paul knew what it was like to worry. He was always facing hardship, even life-threatening problems. He writes in 2 Timothy 4:5, "But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry" (NIV). How is it possible to overcome worry and anxiety? These three strategies based on Philippians 4 is a good starting point:

STRATEGY 1

Ask God to take away your anxiety. He knows what you are experiencing, and He can give you the power to overcome. Many people turn to self-help books and DVDs to find an answer to their problems. Jesus said in John 14:14, "Ask me for anything in my name" (NLT).

STRATEGY 2

When you find yourself obsessing over a problem, turn the tables toward gratitude. Begin thanking God for all of the things that are going well in your life. Psalm 106 suggests that we make a list of the "glorious miracles" (NLT) credited to God. Imagine speaking your list aloud, in order to prevent the negative thoughts that consume you. I call this "adopting a spirit of optimism."

STRATEGY 3

Focus on the life of Jesus. Read His biography over and over, found in the Gospels, and learn how Jesus dealt with difficult circumstances. If we focused on Jesus' life, our own life will change. Ellen White said, "I love to see our ministers dwell more upon the cross of Christ, their own hearts, meanwhile, softened and subdued by the Saviour's matchless love which prompted that infinite sacrifice."¹

Finally, be aware that some people are wired to experience depression and anxiety. You may need professional treatment by visiting a physician. This isn't anything to be embarrassed about. Just as a person suffers from another medical ailment like heart disease, you may need medical intervention.

God designed you to experience the best in this world. You weren't created to feel hopeless but rather to be overwhelmed by His abundance! ■

Kumar Dixit is the pastor of the Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Christian Era. He was also a contributing author of Steps to Discipleship, published by the General Conference Youth Department. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.

¹ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4 (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1948), pp. 374, 375.



MULBERRY TREES



Words by God —2 Samuel 5:22-25, NIV

The Philistines were in hot pursuit of David and his men. They had been searching them out because David had recently become king. The Philistines camped out in the Valley of Rephaim, waiting for battle. David asked God what to do. In the previous battle with the Philistines, God told David to get right in there, but this time He said wait. God directed David to head around back behind the enemy and wait for His signal—the sound of marching in the mulberry trees. When David heard this, it would be the signal to go out because God had gone out before him to defeat the enemy.

I love this story of the marching in the tops of the mulberry trees. It reminds me that God is the one who goes before me and He is the one who stands behind. I believe God told David to wait because we need that reminder too; it is He that goes before us and fights for us. There will be times when He says, "I will give you the victory over this battle," but we must never forget who won it for us. Whether we hear that marching in the tops of the mulberry trees or everything seems still, God goes before you. He will be with you. "The God of angel armies is always by your side."

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'" (Ps. 91:1, 2, NIV). ■

Be Blessed

Tia Lawrence is 19 years old and a first-year college student. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com



Watch "Whom Shall I Fear," by Chris Tomlin on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/EFEcfw>





review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App:

WAUS 90.7 FM

In Brief:

Wherever you are, you can listen to classical music broadcast online from the Andrews University campus. The radio station features mostly classical music with news updates from NPR News and BBC News. Over the Sabbath hours, they play inspiration programming, and every Sabbath morning the Pioneer Memorial Adventist Church service is broadcast live at 11:30 a.m., EST. This app features a minimal style interface with a play/pause button and allows you to minimize and continue listening in the background. If you like classical music and want Christian programming over the Sabbath, then this is a great app.

Wow Factor:

Classical radio wherever you are, with Sabbath programming.

Meh Factor:

Would be nice to be able to access the programming schedule in app.

Developed for:

WAUS 90.7 FM

Price:

Free

Works on:

Android, iOS

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



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

prayer life

Giving Up On Prayer

I had practically given up on prayer. Without realizing it, I had for years become a functional deist, still believing in God—but in a God who was not involved in my life. I reflected on my years in ministry, trying to remember if any of the people I had prayed for and anointed had been healed. And when it really mattered to me, namely when my own brother was dying from cancer, there was nothing but silence. So I concluded prayer worked for others but not for me.

Then God led me to discover Him. I realized that prayer was not what I thought it was: a way to convince God to give me what I wanted or thought I needed. As W. Bingham Hunter says in *The God Who Hears*, “Prayer is a means God uses to give us what He wants.” “God doesn’t respond to our prayers. God responds to us: to our whole life.” I discovered that “praying more effectively is largely a matter of learning to know Him as the desire of our heart.”¹

Prayer is all about a relationship. Yet if I am not careful, I can fall into the trap described by Paul Miller in *A Praying Life* and “focus on praying and not on God.”

“Prayer is simply the medium through which we experience and connect with God”²

Now I easily get caught up listening to Him talk to me in His Word, and I respond by writing in my journal. It is becoming an exciting journey and the most valued part of the day. An awareness of His presence spills over and is with me the rest of my day. And He urges me to still ask for things—and I do—but with more courage to trust that He is good and will always do what is best from His perspective.

As Ellen White says in *Steps to Christ*: “Through sincere prayer we are brought into connection with the mind of the Infinite. We may have no remarkable evidence at the time that the face of our Redeemer is bending over us in compassion and love, but this is even so. We may not feel His visible touch, but His hand is upon us in love and pitying tenderness.”³ ■

Warren Kay is the coordinator for Prayer
and Revival for the Alberta Conference

¹ W. Bingham Hunter, *The God Who Hears* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 1986), pp. 12, 13.

² Paul Miller, *A Praying Life: Connecting With God in a Distracting World* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2009), p. 21.

³ Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1956), p. 96.



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Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

Over the past almost two years, Alexandra Yeboah has served the Canadian Adventist Messenger at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) by writing stories, performing secretarial duties, looking after our mailing list and much more. April is Alex's last month working at the SDACC, as she is responding to God's calling for another incredible experience. Please pray for her ministry and support her in any way you are able.



Alexandra Yeboah

EDITOR: *Tell us about yourself.*

ALEXANDRA: I grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home and was fortunate enough to have two wonderful parents and a younger sister. I am especially close to my family, and I cherish every minute I have with them. I love reading, writing, travelling, singing (although I'm not very good) and evangelism work.

EDITOR: *What was the biggest influence in your becoming or remaining an Adventist?*

ALEX: I have such fond memories of growing up as an Adventist. I loved going to church, spending time with my friends and church family, and being involved in the church program. I remember times that we would stay at

church until late at night, and I would beg my parents to let me stay longer. We would have worship together every evening as a family, and I loved that.

My dad gave me a bit of tough love and wouldn't allow me to watch too much television or indulge in fiction novels but, instead, gave me an abundance of spiritual books to read. At the time, I wasn't too fond of some of the books he gave me to read, and so I neglected to read them. One book he gave me to read that I didn't end up reading then was *The Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White. I was so daunted by the number of pages! But now as a young adult, I am well on my way to finishing it, and I can most certainly say it is quite a life-changing book.

If it weren't for my solid upbringing in the faith, I would not be the person I am today. I learned to make

God my special confidant as a child, but it wasn't until my early 20s that I really started to take my faith more seriously. Still, I credit my parents' teachings as the biggest influence as to why I am a Seventh-day Adventist now. To this day, I experience such joy in serving the Lord, which I believe stems from my upbringing.

EDITOR: *What was your experience like, going to a public university and taking journalism?*

ALEX: It was rewarding but challenging at times. The university I attended was located in the heart of the city. People were always so busy and caught up in their own interests. It is easy to pass a lot of things by this way.

I loved my writing assignments and the hands-on experience the journalism program offered, but at times I wanted to pull my hair out, because the program was very intense.

EDITOR: *Were there opportunities to share your faith in this kind of setting? What advice would you have for another Adventist taking journalism in a public university?*

ALEX: Yes, being in a setting of many diverse cultures gives you many opportunities to share your faith ... although I missed out on several because of a lack of dedication to God at that time in my life.

Yet, there were times that I was questioned, because I would leave early on a Friday to make it home in time for sunset or when I would decline going to the pub or to the campus parties.

Also, when I was assigned a story from my editors, they would usually give me a deadline of Saturday. I would tell them that I observe the Sabbath on this day, and I would hand it in on Sunday. That was the only time I ever got away with breaking a deadline.

In my classes, a lot of my professors did not see room for God in journalism. I remember one of my professors announcing in class one day that we are never to use the word "miracle" in our stories, because there was no such thing.

My advice to those studying journalism in a public setting is to essentially take advantage of the opportunities God gives you to witness for Him. God has given His writers a serious responsibility to use His words to glorify Him. Don't take that lightly. Use your words to point people to Christ. Sometimes this can be directly or indirectly. Many times I would report on stories of those within marginalized communities who were really hurting. When you meet people with stories like this, your sensitivity to the issue is a way to reveal Christ's love. I always treated the stories I received with care, as if they were my own.

Also, never get too busy to share the love of Christ with someone. Sometimes the devil puts distractions in our way so we can miss out on doing the Lord's work. This happened to me several times. Sometimes you need to go out to lunch

with your friend instead of rush home to complete your assignment. Seek guidance from the Lord on this. Use Christ's method of witnessing, in mingling with the people.

Lastly, as a journalist you are blessed to be able to sell the greatest story ever told. Be honoured that Christ has entrusted you with it, and don't be afraid to share it.

EDITOR: *So you are leaving the Messenger to do mission work in Ghana. What activities will that include?*

ALEX: Well, that is one of several reasons why I am leaving. I am going overseas for only two months, but I hope to be able to visit some of the impoverished villages and orphanages while in Accra. For the second part of my trip, I will be going with a group called ALIVE to the northern part of Ghana to engage in door-to-door ministry, Bible studies and whatever else we are called to do.

EDITOR: *Why Ghana? Why not Toronto, or the Northwest Territories in Canada?*

ALEX: Well, I firmly believe that the mission is anywhere God calls you to. The mission could be in Africa, Newfoundland or Toronto, but wherever God calls you to go, you go. One reason I have chosen Ghana is that I have a special connection with this part of my culture, and I want the chance to engage more in it, and of course, I believe that God is calling me there at this time.

When I attended the Generation of Youth for Christ conference last January, I met someone who had visited there and told me of the poverty that riddles certain areas of the country. Also, just the other day, my good friend who is the vice-president of evangelism was sharing with me some of the work that the division of ALIVE in Ghana is doing. They are evangelizing in what is considered an unreached area of Ghana, and God is working mightily there. When I heard about this work, my heart almost leapt out of my chest. I experience a similar feeling every time I hear a good story. I don't speak *twi* (one of the main Ghanaian languages), though, but like Moses, I know God will equip me for His purpose.

EDITOR: *I am glad that you will be having a page in the Messenger to share with other Canadians of your adventure. Do you have a blog or website?*

ALEX: It's funny that you ask. I actually just started a personal blog the other day. Here is the link to my new blog: www.thechristherald.com. I have started it with the deep desire to write the words that I believe God has impressed upon my heart. ■

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



barry's blog

"Isolation in the pursuit of peace is perhaps not the best approach."

Relationship building is an ongoing responsibility

This month I want to take a page out of Canadian Seventh-day Adventist history and consider the need to maintain relationships with civic and political leaders. I am continuing my interest in reading letters, archive files and testimony transcripts of what was in the hearts and minds of the young Seventh-day Adventist conscientious objectors who refused to bear arms or do unnecessary work on the Sabbath during the Second World War. In this piece I want to centre on the attempt of the church to make its case before government, bureaucrats and the military for religious accommodation.

The Adventist Church's national office tried to control what was said to government and set up a committee to look at what needed to be done to assist the conscripts. For example, it called on the local conferences to provide an accounting of the Adventists in military camps. It encouraged "our young people, especially our young

men, to take the St. John Ambulance and Air Raid Precaution courses, as well as stenographic, secretarial and nursing courses." The strategy was that conscripts with such skills would be attractive candidates for non-combatant military positions. The national church also asked for a copy of all correspondence the provincial offices had with the local military authorities and tribunals. Finally, it asked that no correspondence with such authorities be undertaken without contacting the national headquarters first.¹ The church wanted to speak and to be heard as one voice.

In short, the church was elitist in its approach to government. That was an appropriate response, but because it put forth little effort beforehand to establish relationships with government, efforts turned out not to be as effective as they might have been. Church president W. B. Ochs expressed this attitude when he

reminded members to “be calm, say little, but pray much.”² A religious minority comprising only about 9,300 adult members³ during the Second World War was not about to make a public spectacle of itself in the context of war. However, as Nathan Funk makes clear, isolationism in the pursuit of peace is perhaps not the best approach; there needs to be a relationship between the parties “to make peace real.”⁴

The church made many attempts, at negotiations in Ottawa and at the local levels. Some successes came on the local level, but very few came at the national level. For example, a commandant gave Sabbath observance privileges to an Adventist medic,⁵ but the higher commands would not.⁶

Even the allowance for non-combatant positions in the military came about—not so much because of Adventist negotiations and relationship building—but more so because the military simply needed more men as well as the work of other peace churches.⁷

Canadian society did not understand or appreciate Adventist beliefs. Other countries were more accommodating of Adventists during the Second World War, such as Britain, Australia and the United States. It is easy to say now, in hindsight, that creative thought

ought to have been done *before* the war to address the lack of relationship building with government authorities, civic leaders and military leaders. However, it leads one to ask, *What potential issues are we missing today that we need to already be planning for?*

There is no evidence that the church did a postwar debriefing of the lessons learned. Peace scholars suggest that visioning is needed to focus on desirable social and political structures.⁸ The question we need to ask today is “How would we, as a church, want Canadian society to accommodate our religious practice in the future?” With that in mind we could develop a long-term “design of social change” outlining what is needed to be effective in gaining understanding in our society, thereby addressing the systemic problem we face from the prejudice against our religious practices. As John Lederach points out, “We are oriented toward the building of relationships that in their totality form new patterns, processes and structures.”⁹ ■

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.

¹ Minutes of the National Service Committee, held in Oshawa, Ont., Nov. 11, 1940.

² W. B. Ochs, “A Word of Caution,” *Canadian Union Messenger*, vol. 8, no. 6 (Sept. 12, 1939): 1.

³ W. B. Ochs, “President’s Report: Second Quadrennial Session,” *Canadian Union Messenger*, March 25, 1942: 1. The exact number given was 9,275.

⁴ Nathan C. Funk, “Building on What’s Already There: Valuing the Local in International Peacebuilding,” *International Journal* 67, no. 2 (Spring 2012): 391–408.

⁵ Letter, A. Ross, Deputy Minister (Army) to A. E. Millner, Sept. 25, 1945:

“The Army regulations do not envisage that religious scruples, however bona fide, are an excuse for neglect or refusal to obey a lawful command. You will appreciate how important disobedience of orders is when the Army is serving on active service outside of Canada. However, it is felt that difficulties of this nature can be obviated by the use of the Commanding Officer’s discretion in dealing with individual cases. It is thought that men whose religious beliefs prevent them from performing duties on Saturdays could be excused such duties and instead be utilized for Sunday duties. An enquiry has been made overseas as to any special action taken in the cases of the above noted soldiers, and as soon as information has been received in that regard you will be advised.

⁶ For example, in Germany after the war, General Vokes was very angry when told he should accommodate Sabbath observance:

Vokes made the following comment: “My views are that Seventh-day Adventists should serve under the same conditions of service as soldiers of any other religious creed or denomination. I cannot see why they should receive any particular consideration, since other soldiers have to perform essential duties [as] Christians on Sunday and Hebrews on Saturday. I cancelled now punishment of these offences pending an explanation of policy by the Department of National Defence as regards future treatment of cases of this sort. Finally, I would point out that a dangerous precedent will be set if every officer and soldier is legally entitled to refuse duty on his Sabbath day, whether it be Saturday or Sunday” (Army message [incoming], Major-General A. E. Walford from Weeks, London, England, Oct. 2, 1945).

⁷ See for example the work of William Janzen, *Limits on Liberty: The Experience of Mennonite, Hutterite and Doukhobor Communities in Canada* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990).

⁸ John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997).

⁹ Lederach, p. 85.

“Daniel¹

attended an evangelistic series this summer. It changed his life”! This comment is not all that unusual, except for the fact that Daniel is 12 years old. The evangelistic series his mother was referring to was his week-long experience at Camp Frenda, in Ontario. The evangelists who gently guided his experience were young adult camp staff, volunteers and dedicated ministry professionals. What an extraordinary lens to view evangelism, in God’s second book: nature. Camp Frenda provides just that, a week void of technology, immersed in God’s creation, surrounded by amazing staff who love Jesus.

EXPLORING Nature, DISCOVERING God

**In our “wired” world,
many children do
not get exposed to
nature on a daily basis.**

¹ Name changed to protect privacy.

² Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1950), p. 180.

Youth camps across North America provide an important, back-to-nature experience for young people. When Jesus wanted to meditate and pray, he found a quiet place, tucked away in a natural setting.

In *Acts of the Apostles*, Ellen G. White recalls the apostle's efforts to impact idolaters with the knowledge of God the Creator: "They first directed attention to the wonderful works of God—the sun, the moon, and the stars, the beautiful order of the recurring seasons, the mighty snow-capped mountains, the lofty trees, and other varied wonders of nature, which showed a skill beyond human comprehension."²

It was through contemplation of nature that the minds of seekers were opened to the Ruler of the universe. Removing children from the constant stream of technology may be one of the only ways to quiet their minds and prepare their hearts for God's voice. Camp Frenda's motto, "Exploring Nature, Discovering God," is at the heart of programming during the summer season.

Camp Frenda is located on the rocky, rugged shores of Lake Rosseau in northern Ontario. This location has been owned by the Ontario Conference since 1976. It is the perfect site for exploring the beauty of God's creation. The property has many buildings, many of which have been renovated or rebuilt. The Nature Building is one of the original structures of the Camp Frenda property. After many years of neglect, Glenn DeSilva (Camp Frenda director), invested resources to refurbish the entire structure and redesign the nature program to focus on educating campers about creation. Curriculum and supplies were purchased that would maximize learning in a natural setting. Steve Atkins, biology teacher at Andrews Academy and Camp Frenda Alumni Co-Coordinator, orchestrated the physical and curriculum renovations ideas, always keeping Camp Frenda's motto in mind.

In the spring of 2013, the Nature Centre's main floor was renovated to include two classrooms and a bird viewing area. Camp Frenda rangers, alumni volunteers and summer staff all contributed sweat equity to the project! The upstairs Nature Museum was renovated and rearranged to reflect the seven days of Creation. Hands-on displays encourage curious children to get up-close and personal with northern Ontario nature. The seventh-day Sabbath is included in the Nature Museum with a special area for reflection. The Nature curriculum was completely overhauled to include exciting, hands-on exploration—even dissection!

Over the summer of 2013, campers responded to the new Nature Centre and curriculum with enthusiasm. It became not only a hub for learning during the week but also a priority place to visit and relax on Sabbath.

With "Exploring Nature and Discovering God" as Camp Frenda's focus, it's not surprising that campers respond to God's

Visit the Camp Frenda website for camping and retreat information:
www.campfrenda.com/campfrenda

Visit our Camp Frenda Alumni Facebook Page: <http://goo.gl/PHn4IG>

Donation information is available through the Ontario Conference:
www.adventistontario.org

Alumni connections can be made by contacting Camp Frenda Alumni coordinators (Steve Atkins and Sharon Aka) at satkins@andrews.edu or Sharon.aka@humber.ca.

Camp Frenda 40th-Year Celebration Event:
Planning has begun for June 2016. Be there!



voice. The example of this response is baptism. During the 2013 summer camping season, many chose to give their hearts to Jesus through public baptism in Lake Rosseau. The transforming power of a natural setting is unmistakable. There is nothing more powerful than watching a young person give his or her heart to God, in the humility of submersion in the waters of Lake Rosseau. With ducks swimming around the baptismal candidates, onlookers sang, prayed and gave thanks for such an experience in a beautiful setting.

The transforming power of attending and working at a summer camp is remarkable. It is truly a unique experience in today's world. Hundreds of camp staff have given their hearts to God as a result of camp employment. Many marry fellow camp staff and commit their lives to working for the church in some capacity. Ministry becomes a verb, an action, something that is done, not just discussed. Campers also hold on to their summer experiences with vigour and, through technology, maintain new friendships and staff contact. Camp Frenda, its staff, and programs have an impact on young lives.

Over the past five years, alumni and Camp Frenda friends have raised nearly \$500,000 in donations and endowment fund monies with one focus in mind: to facilitate "Exploring Nature, Discovering God." Buildings have been renovated, programming has been updated, lives have been transformed. What a powerful testament! But while we are making great strides at Camp Frenda, much still needs to be done.

Glenn DeSilva, the Ontario Conference, Camp Frenda staff, volunteers and alumni thank you for your generous contributions and commitment to Camp Frenda. Please keep Camp Frenda in your thoughts and prayers. Also consider making the camping experience a priority for the children in your church next summer. One week at Camp Frenda is like attending 14 evangelistic meetings, with prayer, praise and singing in between! Camp Frenda can change a life. ■

Steve Atkins and Sharon Aka, Camp Frenda alumni coordinators.



Through hands-on training, these women are learning drought-resistant farming methods.

Fishing where there is no water

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach him how to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." You're probably familiar with this old adage, which states that a one-time handout is not as helpful as empowering people to care for themselves.

As part of its mission to help the poor and needy around the world (see Deut. 15:11), ADRA Canada often provides people with one of the most fundamental human needs: food. In some cases, the need for food is immediate and short-term. In other cases, soil depletion, erosion and drought slowly but surely crush the food-producing ability of thousands of people. In this case, the greatest need is to train and equip people to provide for themselves in the future. Sometimes, the situation requires both immediate and long-term food assistance!

ADRA Canada is currently responding to an urgent need for food in the drought-stricken Mandera region of Kenya. In a three-year project called Food for Today and Tomorrow, ADRA Canada is providing rice, beans, cooking oil and salt to 3,500 hungry people for an entire year.

However, the help doesn't stop there. Project participants are also being trained to grow their own vegetables and food

crops. Just as a fisherman pulls food from his environment, these resourceful gardeners and farmers are learning to harvest food from their drought-stricken environment.

Here's how it works: each household

receives three large sacks and plenty of seeds to begin growing vegetables. The gardeners fill each sack with dirt and place a large coffee can in the open mouth of the sack. This coffee can has small holes punched through it. The seeds are then planted at the top of the sack and in little holes down along the sides of the sack. These little holes allow the plants to grow out and catch sunshine without competing with weeds. Water poured into the coffee slowly seeps down into the sack, watering the vegetables at their roots. By reducing evaporation, this multistorey garden design conserves water, which is a precious commodity in Mandera! The vegetables produce seeds that can be saved for the next planting, and gardeners can even pinch off suckers that have the ability to grow into new plants.

The Food for Today and Tomorrow project coordinators also teach gardeners improved farming methods for drought-tolerant crops such as cowpeas, green grams, sorghum and dryland maize.

This project highlights the dedication of ADRA Canada to truly helping those affected by disaster. Instead of handing out food one day and leaving the next day, ADRA Canada stays as long as it takes to help a community get back on its feet.

At ADRA we really do teach hungry people to "fish" instead of just handing out fish. Only in this case, we do it without all that water! ■

Ryan Wallace, communication specialist at ADRA Canada.



This sack of dirt is actually a water-saving garden!

What is your JOY?

I didn't know what to tell her. I felt like crying with her as I saw the pain and misery she was in.

I KNOCKED ON CINDY'S DOOR OVER SIX YEARS AGO. It was refreshing to meet a Christian mother who wanted to raise her children to love God. She took many books from me over a period of a few months. However, when the time came to drop the last collection, I did not find her home. The house was deserted, and no neighbour knew where she had gone.

It was over a year later that I discovered where she lived, by some coincidence. I went to see her, but the Cindy I met that day had changed dramatically. Her husband had left her for a younger woman, she had lost her job and the landlord was about to evict her in a couple weeks because she had not paid rent for over two months. She looked at me and said, "I don't know if I can believe in God anymore. In the morning, I go to the cupboard to find something to put in my children's lunch and I can't find anything. Tell me how a God of love can allow this to happen to His children."

I didn't know what to tell her. I felt like crying with her as I saw the pain and misery she was in. She had not been to church for months, but I told her to get her Bible. After looking for it for some time, she found it, and for the next two hours, I began to read promise after promise from God's Word. I told her that I did not know why all this was happening to her, but I knew that Jesus understood what she was going through and if she could just put her trust in Him, He would see her through. I gave her my testimony on how God used the book *The Desire of Ages* to lead me to Jesus' heart as a teenager. "It was very boring at first," I told her, "but as I reached the chapter called 'Calvary,' my heart was broken."

I prayed with Cindy and came back the next day to give her a copy of *The Desire of Ages* with the little money I could find. I travelled for the next few weeks, but when I came back to see her, the house was deserted. For many years afterwards, each time I would pass by her neighbourhood, I would pray, "Lord, be with Cindy."

Some time ago I went to a church to promote the LE work. As I was walking down an aisle, I heard my name being called. I looked around but did not find anybody I recognized. Again I heard my name louder this time: "Jonathan, don't you remember me? It's me Cindy!"

She ran to me and hugged me. It was a very emotional moment for the both of us. "I'm baptized here in this church now, and all my children are also here with me. You were right, *The Desire of Ages* was boring at first, but it has become one of my favourite books. As I learned to really know Jesus, my life changed." My heart was filled with joy.

When I get discouraged, I think of Cindy and the joy she brought to my heart. You also must have a joy set before you or you will not serve Jesus for very long. So, what is your joy? ■

Jonathan Zita is the director of Lifestyle Canada Education Service.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

Lifestyle Canada Education Service (LCES) is a charity, organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry across Canada. LifestyleCanada.org.



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CHAN

School of Eva beating the odds in

“All the odds were against us at
CHANGE School of Evangelism
when we chose to run
an evangelistic series
in the middle of summer.

*...However, with God,
all things are possible.*”



GE

ngelism

Camrose, Alberta

All the odds were against us at CHANGE School of Evangelism when we chose to run an evangelistic series in the middle of summer. After all, summertime is when most of Alberta's residents take their RVs and go camping, and thus few remain in the cities, making their participation in an evangelistic series that much more challenging.

However, with God, all things are possible. Months before the series took place, the students from CHANGE School of Evangelism walked the streets of Camrose, Alta., several days per week conducting surveys door to door and establishing health expos as well as other outreach initiatives in the community. Flyers were mailed out to every home inviting the community to our "Really Living" health and evangelism series. A 1-800 number was also provided on the flyer to answer any questions, but despite all the calls received from the community regarding the series, on opening night only six of the attendees were new to the Adventist message.

Although we were very happy that despite so many odds, six

attended, yet my heart yearned to know whether God's heart was happy with the results or whether we could have done more. So I proceeded to spend the majority of the night in prayer, pouring my heart out to God for understanding. The answer came as I read a few thoughts from Ellen G White. She shared how Jesus, when in counsel with the Father, decided that they would not withhold one blessing but give all for our salvation. She goes on to share how this is how God wants us to value one soul for which He died. I felt God pricking my heart with this question, "Do you and the students understand the value of one soul? Are you and the students willing to pour your all into leading others to Jesus in Camrose?" I was reminded of Jesus' parable of the great feast in Luke 14: "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many. He sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five



Do you want the tools for effectively sharing Christ in your local community? Do you want to experience CHANGE and make a difference in your family or workplace? Then CHANGE School of Evangelism is the answer. Classes begin May 1, 2014. For more information, visit www.changeschool.ca or call 403/342-5044 x 216 for more information. Online classes are also available.

yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, I have done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, '*Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled*'" (verses 16-23, NKJV).

So we took extra time the following day in class to pour out our hearts to God in prayer. We didn't stop there. We sought to live our prayers and, therefore, work together with God by going to the highways and byways, the neighbourhoods and alleyways, to compel people to attend. We kept inviting more and still more until His house was full. Each night the number of non-Adventists in attendance increased dramatically. It went from six to 12 to 17 to 24, until a total of 67 non-Adventists attended the series. In the recent past I've had the joy of working as a Bible worker for several evangelists in North America and personally held evangelistic series locally and abroad, but I had never seen or experienced this before: an exponential growth in attendance night after night. This was something radically different. Indeed, God rewarded the efforts of the students and teachers and taught each one of us a deeper spiritual lesson. Experientially, God led us to understand the importance of not giving up easily, that although we are to respect individual choices, we were still to persuade individuals to attend. God blessed our efforts, and six individuals were baptized, with more individuals being prepared for baptism in future months. Pastor Olaf Clausen and the members of the Camrose church have enjoyed the doubling of their Sabbath attendance. Bible workers have been assigned to Camrose and are continuing to have Bible studies and training the membership for their follow-up campaign in April.

Adam Bially, a recent graduate from CHANGE School of Evangelism, cannot say enough good about his experience at CHANGE. Shortly after joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Regina, Sask., in 2012, Adam, who grew up Ukrainian Catholic, began searching for ways to share his newfound faith. He became a deep student of the Bible and began making friends and sharing what he was learning with others. Yet Adam sought to find a way to be better equipped in evangelism. After looking into different schools of evangelism south of the border, he learned about the Alberta Conference working together with Canadian University College to run CHANGE School of

Evangelism on their campus. He really liked that this school was run by the Adventist Church. The fact that it was in Canada and on the campus of Canadian University College made it very attractive, as it was much more cost-effective for him to attend than other schools he had looked into.

The three-month program provided exceptional instruction from teachers from around the globe along with hands-on training in the field that would effectively equip him to be a Bible worker and evangelism coordinator in any church he was asked to serve. He requested leave from his job in Regina to attend the three-month CHANGE School of Evangelism program.

"The school of evangelism really helped teach me how to study the Bible and how to study with others," says Adam. "It taught me a lot about myself and how much surrender is involved in working for God. It's not just another job," explains the former sheet metal worker. "There are eternal realities that go along with it."

In August, just a few weeks after graduating from the first class of CHANGE, he was employed to serve the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as a Bible worker in the community of Drumheller. Only six months after graduating last summer as part of CHANGE's first class, he began by introducing the "Full-Plate Diet," a health endeavor, to the community at a Drumheller community centre, and many attended. Angie Balderson was one of those who attended. She had become a Christian only three years earlier and also became interested in healthy living, even changing her diet to a vegan diet. In attending the Full-Plate Diet event, she not only learned more about health but also learned more about Jesus, our Saviour and Great Physician. She and Adam began to talk about faith-related subjects, and shortly thereafter Bible studies began with the family.

Sandra Silva, director for CHANGE School of Evangelism, had the joy of sharing from the Bible with Angie during her visits to Drumheller, and they became fast friends. Angie, together with her children, felt God calling them to start keeping the Sabbath. On Jan. 18, 2014, they were baptized and became members in Drumheller. This little church—for years having only three or four members in attendance—is now bursting at the seams. On the Sabbath of March 8, 2014, thirty-three individuals were in attendance, many of whom are studying with Adam Bially and are preparing for baptism.

Did the Change School of Evangelism make a difference in Adam's life? Absolutely! And it has made a difference not only in his life but also in the community of Drumheller. ■

Sandra Silva is the director for CHANGE School of Evangelism.

Spotlight

Isabel Santos and Josh Jamieson



Isabel Santos

*second and third place winners of the 2013
Seventh-day Adventist Scripture Songwriting Contest*

In life we use many popular phrases when things go wrong, such as “When one door closes, another one opens,” but the truth is if we could see the hand of God working in our very lives, we would never waste one moment worrying about doors closing.

Young Isabel Santos began singing at the age of seven in her home country of Portugal. She grew up in the small fishing village of Nazare (now famous for the world’s best surfing waves). She helped take care of the local grocery store while her father worked at his own tailor shop. Life was simple but sometimes hard, and dreams of singing were on Isabel’s mind. She made sure she was included in all of the school plays, musicals, festivals and even as a soloist for the orchestra before one day deciding to enter a national singing competition.

Perhaps it was to no one’s surprise that her talent brought her right up to the finals, but there was a problem. Isabel was moving to Canada with her mom and brother to meet up with her father, who had moved two years earlier in hopes of a better life filled with more opportunity. But in the eyes of young Isabel, the move would do the opposite: it meant she could not compete in the final round of the competition. Crushed in spirit, and after a failed attempt to convince her mom to let her stay, Isabel arrived in Canada.

“Had I known God’s plan for me, I wouldn’t have shed as many tears as I did when I left,” she says looking back. Only a few years later her dream of singing on television was coming true with an invitation from CBC’s radio and television programs for Canada’s Centennial Celebrations. “This opened the door for my singing career. For 14 years I sang for the CBC, performing on radio, TV and live concerts. I also sang for the Portuguese community in Canada.”

It was 15 years after arriving in Canada that Isabel and her family became Seventh-day Adventist, and she “fell in love” with

singing religious music. “Now I had a message to sing—a message of hope and salvation. When I sing about Jesus, it brings tears of joy and thankfulness for what He has done for me”

Isabel has since composed many traditional Portuguese songs and sacred songs, and depending on how God continues to lead, she will continue to write more. It was her song “Give Me a Drink of Water” that earned second place for the Canadian Seventh-day Adventist Scripture Songwriting Contest. It’s a song she wrote to sing at the end of a monologue that she performs to portray the Samaritan woman. “I like to portray women of the Bible, my favorite being the woman at the well.”

Hopefully, we will hear more of Isabel’s beautiful music and voice for years to come. “My plans for the future are in God’s hands. If He allows me, I will keep on singing until He comes. Hopefully, we won’t have to wait too long for that day.”

THIRD PLACE

We met British Columbia native Josh Jamieson in our January 2013 issue. A refreshing, musically gifted young man attending Walla Walla University pursuing a theology degree with the hopes of becoming a full-time worship pastor after graduation. Since we last spoke, Josh has continued to write and to stay focused becoming the worship leader and coordinator for a student-led church service at Circle Church. His musical pursuits have led him to enter and place in more contests and even join the stage at a Michael W. Smith concert in California. It was Jamieson’s song “Shield Around Me” that caught our attention in last year’s songwriting contest. If you would like to listen, stay in touch or encourage Josh, you can find him at www.joshjamiesonmusic.com. ■

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

On duty for God 24/7

NANCY CLEGHORNE



As a graduate of Kingsway College and Branson School of Nursing, Nancy continues to serve God, not only as the school nurse, but also as a mentor, friend and encourager. She is also responsible for the school attendance.

After graduating, Nancy moved to Toronto and worked at various pediatric offices. Several years later Nancy wanted to move back to Oshawa. One of the main reasons was because she and her husband wanted their daughter to have the opportunity to experience Kingsway College as she did.

Nancy started working at Kingsway College in 1999. Her job at KC was the beginning of paying back to the school

that she feels shaped her into the person she is today. One question from her interview she will always remember is "Why do you want to work at KC?" Nancy's answer was "I want to make a real difference in the young people spiritually, physically and emotionally."

To this day, Nancy believes that Kingsway College is a very remarkable aspect of her life. "Christian education was very important while growing up." Choosing to give her daughter the same opportunity, Nancy strongly treasures that "Christian education is an investment for your child's walk with God."

One of the programs Nancy is actively involved in is called Friends in Touch. This program is geared towards supporting students who live in the dorm and typically live miles away from their family. It is a ministry in itself, because the friends are individuals from the Christian community. It is meant to let students know that there is someone praying for them and cares enough to write a letter or a card and give a thoughtful gift.

Every student comes to school carrying problems that, at times, seem difficult to manage. It is the faculty and staff's responsibility to do their best to attend to the needs of our students. The school family works together to support the students overcome the challenges and offer words of advice.

"The truth is you can put Band-Aids

on people, but sometimes you need to see outside of what the bandage is going to heal," says Nancy. Through the years, the Friends in Touch program has strengthened and encouraged students at Kingsway College, and most importantly, it has brought students closer to God. Nancy sums up her experience of the school by saying, "Kingsway College feels like home, and it is a privilege and honour to work here; it's something I want to be a part of."

One of Nancy's fondest memories at Kingsway College happened while she was out with a group of students at a Mandarin restaurant. Some students and faculty members were seated at a long table, conversing, laughing and enjoying one another's company. Shortly after a few courses, a lady approached Nancy. The lady asked her, "Are your students from Kingsway College?"

Surprised and nervous, she responded, "Yes, they are. Why?"

Smiling, the lady said, "I thought so."

The next words from Nancy were that of curiosity: "May I ask why you are questioning?"

The lady responded, "Because they act differently by how nicely they are dressed and how they speak respectfully to others."

At that moment, Nancy said she felt very proud. The students had been recognized simply by how they conducted themselves.

Nancy's personal motto is "If you can make a difference in one person's life by something that you say or do, then your living is not in vain." Nancy is dedicated to reminding students that they are loved, valued and cared for. She says, "The youth can make a difference in the world simply by sharing their talents, love, knowledge of the Bible and being fearless to make a difference and ultimately make an impact in the world." ■

Ashley Arriola is the communications assistant at Kingsway College.

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

A New Adventist Asks

As a new Adventist I am zealous about sharing what I have learned. I am more zealous to share than people are to listen. Any suggestions on how I can share better?

We are thankful to our Father in heaven for your decision to follow Jesus and for accepting to be part of the community of believers who await His soon coming. We value in a special way your heart's desire to share the knowledge of eternal life with others. Please receive our encouragement to continue your noble task, even though the response of your audience may vary.

There are some essential aspects of witnessing that those who proclaim the good news of salvation should know.

The content

The primary goal of sharing is not to help people change their diet, to worship on the right day of the week or to increase the potential of their being. Everything is about helping them become disciples of Jesus Christ and to amplify their love relationship with the Creator of the Universe.

If we want to increase the impact of all our evangelistic efforts, we should insist more on the knowledge of God and less on religious practices. When we promote the love of God and His power in the right way, everything else becomes secondary. It is obvious that those who accept Jesus as their Saviour are able, after receiving His Holy Spirit, to understand the importance of religious practices and to allow God to transform their everyday life. But these changes are only the consequence and not the first priority. "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3, NASB). So *preach Jesus*.

Times and circumstances

Once we ensure that what we are sharing with our acquaintances is good and right, we will trust that God will take care of all other aspects of our friends' agenda. Our availability will facilitate the work of the Holy Spirit, who will use us in all circumstances. The apostle Paul says, "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2, NASB).

Ellen G. White underlined the value of using all circumstances to grow God's kingdom, but she insists on the content of our witnessing: "The souls that are seeking for truth need to have words spoken to them in season, for Satan is speaking to them by his temptations. If you meet with repulse when trying to help souls, heed it not. Speak to those who will listen. Impart the knowledge of the truth you have obtained; but let it be the truth as it is in Jesus."¹

The method

Jesus was the best teacher ever. He knew how to connect people to the eternal values of His Father and how to guide them gradually from known to new things. His parables are the source of a never-ending inspiration for His disciples. And we are following His method. Therefore, don't start your testimony with complex theological concepts, such as the prophecy of the 2,300 days, the seven plagues of the Book of Revelation or who has access to the ceremony of foot-washing. Likewise, stay away from all versions of polemics. Think more about people's needs. Understand what their burdens are. Love them as Jesus loved.

"My brethren and sisters, in your ministry come close to the people. Uplift those who are cast down. Treat calamities as disguised blessings, of woes as mercies. Work in a way that will cause hope to spring up in the place of despair."²

The Success

Our focus is not on final results. Our focus is on the obedience to the Great Commission. We know that God will take care of our efforts better than we can do it by our own strength and intelligence. No doubt, the receptiveness of people will vary. The temptations of the enemy could seem very effective in preventing them to hear the call of salvation in Jesus. But nothing can stop God's love. The work against His plan of salvation will not discourage the disciples of Jesus Christ in their vital and organic need to live and to spread, to extend the indestructible power of sacrificial love as it is presented through the life and ministry of Our Lord and Saviour. Rebecca M. Pippert affirms, "Being an extrovert isn't essential to evangelism. Obedience and love are."


In conclusion, let's paraphrase the words of the angel in his speech to Gideon: "Go in this might of yours, stay closely attached to Jesus Christ, love sacrificially, follow the instructions of the Holy Spirit and you shall become my witness. Have I not sent you?" (see Judges 6:14). ■

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

¹ Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, February 11, 1896.

² Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1948), vol. 7, p. 271.

NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY



Lifeguards
are trained to keep
themselves safe while
risking all to reach
those drowning.

WHILE SERVING AS PASTOR/CHAPLAIN at

Monterey Bay Academy near Santa Cruz, Calif., I quickly learned the importance of understanding ocean currents in that area. Whether or not you are a strong swimmer does not matter. Strong tides, riptides and currents can carry you out into the bay quickly, you need to know how to avoid a crisis altogether.

If you ever find yourself being carried out to sea, you, hopefully, will have been taught to swim parallel to the shoreline. This will help you get out of the current and still have energy to get back to shore.

If all else fails, the lifeguard—trained to save lives in emergency situations—will come out to rescue you. However, the sad thing is that much of the western coastline has “NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY.”

In our world today, there tends to be “NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY” for young people to be rescued. By nature, young people choose to take risks. They want to see how far they can go, unaware of the consequences that come with the risks taken.

For the past 35 years, I’ve observed young people take risks without wanting to be rescued or letting loved ones know their journey. Consequently, many experience varied pathways away from God’s grace and His earthly church community.

Research over the last 30 years reveals that we lose many of our young people once they leave school and home.¹

Several years ago, there was a discussion among youth leaders across North America as to how to reach, reclaim and retain our missing and inactive youth and young adults. Many programs are implemented but none as potentially effective as the Mission Lifeguard project. While the ingredients are not something new, the packaging and ease of use is amazing.

One young person says she is committed to connecting with missing young people in her church. It is not easy work. Some do not want to be reached. They are unaware how the pull away from Jesus is affecting them. Just like a lifeguard, we can keep watch, and until they cry for help there remains the need to be attentive. Lifeguards are trained to keep themselves safe while risking all to reach those drowning. This young person will continue to persist in reaching out.

Recently, the Westminster Seventh-day Adventist Church, in B.C., decided to do something to reach their young people who are no longer attending. Three other local churches also became involved in two three-hour training sessions. They were encouraged to sign up with www.missionlifeguard.org. From this, there are six planned Internet

meetings to help train spiritual lifeguards whose passion is to let people know they are part of a church family that cares for them.

WHAT IS MISSION LIFEGUARD?

“Mission Lifeguard is about training lives. It’s about church people connecting with young people who are drowning or missing. It’s about connecting young people with Jesus, the “abundant lifeguard.”²

During the up-and-coming ASPIRE Canadian Adventist Youth Summit (CAYS), young adults who want to make a difference in young people’s lives will experience introductory training to be equipped and deployed in service to others for Jesus.

Are you in a “state of emergency” in your local church? Could you use a well-trained spiritual lifeguard in your local church? Plan to attend the best training summit in Canada to be a lifesaver. Come to ASPIRE, in Hamilton, Ont., May 29 to June 1, 2014. ■

Brian Wahl is the youth director for the British Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Darrell Gabrys (Steven's father) singing "It's a Life-and-Death Matter" in the 1980s.



Steven Gabrys and Karen Schafer (bottom left corner) singing "It's a Life-and-Death Matter" in November 2013.

Footprints to Follow

It's a blessing to be used by God, even if it takes three decades to finally realize that blessing!

My association with Adventist education began before my birth, with numerous persons leaving footprints for me to follow. A recent experience reinforced the fact that God's hand is with me through marvelous means.

My dad, a product of Adventist education in Alberta, was a great athlete and talented musician. His personality was larger than life. It was easy for others to be caught up in his enormous smile and his passion for life and Christ. In the 1980s he sang a song with Karen Schafer and the Acronaires, "It's a Life-and-Death Matter." My brother recalls the banners (proclaiming Jesus' love and soon return) being held by the Acronaires on "three-highs" as Dad would sing the final bars of the song. Little did I know then that I would be following in my father's footsteps 30 years later.

During the Acronaires' 40th anniversary celebration in November, I was able to sing that same song alongside Karen. Unfortunately, my father was not able to join in the celebrations because of his untimely death in 2009. What a flood of

emotions! For many years it seems that I've lived in my father's shadow. People would often greet me and associate me with him, saying, "Are you Darrell Gabrys's son? Wow, I remember your dad; he threw a football pass at me so hard that I still have a bruise on my chest."

I was proud when others talked about my dad, and as his son I've always looked up to him, aspiring to be a strong athlete, a powerful singer and a great leader and advocate for God. On that Sabbath, singing in my father's place, I truly felt as if I was standing in his shoes. I wish that I could hear my father sing that song today and stand alongside him, but I cannot.

While my life journey has been different from my father's, Adventist education has still left its mark on me. I made a decision to be baptized while in Grade 6 at Coralwood Adventist Academy. My years at Canadian University College were a great way to transition into adulthood.

Today there is no other place I'd rather have my two boys than in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian school. The influences and opportunities have eternal value.

Teachers who care. Teachers who pray for them and with them. It's where they belong!

As an educator I'm absolutely privileged to be working in an Adventist environment. Being able to keep learning God-focused and to work alongside likeminded individuals is a blessing.

Trying to fill my father's shoes has impressed me with what I need to do. Although I cannot sing with my father in this life, I *can* stand tall for Christ in my corner of the world. I *can* share the same good news of Jesus' return. I *can* live a life that honours my earthly father and one that actively honours my heavenly Father.

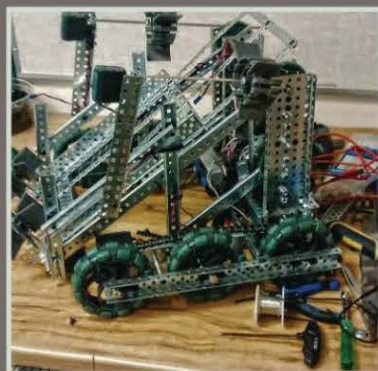
Just as my father left a legacy for me, Jesus has left a legacy for each one of us, an eternal legacy that promises that one day I will sing that song with my father! This time there will be more than just Acronaires atop three-highs, holding banners proclaiming Jesus' return. We will all join a heavenly host and sing with Jesus Himself! ■

Steven Gabrys is vice-principal and teaches Grade 5 at College Heights Christian School in Lacombe, Alta.



Gerren Hunter

Parkview Profiles



At Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA,) "The people are nicer and the environment is more friendly."

Where God took six days to create the heavens and the earth and all that is within it, Gerren Hunter and his team took six months to design, build, program and practice with their robot for competition.

Gerren, a Grade 10 student at PAA, remembers being very young and proud of fashioning a piece of wood into a robot. He loved to create and soon took on a paper route to save money for his first fully programmable piece: the NXT LEGO Robot. Since his family moved from Port Hardy, B.C., to Lacombe, Alta., in 2007, Gerren has focused his energies on building and becoming better at his leading-edge technological hobby.

Hoping to one day work in the field of computer programming and with robotics, he says, "I'm doing everything I like doing as of now." Coding and creating software sequences of hardware action are not taught in courses at PAA but are available to PAA students through Career and Technology Skills credits offered in cooperative coordination with local public schools. Gerren was first part of Lacombe's Robotics Club and was then soon approached by the director, who teaches at Lacombe Composite High School. As an Alberta high school student, Gerren was invited to enroll in Electrotech modules and will graduate in 2016 with a great deal of computer programming experience.

Having attended Adventist schools for all of his education, Gerren is able to clearly distinguish the difference Christian schools make in the lives of teenagers. First, the number of public school students makes learning in a less-supervised environment difficult for the less motivated. Second, he is glad to be taking his core courses at PAA because of the simple safety issue involved. "I don't have to worry about my stuff or myself here," he offers. "The people are nicer and the

environment is more friendly."

Gerren knew he would attend PAA when he won second place in the 2013 Annual Jr. High Science Fair and was awarded a scholarship for his efforts. It is an accomplishment he is proud of, but it's not the only science certificate to his credit.

Opening his computer, Gerren excitedly scrolls through pages and pages of the original computer code that he wrote to help his team with their robot in the First-Tech Challenge (FTC) World Competition. While they did not place in that arena, their next creation—which took only a few weeks to build and program—won overall at the international VEX competition, sponsored by the Texas-based Robotics Education and Competition Foundation.

Many of the robotics competitions occur on Saturdays, and early on Gerren had to take a stand. As the only Adventist student on his team, he chose not to participate in the Sabbath portions of the robotics challenges, instead supporting his team with the work he put in prior to that day. There are some competitions on Sundays that he can attend, and he looks forward to those, but he acknowledges, "It's a hard choice." Making that difficult decision was left entirely up to Gerren, and because of his church experiences and commitment to God, he knew there was only one choice. Limited participation in competitions has not hindered his involvement in robotics, as the Grade 10 PAA student will be representing Alberta in the VEX World Championships in Anaheim, Calif., this coming April. Wishing him luck, we here at PAA know that all of Gerren's work and creative efforts serve to glorify God. ■

Katelyn Ruiz is communications assistant at Parkview Adventist Academy

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Maritime

Sandy Lake Academy Bell Choirs Ring Joyfully in Maritime Churches



Sandy Lake Academy's three bell choirs have already been very busy in 2014!

The students are really enjoying visiting various churches and ringing and singing to the glory of God!

On Feb. 8, the Grades 7 and 8 bell choir provided special music for the Dartmouth church. The following Sabbath, Feb. 15, the MasterPeace Bell Choir performed for special music and also told the children's story at the Tantallon church. On the Sabbath of Feb. 22, two bell choirs visited Fox Point church. The Grade 10 bell choir provided special music, and the Master Peace Bell Choir told the children's story. Most recently, on the Sabbath of March 1, all three bell choirs travelled to Middleton Adventist Church to lead the worship service. Besides playing the bells, the group also sang a few pieces.

It was special to have our new music teacher, Kristii Rasmussen, co-direct in Middleton church. After months of waiting for immigration issues to be resolved, she has finally been able to join our school family. Kristii will fully assume her new position

the first week in March.

Following the bell choir performances, each church served bountiful potluck meals. The group from Sandy Lake Academy sincerely appreciated the genuine welcome and warm hospitality extended to them!

Sandy Lake Academy wishes to thank our Maritime churches for their dedicated support of our only Seventh-day Adventist school in the Maritimes. Their continued generous, sacrificial giving enables us to provide a vital ministry for our youth, touching lives for Christ. May God richly bless as we work together to prepare our youth for God's kingdom. ■

—Heather D. Harrington, Sandy Lake Academy Alumni/Marketing

Manitoba - Saskatchewan

Love is in the Air



On Sunday, Feb. 23, between 5 and 9 p.m., the Spirit of Truth Church in Regina held a "Love is in the Air" banquet. This formal occasion was a special banquet for the whole family.

The Spirit of Truth Church social committee worked their hearts out to present this beautiful function. They worked till the early hours of the morning in the Curtis-Horne Christian School gym, decorating and preparing food for this special occasion.

Pastor Elmer Manzanares from Winnipeg was invited to come and give a message on marriage. He spoke on love and trust and keeping our Lord Jesus as a partner in the marriage.

He emphasized that without complete trust and faith in the Saviour, as well as each other, a marriage will not survive. People very much appreciated Manzanares's inspiring message. He also brought his family with him to enjoy the evening. It was wonderful to have his family participate in this event.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner as a violinist played various musical pieces. Dinner was followed by various couples' games that determined how well spouses knew each other. One game involved having wives compete to see who could tie the best necktie.

There were two presentations to celebrate the couples that have been married the longest. Alina Boutilier gave a tribute for Joan and Stu Mathieson, who have been married for 54 years. Following their tribute, the couple lit three candles. A second tribute was given by Hartley Kayumba for Margaret and Lawrence Jackson, who have been married 52 and a half years. They braided three strands of rope to symbolize the bond between Jesus, husband and wife. Both couples were then presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Over 100 people from both churches in Regina and invited guests attended. The Spirit of Truth Church would like to thank those who spent many hours organizing and preparing to make this event a success. ■

—Margaret Jackson,
Spirit of Truth Church in Regina

Alberta

Yellowknife Church Homecoming Weekend 2014

The Yellowknife Seventh-day Adventist Church is inviting all previous members, pastors, volunteers, as well as newcomers to a Homecoming in Yellowknife, N.W.T., June 13-15, 2014. There will be opportunities to share memories of milestones from over the past 50 years as well as tour local landmarks, hike, picnic and enjoy inspiring talks and music as we consider the church's mission.

Why have a homecoming now? Two milestones are upon us. Fifty years ago, on July 4, 1964, Pastor L. Astleford from the Montreal English church and district, baptized Mr. Otto Abel, his wife and their son, Alfred, a gold-mining family in Yellowknife.

Interest in Yellowknife as a mission field grew. Just over 40 years ago, in 1973, the Alberta Conference in concert with

an organization now called Maranatha Volunteers International came to Yellowknife. The partners had a vision to more formally extend the Adventist mission in the Northwest Territories. Maranatha was becoming known as a group of volunteers who would fly their private planes to building projects around the globe. They flew in and drove in to build a church/gym/ apartment complex



in an amazingly short period of time. Before and since that time, many dedicated volunteers have contributed their resources and time to develop the Adventist perspective in the North. Many Alberta Conference personnel, Adventist business people and members have lived and worked in Yellowknife since 1964.

Yellowknife has grown into a modern Canadian city of 19,000 people. Our mission remains complex. Northerners are both self-reliant and relationship oriented. Come and see the North for yourself; participate in our mission. For more information, please visit <http://yellowknifesdachurchhomecoming.wikispaces.com>. If you have pictures (hard copy or digital), any stories you are willing to share with the planning committee, or questions in general, please contact Blake Wile at wile@theedge.ca, or call 867/669-8800. ■

—Blake Wile,
Yellowknife Church

Director of the Central Alberta Adventist Community Services Centre Retires After 30 Years



Millie Snow, former director of Central Alberta Adventist Community Services Centre.

On Feb. 10, 2014, Millie Snow, who has served as the director for Central Alberta Adventist Community Services Centre for 30 years, (soup kitchen) retired. She is known by all the homeless community in downtown Red Deer.

On Thursdays and Saturdays, those in need of warm food and a warm place to stay could stop by and spend time talking with Millie and enjoy her beautiful smile. The community of Red Deer will greatly miss her affectionate smile and warm presence.

When asked what she is going to do now that she is beginning her retirement, she warmly said, "I will still be around the laundry, you know! I love doing laundry, so if you have anything that needs to wash, just drop it off there."

We would like to thank Millie for her tireless effort of service. As Millie steps down, Attaleen Werner will assume the role as director. ■

—Lyle Notice, youth director,
Alberta Conference



CATCH THE FIRE



The theme for Alberta's most recent youth rally, held Feb. 7-9, 2014, was "Catch the Fire." It was a weekend filled with fellowship for youth from all over Alberta. The focus was catching a vision of Christ, coupled with youth empowerment.

Once You Know the Truth, You Will Never Wear It Out!

The speaker, Lyle Notice, brought the gospel of Jesus Christ across in a unique way. He used Lifestyle Fashion Brands to creatively present biblical principles. "When I was preparing for the youth rally, I thought to myself, *How can I make this time different? How can I*

impact youth in a positive way that is fitting for the postmodern and post-Christian times we live in?" says Notice. "We all wear clothes and we are actually communicating messages on a daily basis through our dress, whether intentionally or unintentionally. I love fashion—fashion is a way of speaking without using words. I thought, *How could I use my passion for style and fashion to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ?*"

Notice was soon impressed to show that fashion can be part of a lifestyle with biblical values. He used Lifestyle Fashion Brands to creatively present biblical principles and values.

For one of the sermons, Notice wore a "MISFIT" T-shirt and talked about four friends who broke open a roof to get their paralytic friend to Jesus (see Mark 2). Overall, youth were impressed with the sense that God can use them—even their clothing—to make a difference in the world.

In addition, Richard Grey, a fourth-year theology student, created a Christian brand called "Wholeheart," which encourages youth to do everything to the best of their ability and live a Christian lifestyle with a whole heart.

All in all, the youth event was a great weekend where one could wear the truth and without ever causing it to be worn out! ■

British Columbia

Fishermen reunite at weekend retreat held at Camp Hope

Perhaps many years ago, before there was a Camp Hope lodge complete with a great kitchen staff, individual rooms with showers, baseboard heaters and such, a men's retreat would have been more adventurous, more earthy! With no electricity, no heat except from fires, no lights except lanterns or candles, no food except beans, smoked tofu, dandelion greens and spruce bough tea, it would have been a real "guy time."

Well, the most recent men's retreat,

held November 2013, was a bit of a throwback to the olden times. Sometime during the wee hours of the night, during a heavy downpour, a car went off the road and took out a telephone pole out on the highway in front of the camp. To fix it, the power—ours included—had to be shut off. We woke up to darkness.

Maintenance director, Todd Schafer, interrupted my beautiful deep slumber, and we were up and out in the rain and searching for the source of our powerless-

ness. We soon discovered it out on the highway and knew we were not part of the solution; BC Hydro was already on it, replacing the pole. We were told to anticipate two hours, but it was closer to seven.

One by one the men arose on Sabbath morning to the realization that all was not as it had been the night before. As the lodge was already cooling off, we started fires in the fireplaces and one in the wood stove. Even though the water

was still hot, some seized the opportunity not to shower or shave! The staff in the kitchen with the help of candles, flashlights and gas stoves still put on a delicious spread and no one went hungry.

The weather was blustery and wet until Sunday, when the skies cleared and we could see the snow was quite low on the mountains. It was an adventure. Because of an auto accident out on Highway 7, the power was out from about 4 a.m. Sabbath morning until just before 2 p.m. Sabbath afternoon. Our wonderful kitchen team continued on undaunted, with the aid of the gas stoves/ovens, candles and flashlights, etc., and we did not lack for scrumptious food. Thank you, Stephanie, Rita and staff. They also put out many candles to light the darker areas such as the stairwells. Both fireplaces were burning, as well as the wood stove. While it was a little chilly inside, our hearts were warm and the brotherhood we shared was incredible. Pastor John Murley gave us many inspiring manly messages, and everyone was blessed by the godly wisdom he shared with us. It was good to see a big group from Quesnel and from Nanaimo.

One highlight of the weekend was having "Big George" there for the first time. It was impossible to wipe the smile



Photo by Jon Mundall.

off his face, not that we wanted to. A number of years ago, he was the town drunk up in Lytton, spending on average three days a week in the town drunk tank. Today he is a man reborn and living a God-filled life. Thank you to Peter and Markku from Fountainview for befriending George in Lytton and sharing Christ's unconditional love.

We also had a guest fisherman, Brent, who has fished all his life and works on our B.C. West Coast, share a story of

survival. One night the boat he was travelling in rolled over in a storm near Cape Mudge, and he survived for five hours in 50-m.p.h winds and big waves. He says he spoke with God a lot that night and has been a changed man ever since. His story is in the book *Dangerous Waters* by Keith Keller. To the men who missed out this year, plan on coming next year and receiving a great blessing! ■

— Bill Gerber,
Camp Hope director

Village to Village: Spiritual Revival takes place in First Nations community



Laxgalts'ap is a Nisga'a Village of approximately 474, in the Nass River valley of British Columbia, Canada.

It is one of the four main villages in the Nisga'a Lisims, the formal name for their territory, and is situated on the north side of the Nass River between Gitwinksihlkw to the east and Gingolx to the west. It is approximately 24 kilometres from where the Nass empties into the Pacific Ocean at Nass Bay. Road access is via the Nisga'a Highway. In the Nisga'a language, *Laxgalts'ap* translates to "village on village." Indeed, the current village was built on the site of a much older one.

The older village at this site, known as Gitxat'in, was destroyed by fire. Laxgalts'ap got its English name of "Greenville" from Methodist missionary Alfred Green, who was based here in the late 19th century.

When God sends you somewhere, you can be sure you will meet God there. On Feb. 5, 2014, this is exactly what happened.

The Laxgalts'ap (Greenville) First Nations village invited us to have a spiritual revival experience with them—to worship, pray and share the Word. Regardless how busy our lives and schedules are, we have to say yes to such an invitation!

Our lay pastor from the All Nations Centre, Ron Dame, shared how sin affected our lives and how we became rebellious towards our heavenly Father. He explained that this caused a separation between Him and us and, worse, it created an emptiness—emptiness that we are trying to fill. He directed us to the one and only God who bridged the gap and calls us back to Him.

During the second part of this revival, Pastor Wedson Devil

used Peter's sermon (Acts 2) to help us see that we are implicated in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We are the ones who rejected Him; we kicked Him out of our lives, our communities, our churches, our homes, our families. We can blame whomever we want for past offences, but in reality we are the culprits; we killed Him.

Like the Jews in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, all were cut to the heart and said, "What shall we do?" The appeal from both Ron and Wedson was to "repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38, NKJV).

Please pray with us for this field where God has sent us. Jesus' message is powerful, and He was the focus of the whole revival service.

The people of Laxgalts'ap are making plans already for us to return, tentatively an invitation to hold a similar revival service in the nearby First Nations village of Gitlaxt'aamiks.

We could ask you for financial help and human resources, which are greatly needed in northern British Columbia; however, the most important need we have is for you to join us in prayer for this mission field. ■

—Wedson Devil, pastor, Terrace Seventh-day Adventist Church, All Nations Centre Adventist Church, Kitimat. Adventist Fellowship and Gitxsan Adventist Fellowship.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Volunteer Week in Canada



Margaret Moore, one of the many volunteers at the St. John's church in Newfoundland.

April 6-12 is Volunteer Week in Canada, and as I listen to all the non-profit groups express thanks for their volunteers, I wonder where our church would be without our volunteers.

In my mind's eye, I look from pew to pew at the ordinary people who, together, do extraordinary things. The people who work all week, take care of their families, shop and clean, rush to appointments, and still make time to volunteer for their church. I say "make time," because we all have the same 24 hours in a day, but some of these people seem to be able to pack amazing things into a 24-hour period.

I think about Art, a real gem—no, really, he's a diamond. Art Diamond. I think about arriving at church and walking through the beautiful new front doors. Art volunteered his time to ensure that we got those doors. I'm so grateful that after he had his stroke, Art continued to volunteer, moving from treasurer to many

other committees and projects. I'm so grateful for Art.

Then there's Margaret. She serves on multiple committees, volunteers as platform chair, in addition to her many duties as church clerk. Margaret and her husband moved back to St. John's only a couple of years ago, and yet, I can't picture our church without her. Margaret does so much for others, I'm so grateful she is here.

There at the organ is Phyllis, just where she has been for years. Phyllis was the principal of our church school, when we had one, but she still made time to serve as Sabbath school superintendent, co-ordinate musical groups and concerts, and always finds time to do something a little special for the seniors. So faithful over the years. I'm so grateful for Phyllis.

Up in the balcony you'll see Brian, our sound technician, ensuring that we can hear the sermon with no difficulties, while at the same time, recording for radio station Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR). Across from him is Christopher, getting it all on video. Christopher, faithful and true, is the first one here to unlock and let us in, almost every Sabbath. I'm so grateful for Brian and Christopher.

And so pew by pew I go, in my mind, thanking God for all of these wonderful people and knowing that there are so many more volunteering at our church.

I think I take them for granted. I'm used to a warm church. When I come to church, I expect a plowed lot and shovelled path. I expect to be welcomed by Mike, Kevin, Joe, Kirk. I hardly give any thought to the beautifully organized bulletin that Georgina prepares for us.

I think about how special they are. I wonder if they know that our lives are better because of them. I wonder if we take time to thank them; I know I don't—but I will. Is there someone you should thank? ■

— Gail Dempsey, communications director, St. John's Church

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SDA Church in Canada

VOAR Presents—Faith Out Loud Canada

VOAR (Voice of Adventist Radio) recently launched an exciting new Canadian content program entitled *Faith Out Loud Canada*, which airs each weekday, Monday through Friday, 3:30 p.m.-4 p.m. Newfoundland time on Christian Family Radio.

Faith Out Loud Canada presents the Bible teaching ministry from the Aldergrove Adventist Church located in Aldergrove, B.C. The Aldergrove Adventist Church is a dynamic growing congregation of over 800 church members that believe in "sharing the Christ who cares together" with lost men and women and boys and girls everywhere.

The host speaker for *Faith Out Loud Canada* is David Jamieson, who has been the lead pastor at the Aldergrove church since 2001. Dr. Jamieson is originally from St. John's, Nfld., and has been pastoring for the last 28 years in Canada.

Listeners across Canada have been sharing that *Faith Out Loud Canada* has been "a rich spiritual blessing to their day." One listener shared that "it is absolutely amazing to be able to listen to the program on a car radio here in B.C.," and two listeners in Newfoundland and Labrador have shared that it is "very inspiring and down to earth" and that

they "listen every day to the practical preaching and really enjoy this new program on VOAR."

You can enjoy listening to VOAR on your computer at www.voar.org, Bell Satellite TV channel 950, FM repeaters throughout Canada and the app "Tune In Radio" for smartphones and tablets.

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

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



John Ramsay

Farewell my Friend

As many good organizations or institutions undergo inevitable, cyclical changes, some individuals become essential, almost irreplaceable. The main reason is probably that such individuals come to profoundly embody the organization's core values. By their dynamism, dedication and the excellence of service, they naturally and effortlessly promote and live out its positive image.

John Ramsay, no doubt, is precisely such an individual. For more than nine years, he worked tirelessly as vice-president of finance for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), fulfilling all requirements of his ministry with distinction, humour and passion. He came to Oshawa after an extended experience in several Canadian conferences and contributed significantly to the financial stability of our church. He travelled extensively, preached regularly and organized various training sessions at all levels. But above all, we will remember his smile, his stories from everyday life and his high respect for each and every person. He is a true gentleman.

It is difficult to imagine the work of the SDACC without John. I had the privilege of working with him since 2007 and came to the conclusion that his human qualities and the pertinence of his remarks are a constant inspiration in my ministry. My heartfelt thanks goes to him for his excellent performance and years of dedication to this work. Furthermore, he has been such a wonderful friend to me.

We were really blessed at the SDACC office to work together with John, to know Lucille, his wife, and to mutually share the blessed hope of Jesus' coming. May your years of retirement be refreshing and stimulating. Farewell, my friend. Just continue to be who you are, and may our Lord give you strength, joy, wisdom and courage to be a blessing wherever He sends you. ■

—*Dragan Stojanovic, vice-president administration,
Seventh-day Adventist Church of Canada*



Joyce Jones

New VP for Finance Elected

On Sunday, March 2, 2014, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) Board of Directors unanimously elected Mrs. Joyce Jones as the new vice-president for finance. Joyce will take over the position currently held by John Ramsay, and John will close his door for the final time when he retires on May 1 of this year.

Mrs. Jones has a professional accounting designation, CMA (Certified Management Accountant). Her skills and vast experience both in denominational work and the corporate world have made her a valuable asset and an ideal candidate for this position at the SDACC. Joyce started working for denomination entities in Canada in 1992. This included being the general accountant for Pacific Publishing Association (Canada) and various positions at the SDACC starting on Jan. 1, 2005, ranging from senior accountant to under-treasurer.

Mark Johnson, president of the SDACC, said, "I am delighted that Joyce will be serving as treasurer of the church in Canada. Joyce brings a high level of expertise. We have come to know the high quality of her work over the time that she has spent in this office already."

Joyce is married to Paul Jones, and they have three adult children.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada's mission is to reach Canadians with the distinctive, Christ-centred message of hope and wholeness. Nationally, the Seventh-day Adventist Church comprises of 374 churches with approximately 60,000 members and 43 faith-based schools with 4,000 students. ■

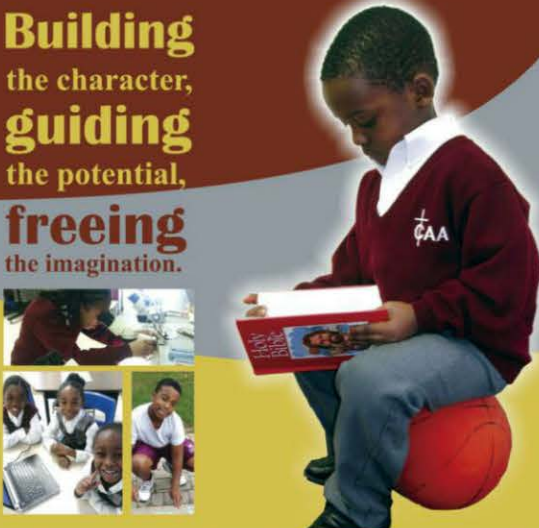
—*Stan Jensen, communication director,
Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada*

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of Feb. 28, 2014, there were 446 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,078,866. There were 78 loans with a value of \$19,928,328.

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

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Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Alexandra Yeboah (Yeboah.alexandra@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submittable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
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- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements'.

Announcements

Crawford Adventist Academy celebrates its 61st Alumni Homecoming Weekend on May 23-25, 2014. We welcome all our alumni and families, former administrators, board members, chaplains, faculty & staff, parents, friends and supporters. Honouring our TJA Classes of 1979, 1974, 1969, 1963 and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2004, 1999, 1994, 1989 and 1984. We are looking for 2 representatives for each honoured year as well as volunteers to help in various areas for this event. Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB - Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, 416/633-0090 / toll free 866/960-2125 ext. 234 or dhall@tadsb.com; Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant ext. 248 or jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website, www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook "The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group." (5/14)

The Yellowknife Seventh-day Adventist Church is inviting all previous members, pastors, as well as newcomers to a Homecoming in

Yellowknife, N.W.T., on June 13-15, 2014. There will be opportunities to share memories of milestones from over the last 40 years, as well as tour local landmarks, hike, picnic and enjoy inspiring talks and music as we consider the church's past and future mission. Please visit our website for ongoing information about the event, including our amazing beginnings on the history page as well as a slideshow about Yellowknife highlights, travel and accommodation details. See <http://yellowknifesdachurchhomecoming.wikispaces.com>. If you have pictures (on paper or digital), any stories you are willing to share with the planning committee, or questions in general, please contact Blake Wile at wile@theedg.ca. See you in June!

The Wetaskiwin Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members:

Darlene Holt, Pamela Kelly and Henriette Roos. If you have any information on how they can be contacted, please contact the Wetaskiwin church clerk, Judy Schafer, at 780/352-3400, or email schafer.judyfaye@gmail.com.

Weddings

Nathan Tait and Kayla Rexius were married on Dec. 22, 2013, in Mirror, Alta., and are making their home in Mirror.

Anniversaries

Don and Shirley Godsoe of Salmon Arm, B.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 5, 2013. On Aug. 25, 2013, a celebration



meal and music program, complete with many memories, was held in the fellowship hall of the Salmon Arm Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Don and Shirley are active members. Over 100 family members and friends were in attendance. The Godsoes have two children and two grandchildren.

Birthdays

Urban Embleton, of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated his 95th birthday on Jan. 28, 2014. The celebration included



pizza, cake and ice cream. Close friends, and as many of Urban's children and grandchildren, were present to celebrate the day with him.

Leonard Pye, of Lethbridge, N.L., celebrated his 90th birthday on Sept. 15, 2013. The celebration



supper was held on Oct. 15 at Fire Hall in Lethbridge, in his honour, with about 60 family members and close friends present.

Obituaries

Faith (née McDonald) Allen was born on Aug. 8, 1926, in Edmonton, Alta., and died Oct. 10, 2013, Langley, B.C. She is predeceased by her husband, Garth, and son Earl. Surviving: sons Edward (Sallie) of Pincher Creek, Alta., Gerald and Darren (Denise) of Abbotsford, B.C.; and daughters, Darilee (Elmar) Sakala of Redlands, Calif., and Meridee of Vancouver, B.C.; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Caroline (née Innes) Cooke was born on July 27, 1938, in Jollimore, N.S., and died Jan. 19, 2014, in Pugwash, N.S. Carol was involved in Halifax Community Services and was a charter member of the Sandy Lake church. She also served as a clerk and deaconess and was a cook at teen camps at Camp Pugwash, N.S. She is predeceased by her brother William

Innes and sisters Genesta Wheadon and Josephine Blackburn. Surviving: husband, Gilbert; sons, Andrew (Kathy) and Daniel (Colleen) of Halifax; brothers Richard (Carol) Innes, Donald (Elaine) Innes, Keith (Sheila) Innes and Bruce (Jean) Innes; sisters Nancy (Fred) Harries, Betsy, Margaret (Earl) Croft, Heather (Eddie) Schyfe, Judy (Frank) Bain, Sandra Innes, Susan Manning, Frances Checkley and Debbie Innes; four grandchildren.

Anna May (née Harrison) Crawford

was born on March 10, 1918, in Loma Linda, Calif., and died Feb. 1, 2014, in Okemos, Mich. Beginning in 1948, Erwin and Anna May spent over 20 years in the greater Toronto area establishing the Branson Hospital and Toronto Junior Academy, aka Crawford Adventist Academy. Many hours of Christian service were donated to the Lord's work, and a lot of financial support went to the Ontario Conference, along with those individuals who expressed financial need. Anna May died with a love for helping others in Christian service. She is predeceased by her former husband, Peter Haughland, and husband, Erwin; daughter Erwinna Ann (Timothy) Hullquist of Massena, N.Y.; stepdaughter Audrey Haughland of Hamilton, Ont.; and brother Charles (Irene) Harrison II of Redlands, Calif. Surviving: son, Erwin (Nancy) of Potteryville, Mich.; daughters Roberta May (Leland Robert) McElmurry of East Lansing, Mich., and Evelyn Rae (John) Peterson of Vancouver, Wash.; stepdaughters, Bev Bell of Calif., and Shirley (Rudy) Reinhardt of Fla.; and brother Harold of Harrison, Calif.; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Esther (née Paul) Duncan was born on Oct. 14, 1924, in Findlater, Sask., and died Dec. 13, 2013, in Vernon, B.C. After teaching public school for 37 years, Esther then volunteered four years teaching primary grades in Creston and Armstrong, B.C., church schools. She is predeceased by her former husband, Gordon Foulston; husband, Herb; and brothers, Ivan (Katie) Paul of Kelowna, B.C., Percy (Ina) Paul of Lincoln, Nebr., Ray Paul of Findlater, Stanley (Ruby) Paul of Findlater, and Donald (Lois) Paul of Bethune, Sask. Surviving: son, Darrell (Vivian) Foulston of Wynyard, Sask.; stepsons, Norman (Lenore) of Kelowna, and Larry (Millie) of Sedgwick, Alta.; daughters, Elaine (Delmer) Duncan of Vernon, and Donna (Lorne) Cunningham of Mackenzie, B.C.; sisters, Zella (Harlan) Weis Beideck of Lincoln, and Marina (Collin) Atkinson of Bethune; 17 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Midge (née Villeneuve) Hey was born on Dec. 20, 1942, in Montreal, Que., and died Jan. 2, 2014, in Mesa, Ariz. Midge worked at the Adventist Media Centre in Thousand Oaks, California and Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho for 13 years. Surviving: husband, Paul; sons, Randy (Monica) of Caldwell, Idaho, and Josh (Anna) of Nampa; daughter, Sherry (Jairo) Tenorio of Cancun, Mexico; brothers, John (Mary) Villeneuve of Brockville, Ont., Dave (Judy) Villeneuve of Courtice, Ont., Richard (MaryLynn) Villeneuve of Addison, Ont., and Stephen (Chris) Villeneuve of Cambridge, Ont.; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Lillian (née Dovich) Hrenyk was born on Dec. 7, 1920, in Lonesome Butte, Sask., and died Jan. 4, 2014, in Cudworth, Sask. Lillian was employed for many years at the Sunnyside nursing home in Saskatoon. Many people were blessed by her talent of decorating beautiful cakes. She is predeceased by her husband, John; brothers, Sam Dovich, Fred Dovich, Dave Dovich and Peter Dovich; sisters Frances Lambert, Mae Bodrug, Alice Hayko and Rose Swartz. Surviving: sons, Allen of Rocklin, Calif., and Vern (Wendy) of Medicine Hat, Alta.; daughter, Grace (Jack) Dunkirk-Tucker of Cudworth, Sask.; and sister Clara (Peter) Scherba of Edmonton, Alta.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Edith (née George) Martin was born on May 2, 1922, in New Victoria, N.S., and died Jan. 13, 2014, in Sydney, N.S. When in health, Edith was much involved in her church in various aspects, such as Sabbath school and fundraising (ingathering). She was also the treasurer of the Sydney fellowship church before moving to the North Sydney church. She is predeceased by her husband, Amos; sons Donnie and Gary; brothers Bobby and Teddy George; and sister, Dorothy Leadbeater. Surviving: sons Wayne (Linda) of Calif., and Ian (Kris) of Ohio; daughters, Dorothy (Ron) Gass and Brenda Jennex of N.S.; and brother Kenny (Margie) George; 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Clarence Singbeil was born on Aug. 30, 1924, in Morden, Man., and died Dec. 25, 2013, in Chilliwack, B.C. Clarence did mission work with Maranatha Volunteers, building churches and schools. He was active in his church serving as a deacon. Studying the Bible and memorizing Scripture was his greatest joy. He is predeceased by his stepbrothers, Leonard, Edward, Richmond, Carl

and Otto. Surviving: his wife, Anna; sons, Daryl McGillivray and Lawrence (Bernadette) of B.C.; daughters, Sharon McGillivray and Kim Hood of Alta.; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Viola (née Konschuh) Steinke was born on March 18, 1921, in Cluny, Alta., and died Nov. 22, 2013, in Lacombe, Alta. Viola graduated from the pre-nursing course at CUC and then went on to Portland Sanitarium to take her nursing course. She spent most of her nursing career at the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Battle Creek, Mich. In 1965 she married Reuben and moved to Leduc. Viola was a willing servant of the Lord all of her life. She is predeceased by her husband, Reuben. Surviving: stepdaughter, Diane Merickel of Tenn.

Mabel (née Schafer) Steinke was born on March 11, 1924, in Woodbend, Alta., and died Dec. 29, 2013, in Wetaskiwin, Alta. Mabel had a kind and gentle spirit. She lived by the words of the song "It Takes A Lot of Love." Mabel supported CUC and It Is Written by crocheting tops on kitchen towels and selling them. Mabel died with her husband, Sam, by her side. She is predeceased by her brothers, Emil, Emanuel, Sam and Ben; and sisters Bertha Comm, Elsie Goltz and Dorothy Belke. Surviving: husband, Sam; sons, Terry (Linda) and Doyle (Jody); daughter, Judy (Reg) Demitor; and sister Phoebe Rogers; 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

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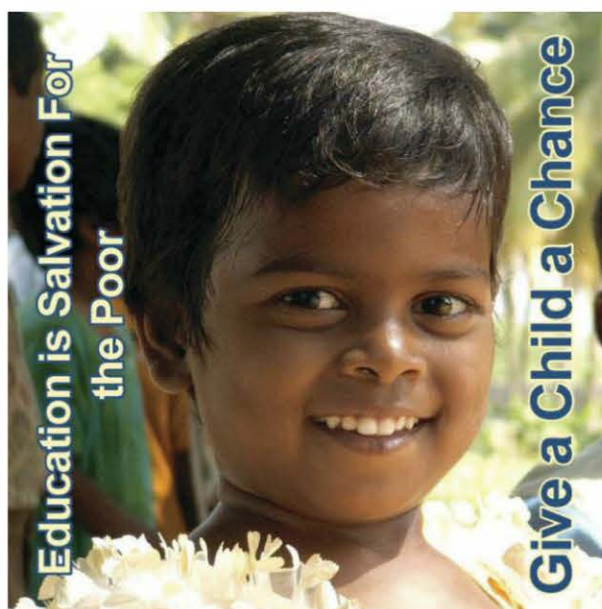
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Mathematics professor sought by Union College, in Lincoln, Neb. Full-time tenure track, PhD required. Strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching, and scholarship essential. Submit cover letter and curriculum vitae to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics, cawolfe@ucollege.edu. (4/14)

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from the editor

Sharing

I love my church. On top of having the joy of being a member, working for the church is like icing on the cake. What a bonus.

I am privileged to meet and interact with people I would otherwise not have the opportunity to meet. Doors open and conversations are unexpectedly started, and I never know where they are going to lead.

When I served in the Southern California conference, I remember talking with a couple of people named Ingrid and Alex, whom I met through Linda and Kevin, whom I met through Marr. Ingrid was friends with Paul and Linda McCartney—of the Beatles! When Linda passed away, I was invited to provide the vegetarian food for her memorial service, thanks to Ingrid.

While in California, out of interest I went to several local vegetarian societies. As a result, I was invited to a Christmas celebration put on by the Crosby family (namely, Bing Crosby's eldest grandchild and his wife). Sixty children from a special home for abused persons attended to hear a concert featuring songs from over 60 celebrities. This was simply an act of compassion to those who were unfortunate to be in situations we would not want any child to be in. There was no media coverage. Gregory Crosby and his wife, Spice Williams, and others are like several other celebrities I have met: non-smokers, non-drinkers, non-drug-users and even vegetarians or vegans.

So often I have met people and can freely talk about my job and my church and its mission, and I have kept in touch with a number of people. I would not have met them or others had I not taken seriously Ellen White's counsel about the importance of mingling with people.

It might be time for us all to mingle more. Not for a trophy showcase for campmeeting, but just because we should. There are people who are broken and need to be comforted with a message of hope. When there is a clear understanding of our mission of hope and wholeness, it becomes easy to share.

At times I am concerned when people feel they need to go away to other towns, provinces or far-away countries in order to share this message.

Let us all have a meaningful message in our hearts that glorifies our Lord, one we can easily share with our neighbours. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jen' or similar, written in a cursive style.

EDUCATION IS SOMETHING OUR CHURCH HAS DEEPLY CHERISHED FOR MANY YEARS. Our educational institutions were founded on the belief that in addition to offering excellent education, they should exist to help prepare our students for the Lord's return. They are also committed to training our students to be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ and to carry forth the gospel into the world. Today this mission hasn't changed.

In this month's column, we take a look at one of our notable Canadian institutions: Kingsway College, formerly known as Oshawa Missionary College (OMC). Kingsway's motto, "Service not Fame," is one that speaks to what a life wholly dedicated in service to Christ should be about.



FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF O. M. C., 1932-33

Pictured in this photo are the faculty and students of OMC together. Don't they look like such a nice group of people?
Canadian Union Messenger, June 27, 1933, vol.1, no. 47, p. 24.

MISSION BANDS

It certainly is a privilege to be at O. M. C., for, true to its name, its aim is to send out workers for God. Every alternate Friday evening preceding the devotional service we met for study of our mission fields. The commencement of our work in South America, the Far East, and South Africa was fully discussed. A thorough study was made of the customs of these respective peoples, and the qualities to be possessed by a missionary before he could labor successfully in any of these particular fields. As a result we feel a little more prepared to enter one of the above fields as missionaries, should we ever receive a call.—*Lulu Hattingh*.

These articles share a few special memories that some of the OMC students had. To read more, take a look at the June 27, 1933, article in the *Canadian Union Messenger*: <http://goo.gl/604wLw>



Above—Administration Building; Below—Dormitory.

Canadian Union Messenger, June 27, 1933, vol.1, no. 47, p. 19.

Things I Shall Remember of O. M. C.

THERE are many pleasant things I shall remember of O. M. C. I have especially enjoyed my two years of college work. The current events in the history class, accounting, laboratory periods, oral nights in expression, flashes of literary eloquence in the English department, the friendly get-togethers during our spare moments and many other interesting happenings all come to my mind as memories that will never be forgotten.—*Bernice Ann Laurie*.

IF THERE is one thing I shall remember longer than another it will be the Friday evening devotional service. At this time the student body assembled in the chapel, the cares and perplexities of the week were forgotten, and as the service drew to a close, and many had given expression to a confidence and trust in the Lord, a peace and satisfaction entered one's heart and the spiritual help most needed was received by all present. I sincerely believe these weekly devotional meetings were one of the greatest factors in college life that has contributed to the making of a true Christian character.—*Harold Brennan*.

TRULY, the happiest years of my life have been spent at O. M. C. In all the forest of pleasant recollections, I believe that the Christian influence of faithful teachers stands like a stalwart elm, towering over all. I can never forget their forbearance and their words of courageous optimism to disheartened students. Whatever experiences may be added to my present book of memories, the happy hours at O. M. C., in the company of our teacher-friends shall never be erased.—*Jean Balharrie*.

AMONG my pleasant memories of O. M. C. will always linger our dormitory music nights. Once every two weeks our music instructor, assisted by her students, spent an instructive hour with us. A brief history of the life of famous musicians and circumstances leading to their production was first given, followed by piano selections of their own compositions. How much more interesting it was to listen to piano numbers of which you knew the background!—*Minnie Wilson*.



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