

NEW! Almost Vegan (p. 16) and Adventist Risk Management (p. 17);  
A New Adventist Asks (p. 25); Conscientious Assistance in Somalia (p. 20)

july 2014

canadian adventist  
**Messenger**



**Ontario  
Conference  
School of  
Evangelism**

*A remarkable  
and fulfilling  
adventure  
awaits ...*

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“Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.”

—Psalm 119:165, ESV



# Peace

Peace is an interesting word. It can be about relationships between people or it can be about one person—you or me.

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about peace. Just hearing the word brings a sense of calm. We need more peace within us personally as well as in our relationships. Peace cannot exist between people until there is peace within at least one of them.

During His ministry Jesus spoke of peace: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9, ESV). The peaceful person illustrates what God is like, at home, at work, out shopping—you get the idea. Being around someone with that inner quality of peace is wonderfully calming, isn't it?

Perhaps you've had the same experience I've had. Just now I'm thinking of a person I met 40 years ago halfway around the world. She was a pastor's wife. Her husband had passed away, but now she was living with her children who were missionaries in Manila. She was the essence of peace. Knowing her made me wish to be a peacemaker. Whenever opportunity arose, I chose to be near her because invariably she was surrounded by an atmosphere of calm.

It doesn't take much to destroy peace. I've seen people who managed to do that in seconds. Words we use, attitudes we project, or the way we carry ourselves either build or banish peace. It is interesting that the psalm says that peace is related to God's law. Understanding and following God's will brings peace. How sad it is when we seek to avoid the plain teaching of the Word in an attempt to find happiness. It never works, because lasting peace cannot come to one who minimizes God.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if each and every one of us were known as peacemakers? ■

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

# Messenger

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# WHAT'S INSIDE

## July 2014



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The cover photo is of Ontario Conference School of Evangelism graduates, Linton and Paulette Haughton. One of the first graduates, Rodrigo Alvarez, is pictured in the table of content photo above.

# Upcoming Events 2014

## \$2000 Awards For Students The Jackson Humanitarian Award

### Students Today. Leaders Tomorrow.

A Better World's Student division, "Tomorrow's EDGE" has established five \$2000 travel awards to recognize and train students between the ages of 17 and 25 who are engaged in humanitarian causes locally and globally. The students will travel to project sites, learn, develop and implement humanitarian projects.

The award is named in honour of Dan and Donna Jackson's dedication to young people and humanitarian service.

**Apply or nominate by November 30, 2014**

For details please visit [www.abwcanada.ca](http://www.abwcanada.ca) or contact Rob Weich | [rweich@abwcanada.ca](mailto:rweich@abwcanada.ca) | 403.350.9574.



To recognize and train  
Humanitarian Leaders  
of tomorrow



Sustainable  
change to improve  
lives.

## Medical Mission Trip

November 3 - November 17, 2014

### Spend 14 unforgettable days in Kenya with A Better World

#### Needed:

Doctors, Nurses, Dentists and any health care professionals are welcome. We are also looking for a support team of non-medical personnel to join this trip.

#### To:

- Provide training for local health care workers
- Assist in the clinics built by A Better World
- Serve in rural medical camps

#### Team Leaders: Dr. Ray and Deryl Comeau

Dr. Ray Comeau has been a family physician in Central Alberta for 25 years and has a special interest in tropical diseases and travel medicine. Deryl Comeau is an RN with over 30 years experience. Together they have led medical teams for the past nine years.

# Baby dedications and pastoral dilemmas

Jesus always welcomed mothers with their children and pronounced a blessing on the children.

One of the sticky dilemmas that a caring church wrestles with at times is knowing how to respond to someone from the community, non-practicing members, or faithful grandparents who want to have a dedication service for a child.

Over the years this has been an issue in several of my churches. Seeking to encourage the young parents or grandparents, I always leaned toward agreeing to hold the service, yet deep inside there was something that said, A baby dedication is a commitment of the parents to raise the child to love the Lord within the atmosphere of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I have noticed that many members within our congregations are often uncomfortable with having their pastors dedicate children of parents who they know will most likely never come through the doors of the church again. In some cultures the dedication of children of single moms or community friends is held outside the sanctuary in one of the church rooms, thereby marking a difference between the services.

I faced the dilemma with faithful grandparents who wanted to dedicate their grandchild. Their daughter-in-law was a conscientious mother, but her husband was a former member who was going along but was no longer interested in the church. Often pastors yield to the request because they trust it will encourage the parents. Surely, it pleases the grandparents. However, the pastor still does not feel completely comfortable about performing the service.

One day, as I was reflecting on this challenge, a light went on in my head: Jesus always welcomed mothers with their children and pronounced a blessing on the children. Jesus giving a blessing was different than a child being taken to the temple for dedication. When children were dedicated, they were taken to the temple and the priests presented them to the Lord. There was a difference.

Since coming to that conclusion in my ministry, I have found that we can resolve such situations by having the parents make a choice between a blessing from the pastor and dedicating their child to God. I am sure Jesus never turned away a parent with a child but took the children up in his lap and pronounced a blessing on the young lives, that they would grow and become all that God wanted them to be.

When an inactive Adventist, non-member, or grandparent asks to have the child dedicated, I tell that individual there are two services we perform for children, a baby blessing or a baby dedication. Usually they are delighted at the option of a baby blessing. I encourage them to host the service in their homes and suggest they invite their friends. The home is a more comfortable setting for people who may not be used to church. However, if they insist they want the service in the church, I am not opposed to that, but I let everyone know what I am doing.

After a few opening words of welcome, I share a Bible encouragement for parents, take the child in my lap, and have a prayer of blessing. The church gives them a card, small gift, and invites them to Sabbath school. The family usually has light refreshments for those attending, and in the positive atmosphere of the home, the family usually expresses gratitude to the Adventist Church for caring for their family.

God loves the children, and they may not be able to choose their earthly parents, but they do have a caring heavenly Father who we can picture placing His loving arms around them and giving them a big hug. ■

*Ken Corkum is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland.*



# teen talk

**Q:** I'm about to do a 5K for a charitable cause on Sabbath, but the adults in my church are giving me a hard time. I feel very judged and viewed negatively. I run because I love it and believe in physical fitness, and I believe in helping charities. So what difference is there between doing a food drive and running for a cause?

**A:** The Sabbath is like an oversized jewel that shines among the many blessings from God. It's the best thing ever. Remove the Sabbath, and we are no more than machines—working, studying, worrying, puffing machines bumping into one another. Put it back into our lives and we become closer to what God intended for us—human beings who know how to hit the busyness pause button and enjoy time with God and others with no strings attached.

Satan knows that. So what does he do about it? He makes sure that the Sabbath becomes a divisive topic in heated discussions: running vs. hiking, hitting the ball vs. napping, walking on the beach vs. swimming, cooking on Friday vs. overeating on Saturday, and the list goes on. If we fall into his trap, the Sabbath effectively becomes a claustrophobic lock instead of a liberating key.

In situations like yours, this is what I usually do: I respectfully leave others to argue it out, while I go outside to breathe fresh air. Then I search for wisdom in God's Word. Speaking of God's Word, this is what Jesus had to say in a similar scenario: "Then he turned to his critics and asked, 'Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?' But they wouldn't answer him" (Mark 3:4, NLT).



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

# Creation Corner for Kids

*Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.—1 Peter 1:22, NIV*

## Toadfish

If you happen to be in San Francisco Bay during the toadfish's mating season, you might be annoyed by the sound of their mating calls in the middle of the night. Amazingly, the male toadfish uses its swim bladder to make a sound like a ship's horn to call females to its nest site. A scientist studying the toadfish discovered that as males join the chorus, they adjust their pitch to blend their voices. Like a choir singing in unison, they all tune in to sing the same note.

When I was a student, I joined a choir. I enjoyed choir practice and dressing up for the performances we put on. But best of all was learning how to be a choir. The closer the singers followed the conductor's signals, the better the choir sounded. In fact, research has shown that as a choir performs, the heart rates of its members become synchronized. In other words, as people sing together, their hearts begin to beat as one.

### Think about it.

If each one of us spent more time watching our Conductor and put all our spiritual energy into loving, serving, and pleasing God, wouldn't our love for one another grow also?

### Do it!

Set a goal to daily seek Jesus first and speak only edifying words for two weeks (see Eph. 5:19.) If you miss your meeting time with Jesus one day or criticize someone in that time, start over again.

Hear the toadfish "sing" at [www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com](http://www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com).



# fear not a factor



Desi-Rae receiving a standing ovation from the students, faculty, and family at this year's graduation.

“Don't let fear stop you.  
Fear is the unknown.  
Take life as an adventure.”



## FOR DESI-RAE DIONNE , who graduated this past spring with her bachelor's degree in International Health & Wilderness Studies, difficult only means adventure.

LATE FOR CLASS, SHE RAN ACROSS THE CAMPUS trying to minimize the time she would miss. Feeling her shoe loose, she stopped, bent over, and tied her shoelace. As she was wrapping up, a fellow student stopped by her side and told her that she inspired them—not only for running around campus by herself but also for tying her own shoelaces. She said thank you, but to herself she thought, “Inspire? Who, me?” This was the very same question that ran through Desi-Rae Dionne’s head as she stood on stage at graduation. As she was receiving her diploma, CUC president, Dr. Mark Haynal, informed her that the faculty behind her and the students, family, and friends in front of her were giving her a standing ovation. No question, an inspiration.

Graduating from university is an accomplishment in itself, but doing so as a visually impaired student makes it that much more difficult. But for Desi-Rae Dionne, who graduated this past spring with her bachelor’s degree in International Health & Wilderness Studies, difficult only means adventure. For as long as she can remember, Desi-Rae has been able to see only light and some colours. Her doctors told her that her vision was like seeing through a pinprick, lights and colours, nothing else. Her adventurous spirit led her to choose an area of study that would see her travel and be in the outdoors. In past summers she has gone whitewater rafting at the Grand Canyon and door-to-door canvassing. Adventure and people are things that Desi-Rae craves.

As a student at CUC she was not content to just get through her courses. She wanted the full CUC experience, and during her time at CUC, she immersed herself in activities and friends. Desi-Rae has been the Small Groups coordinator for Campus Ministries for the past two years. She has worked closely with her fellow students and the CUC chaplains to lead out in small groups. Community is important to her, and it shows through her service for Campus Ministries.

“Not everyone can be reached by vespers or other services. Small communities are important. I wanted to help grow that. I wanted students to grow friendships with one another and God. Friendship and God coexist together. He is the creator of sociality,” says Desi-Rae. Her adventurous spirit inspires her fellow students, faculty, and staff. CUC chaplain Adam Deibert greatly appreciated having Desi-Rae on the Campus Ministries team. “I appreciated having Desi on our team. She took

initiative and worked hard to keep everything in order. She was thoughtful and diligent in her leadership, making sure the small groups received the support they needed. I was blessed to have worked with her,” states Deibert.

In 2013 Desi-Rae went to Ghana for her practicum. She spent seven weeks working in the city of Kumasi with a public health team. The project met with people and took blood pressure and tested for hepatitis B and malaria. It took her a while to find a placement for her practicum, as many organizations were not ready to have a visually impaired person on their team. Her time in Ghana emphasized the type of work that she wanted to do after school. While she was happy to help during the seven weeks of the project, she wanted to help build something that would have a longer-lasting impact. Living with her local host family, she learned a lot about the culture. It informed her of the types of self-sustaining projects that could be done in the local area. Her practicum reinforced the adventure of international development and sparked an idea of some day creating her own NGO.

When Desi-Rae began her degree at CUC, she never wondered if she would finish. She knew what she wanted, and it was going to happen. She trusted God and knew that He would find a way for her. Walking the 1.5-kilometre distance to and from school was a challenge, even more so in winter when everything is light and white. Her motto is what inspires others and pushes her to continue her adventure. “Don’t let fear stop you. Fear is the unknown. Take life as an adventure,” Desi-Rae states.

Her love for her campus, friends, and God has pushed her to the finish line of graduation. She is grateful for a campus and community that she can belong to. “I love CUC! CUC has been good to me, and I’ve received a lot of support and encouragement. I’m treated like a typical person. They let me be me,” she says. There were times when life was up and then down, but her relationship with God has carried her on. Desi-Rae says, “God has a cool way of creating a mosaic of ways that he’s reached me. He continually keeps me close to Him.” ■

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

# From the Steppes to the City

## ADRA Helps a Mongolian Family Adapt and Thrive



The hascha, or garden, belonging to Chimedtseden and Tadamba.

Inset: Tadamba, Chimedtseden, and two of their three children pose in their gher

Ten years ago Chimedtseden and her husband, Tadamba, met and married on the steppes, living the traditional life of Mongolian herdsmen. However, they lost their animals and livelihood during a dzud, a Mongolian term describing a severe winter with extreme temperatures that kill off livestock by the thousands. With no way to earn a living or even feed themselves on steppes, Chimedtseden and her husband left their families behind and moved to Ulaanbaatar in search of work.

Approximately 1.3 million people (half the population of Mongolia) now live in Ulaanbaatar, making it nearly impossible for people to find work. When they arrived in Ulaanbaatar, Tadamba registered with the government for a free hascha, a 0.7-hectare lot of land, on the edge of the city. He also signed up to receive a monthly child subsidy from the Mongolian government, but it was only \$15 per month.

Despite the free hascha they received from the government, times were hard. Tadamba was able to find only seasonal work in a bakery, a brick factory, and by cleaning the open market. In the best months, he earned \$200, but that was only for five months of the year. By collecting and selling scrap metal, they managed to scrape together \$800 for a gher (also known as a yurt outside Mongolia) for their growing family. Fortunately, they were able to get a gher before the housing prices rose sharply in the last few years.

“We used to eat a lot of lamb, with bread and rice,” says Chimedtseden. “We can’t eat lamb anymore because it’s too expensive. We can only afford the innards.”

Fortunately, they were contacted by ADRA workers who wanted to know if they would be interested in a project called the Micro-Economic & Agriculture Learning (MEAL) project, designed to teach them how to grow and sell their own food. Last year they grew 100 kilograms of potatoes, and another 50 kilograms of cabbage, carrots, onions, and cucumbers!

This year the family is expanding their garden in the hopes of

selling the excess produce at market. By relying on the MEAL project agronomist and the self-help group of fellow gardeners in the project, they have learned the techniques necessary to grow an abundant amount of food in Mongolia’s harsh climate. They hope to earn \$300 from their garden this year.

Chimedtseden and her husband have never gone to school and cannot read. She cannot even sign her own name. Fortunately, their children are going to school, and they often help their parents understand the educational materials they receive from ADRA. With the practice of reading ADRA materials, the boys are also performing well at school, even winning prizes and awards. In the summer the boys also help weed, water, and harvest vegetables. Every day they haul the 200 litres of water required for their thirsty plants. It’s a 10 to 15-minute walk to well. The work is hard, but they love seeing the results.

“I’m so happy to be a part of the MEAL project,” says Chimedtseden. “We have been involved in this project for one and a half years and have made many friends among our gardening group. Our neighbours have also become part of the project, and we all cook together at meetings. I belong to the agriculture, nutrition, cooking, self-help, and small-business groups!”

Both she and her husband are thankful for ADRA’s work in their community. “Nobody approached us to help,” she says. “ADRA was the first to approach and help—because of our illiteracy I didn’t think that my husband and I could get this kind of training.” Chimedtseden wants to learn to read and write, and ADRA will be helping her through the MEAL project.

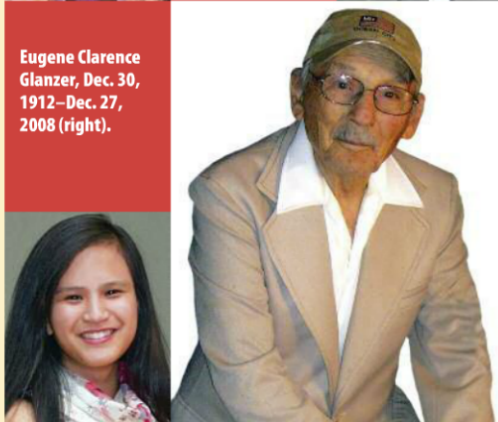
Not only in Mongolia but also around the world, ADRA is busy helping people every day. ADRA supporters like you are the reason that Chimedtseden and Tadamba can put healthy food on the table for their children. Thank you! ■

*Story by Ryan Wallace, based on field notes by Sharmilla Reid. Ryan Wallace is a communications specialist at ADRA Canada.*

# Eugene's Stocks



2013 Eugene Clarence Glanzer PAA Scholarship recipients, Angela Barritt (left) and Christian Belinsky (right).

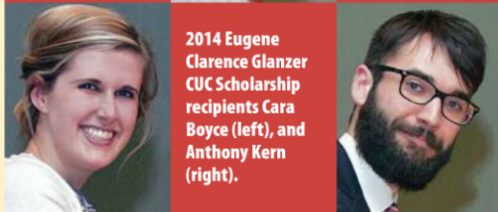


Eugene Clarence Glanzer, Dec. 30, 1912–Dec. 27, 2008 (right).



2014 Eugene Clarence Glanzer CUC Scholarship recipient Ivah Lumalang (above).

2014 Eugene Clarence Glanzer CUC Scholarship recipient Jysicca Delpeche (left).



2014 Eugene Clarence Glanzer CUC Scholarship recipients Cara Boyce (left), and Anthony Kern (right).

**EUGENE CLARENCE GLANZER** lived a lifetime of joy by always looking on the bright side. He also experienced great happiness in helping others. It is therefore easy to picture him smiling to himself as he included some surprises in his estate plan.

Eugene was born in Tripp, South Dakota, in 1912. Ten years later his family moved to Alberta, where he attended school until his graduation from Canadian Junior College (CJC) in 1934.<sup>1</sup> Like a lot of young men, Eugene enjoyed adventure—jumping trains to sit on top for a great view of the Rockies, working in logging camps, driving from Alberta to Florida for a one-week vacation, and finding his place in the world by hitchhiking to Washington, D.C., in the Great Depression year of 1936.

Eugene's first job in Washington, D.C., was installing insulation at 40 cents an hour. "Man, you thought you were rich!" he exclaimed to a Washington Post reporter 67 years later.<sup>2</sup> However, his good fortune did not last, and he found himself walking New York Avenue on the lookout for another job. It was there that he spotted a man in a drugstore window painting a Coca-Cola sign on the glass. "I can do that," Eugene thought to himself. His enthusiasm and artistic talent landed him a job in two days, but it took up to five years to master the trade. "For one thing," he told his college alumni magazine, "signs are painted backwards from the inside so they can be read correctly from the outside to passersby. Once you get the hang of it, it's very simple, though."<sup>3</sup>

Eugene calculated he painted 4,000 to 5,000 signs over his 40-year career with Coca-Cola. One of the largest was a sign in the window of Whalen's Drug Store on Pennsylvania Avenue downtown, completed for President John F. Kennedy's inauguration. During his years with Coca-Cola, Eugene bought into the company's employee stock purchase plan. This was very helpful years later when he set up his estate trust that resulted in a legacy gift for Canadian University College.

The funded scholarships made possible by Eugene's legacy donation to CUC will keep on giving for years to come. So far, there are four \$3,000 annual scholarships established in Eugene's name for CUC, as well as two \$2,000 annual scholarships in his name for Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA), which is on the campus of CUC. The criteria for these scholarships are similar: (1) students returning the next school year, (2) academic standing considerations, (3) financial need considerations, (4) participation in campus leadership, (5) for CUC only: one of the recipients must be a married student.

Imagine Eugene's delight in heaven when his scholarship students tell him what a difference he made in their lives! ■

*(Eugene's legacy story will continue in the next issue.)*

<sup>1</sup> Over the years Canadian Junior College (CJC) became Canadian University College (CUC).

<sup>2</sup> Patricia Sullivan, "Like His Sunflowers, He Cheered Others," *The Washington Post*, January 25, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

*"We need this so badly but had no idea how we were going to make it happen. God is amazing!"*

## A Better World Helps Close to Home



**Todd Bawtinheimer and wife, Angela Trca, along with their daughter, Nyah, and son, Jacob, will see their Red Deer home renovated thanks to the Neighbours team.**

**A** Better World Canada is accustomed to making a difference in some of the world's poorest countries, such as Afghanistan and South Sudan. Now it's making a difference close to home as well.

For more than 20 years, the volunteer-run organization set up and governed by College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe, Alta., has been making improvements abroad. It's helping in areas of schooling, health care, water, and other necessities within regions that might not otherwise receive help.

Three years ago it turned its attention to another important endeavor: helping Central Alberta's less fortunate. Neighbours was formed after Lacombe resident Ronda Ziakris approached Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World, with the idea. It has since finished two projects—one that involved renovating a flooded basement in 2012 and one that saw volunteers build a 500-square-foot addition in 2013.

This year it will renovate the home of Red Deer couple, Todd Bawtinheimer and Angela Trca, whose young daughter Nyah is in a wheelchair and has severe special needs. Bawtinheimer is presently out of work because of a serious injury. A new bathroom will be built, plus doorways will be widened through the house.

"We are so excited! We need this so badly but had no idea how we were going to make it happen," said Trca. "God really is amazing!"

Ziakris said the program's goal is to help those who are living in unfavourable conditions for reasons beyond their control.

Since the project's creation, a core committee of about eight individuals have been reviewing applications from families who have been nominated. They then work hard on co-ordinating each project to ensure it runs smoothly. Neighbours is witnessing success with its projects, thanks to enough dedicated volunteers stepping up to the plate.

Last year volunteers helped out from May through September on a new entryway, bathroom and master bedroom for Bentley area residents Alfred Metro and his wife, Darlene. Metro is using a wheelchair after his leg was amputated because of complications from diabetes.

"And when we aren't in the throws of a signature project, then the Neighbours committee tries to get people together to help on a smaller project once a month," said Ziakris.

The volunteers have been providing meals at Red Deer's Ronald McDonald House, a place where families of hospitalized children stay.

Financial support is also critical towards Neighbours' success. About \$25,000 to \$30,000 was raised through donations from family and friends as well as businesses in Bentley, Rimbey, and Lacombe for the 2013 project. Overall, the Neighbours program is working because of the direct support from A Better World Canada.

"For the first two projects, A Better World offered seed money to help get them going," said Ziakris. "We were so grateful because we didn't actually have to use any of its seed money."

Rajah is also quick to give any expertise on a project. "When I go to the board to tell them about the project we've chosen, they have faith that we can carry it out," said Ziakris. "It's so great to have that behind you."

At the end of each project, an appreciation banquet is held. The 2013 project brought in double the number of guests from the previous year. Bentley Community Church donated the turkey meal and use of its fellowship hall as a contribution toward the event. "That was a big deal for us because the previous year we hired a caterer," said Ziakris. "It shows how people will help in so [many different] ways."

The Neighbours program is a great way to give back to the community. Ziakris can attest to that, saying how good she feels about helping people in the region. ■

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

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

# What Is Your Evangelistic Plan?

Is your church planning a Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer? As the summer begins, you will likely see large VBS banners hanging on the front lawns of many churches in your community.

Vacation Bible School originally started out as an evangelistic opportunity to reach children and families in the local community. Historically, it was held during the daytime hours to provide spiritual teaching and free childcare. In fact, I have met many families who register their children at a variety of VBS programs in the community as a childcare option.

In recent years many churches have been opting out of planning VBS. Some of the reasons include lack of finances, volunteers, and a weak evangelistic outlook.

Is your VBS attracting families in your community? Here are some alternate ideas that your church could use to accommodate the needs of your community during the summer months.

### EVENING MEETINGS

Many churches have already made the switch to an evening VBS program. Volunteers are hard to find during the middle of the day because of work schedules, so churches are holding their VBS events starting at 6 p.m. You can also provide a light supper so parents don't have to stop at the drive-through on the way after work.

### PARENTING CLASS AND EVENTS

While many parents drop off their children for the two-hour program, you might be surprised how many parents would stay if they had something interesting to do. You may consider creating a "parents only" lounge with beverages and free WiFi for moms

and dads. You can also offer two or three seminars during the week that will attract parents, such as exercise, kids and technology, or discipline. These options are opportunities for parents to connect with other church members while learning valuable skills.

### FIVE-SABBATH VBS SERIES

Most Vacation Bible School programs are created to be used in five consecutive days. However, you could plan one VBS event per week during your regular weekend services. This could be held during a children's church series or after church, using the decorations and activities each week.

### TAKE IT OFF-SITE

Is your church the best place to hold a VBS program? A church location in a family neighbourhood should be conducive to outreach plans. A couple of years ago, however, our leadership team learned that most of the VBS attendees were Adventists from other churches. We felt that VBS had lost its purpose. We were spending thousands of dollars on this one-week event, and it had poor evangelistic results. We took our VBS program to a local homeless shelter that focused on families. Every night we provided supper at the shelter and ran a full VBS program. We invited our church members to attend the program at the shelter with the families who lived there. As a result, we were able to bring the story of Jesus to a group of individuals who often feel uncomfortable in an unfamiliar setting. ■


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





## Claim It

 Words by God —Psalm 139:13, 14 NIV

If I asked you who you are, what would be the first thing to come to mind? Sometimes when we take a look at ourselves, we put a magnifying glass on the negatives until we lose sight of all the good that God has made in us. What's in your view?

Be honest with yourself on this question: What lies are you believing about yourself? Is it the lie that says you're not good enough? too far down? have made too many mistakes? are unworthy? unlovable? Lies—those are all lies that Satan tries to fill our heads with to make us feel that we are too messed up for God to love us. I think we sometimes realize that those are false claims from the enemy, but somehow that old track in our heads gets set on repeat and continually tells us we're not worth it.

If you are struggling with a lie that is dragging you down, I encourage you to look at the Scriptures and see what God says about you. When the enemy throws those fiery darts at us, it's important for us to remember and hold on to the truth about who we are in Christ. That way, when those lies start to play in our heads, we can give them to Jesus and put a new track on—one that says I am loved, treasured, forgiven, incredibly and wonderfully made, and worth it because Jesus thinks I am.

You see, I think we often give those lies to God, but because that space stays empty, the lie tries to creep

back in again, unless there is something to fill it. That is why we need God's Word in our hearts, so when the enemy tries to stir up doubts or fears, we can remember what is real and true.

God loves you; He says so in His Word. He made you amazing and chose you for a special purpose: to be His dearly and incredibly loved child. How amazing to think that the God of everything wants you and me! Next time one of those lies comes around and blurs your view, I challenge you to make a list of who God says you are (anything you can recall)—write it down, say it out loud—remember His heart toward you.

What God says about you: Isaiah 43:1 (chosen), Psalm 139:13, 14 (wonderfully made), Zephaniah 3:17 (adored), Psalm 103:11, 12 (loved, forgiven), John 3:16 (worth it), John 1:12, 13 (child of God), Jeremiah 29:11 (planned), 2 Corinthians 5:17 (new creation), Philippians 1:6 (work in progress), 1 Peter 2:9 (belong, treasured, called). These are just some of the things that God says about you! ■

### 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](http://refreshwithtia.com)*



 Watch "Remind Me Who I Am" by Jason Gray on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/Zbl6QK>





# review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

app review

**App:** Sabbath Ideas

**In Brief:** Need new or fresh ideas for Sabbath afternoons? Looking for ways you, your family, or your church group can spend the Sabbath? This app provides many great ideas and ways to spend the Sabbath hours, and the ideas are categorized under different topics, with different ideas for groups, children/youth, or individuals. It has an Offline Ideas section that is updated yearly and a Live Ideas section that is updated weekly. If you have ways that you enjoy spending the Sabbath hours, you can submit your ideas for inclusion. The app is designed to help you keep the Sabbath, making it a special day that is set aside from the rest of the work week.

**Wow Factor:** Many neat ideas for fun-filled Sabbaths.

**Meh Factor:** Offline Ideas not as nicely organized as Live Ideas.

**Developed for:** SabbathIdeas.org

**Price:** Free

**Works on:** Android, iOS

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



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

prayer life

## Lessons on Prayer from the Heart of Jacob

*Can the pattern of Jacob's prayer teach us something about how to approach God?*

Consider the early life of Jacob as recorded in Genesis 27 and 28. From these verses we see a person who was an extraordinary wheeler-dealer, exploiter, and schemer. Almost to perfection, this twin son of Rebecca adopts a lifestyle that justifies the meaning of his name.

Yet who would have thought that from this man who prided himself in cheating and being an embezzler, Christians today could learn valuable lessons about the way we approach God through prayer, especially when we are in cornered situations. The lessons can be obtained by examining one of the most dramatic and fearful experiences that Jacob experienced: facing Esau (Gen. 32, 33).

God, according to His promise (Gen. 28: 15) is taking Jacob back to Canaan. But there is one great danger that Jacob had to deal with on the return journey: he had to face Esau and the threat that Esau offered more than 20 years earlier (Gen. 27:41). As he neared Esau's turf, Jacob

schemed to send messengers ahead to try and win Esau over (Gen. 32:3-5). The plan did not work the way Jacob had hoped; the messengers return to report that Esau was on his way with 400 men. What did Jacob do in this time of great fear and uncertainty? He cried to the Lord in what is described as one of the longest prayers in the book of Genesis (Gen. 32:9-12).

Can the pattern of Jacob's prayer teach us something about how to approach God? Let's examine his prayer: First of all, he reminded God of His promises (compare Gen. 28: 13-15 with Gen. 32:9). Secondly, he confessed his unworthiness (verse 10); thirdly, he asked God for deliverance (verse 11); and finally, he returned to the promises of God (verse 12). May we, through prayer, gain victories like Jacob. ■

*Eustace Williams is the director of personal ministries and School of Evangelism for the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*



# almost vegan

I stooped over my tiny little stove in my tiny little studio apartment in Montreal. A chemist in her laboratory, I mixed, stirred, baked, and then tasted. My eyes lit up. My mouth did a happy dance. Once again, I had demonstrated that vegan food can be amazing. Then, just over a year ago, I learned the awful truth: vegans don't eat honey! "Well," I thought, remembering all of my honey-laced recipes, "I guess my food is almost vegan."

God has put amazing potential into plant-based foods, and over the past few years it has been my joy to discover, create, and share using the edible palette He has provided. I am therefore very grateful for the opportunity to share a few "almost vegan" recipes with you. You, too, may discover, as I did in my tiny little studio apartment in Montreal, that almost vegan food can be amazing.

Today, a basic tried and true recipe that is a staple of vegan cooking: cashew cream. Made from raw cashews, wonderfully versatile and nutrient-packed nuts, it is an excellent replacement for cream and the foundation of many different recipes from ice creams to creamy soups. As you try your hand at vegan cooking, you will find yourself returning to this recipe again and again. ■

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*Afia Donkor is a lawyer in Ontario.*

## • CASHEW CREAM



### INGREDIENTS

1 cup raw cashews  
1 cup water

### INSTRUCTIONS

Soak cashews for 8 hours or overnight. Rinse well and blend with 1 cup clean water until very smooth.





# “Our Ministry is to Protect Your Ministry”



Your church is damaged in a catastrophic storm. Your Pathfinder club is impacted when a staff counsellor molests a young member. Your church school burns down in the middle of the school year. A member slips and falls on a loose carpet as she enters the church on Sabbath morning. Each of these unfortunate and, in some cases, tragic, events disrupts the ministry of your local church or school. The impact affects the ability of the church and its members to recover and to carry on the outreach to the local community.

Adventist Risk Management, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's risk manager, is available to assist you with these challenges and, more importantly, to help you prevent them. To this end, we provide comprehensive property and liability insurance. Our goal is to help you be good stewards of the work and resources of the church. Prevention of child abuse has much greater impact than helping a victim. We can assist your church to develop a safety program and provide tools for self-inspection of your church and school facilities. This is much better than paying medical bills for those who are injured. Another part of the Adventist Risk Management ministry is to advise you on loss mitigation when your property is damaged.

For a better understanding of what you can do to prevent losses in your church or school, explore all the free resources available to you from Adventist Risk Management at [www.AdventistRisk.org](http://www.AdventistRisk.org). Remember, the ministry of Adventist Risk Management is to help protect your ministry. ■

*Bob Kyte is the president of Adventist Risk Management.*



Rebecque Johnson

## ON THE ROAD WITH

# Becky

*What makes you happy?*

AT THE MONT-SINAI AND HOUSE OF HOPE CHURCHES IN QUEBEC, AND THE OLIVER CHURCH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

**Lisa Ruth Paul:** Spending quality time with family and friends, laughing and catching up on one another's lives. Some may not understand, but many will relate: shoe shopping makes me happy. Especially on those days when you find an original-looking pair of shoes at 80 percent off, you really feel like a good steward of God's gifts.

**Dorcas P-E Dessources:** God's love for me and His daily care; A beautiful snow day sitting at home; family and church gatherings; helping others; talking about God's love and sharing my experiences; swimming

reading; cross-stitching for others; a beautiful sunny day; and Sabbath day, yeah!

**Bernadel Dessources:** Hanging out with friends at church; cooking at home for the family; giving Bible studies on Saturday afternoon; travelling; playing with kids; listening to sermons every day; and listening to Christian music.

**Mandy Coward:** A good book and quiet time to read it.





## barry's blog

"At issue is the question of whether social capital exists for a Christian alternative to the secular monopoly of legal education in this country."

# A Word About Civil Society and Social Capital

**How the debate plays out** over allowing Trinity Western University (TWU) to establish a law school and the corollary discussion about whether future TWU law graduates are competent to practise law will indicate the health of "civil society" in Canada. Civil society is imperative for the modern state to function effectively.<sup>1</sup> There are both individual and collective benefits that accrue from a healthy civil society. Robert Putnam, for example, has established that when people learn to live together within trustful relationships, they ensure their own overall economic well-being.<sup>2</sup> "Most fundamental to the civic community," Putnam concluded, "is the social ability to collaborate for shared interests."<sup>3</sup> This ability is dependent upon "social capital," which Putnam defines as "norms of generalized reciprocity and networks of civic engagement [that] encourage social trust and cooperation because they reduce incentives to defect, reduce uncertainty, and provide models for future cooperation."<sup>4</sup> It calls our "attention to the ways in which our lives are made more productive by social ties."<sup>5</sup>

L. J. Hanifan's 1916 definition of social capital, endorsed by Putnam, bears repeating. Hanifan saw social capital as

those tangible substances [that] count for most in the daily lives of people: namely good will, fellowship,

sympathy, and social intercourse among the individuals and families who make up a social unit. ... The individual is helpless socially, if left to himself. ... If he comes into contact with his neighbour, and they with other neighbours, there will be an accumulation of social capital, which may immediately satisfy his social needs and which may bear a social potentiality sufficient to the substantial improvement of living conditions in the whole community. The community as a whole will benefit by the cooperation of all its parts, while the individual will find in his associations the advantages of the help, the sympathy, and the fellowship of his neighbours.<sup>6</sup>

Social capital between religion-based institutions such as TWU and professional regulators like the law societies is required to ensure the success of the multicultural framework of Canadian society. In effect, TWU's request for a law school serves as a test of the Canadian legal academy and the legal profession's commitment to the core values of "pluralism with honour" and "inclusive participation" as described by John Ebbs.<sup>7</sup>

Ebbs argues that "inclusive participation" recognizes the value of minorities having a say on decisions that affect them, and "pluralism with honour" recognizes the contributions that diverse traditions and cultures make to the "social mix."<sup>8</sup> That TWU faced the unprecedented re-examination of its law school proposal

before the law societies in New Brunswick,<sup>9</sup> Nova Scotia,<sup>10</sup> Ontario,<sup>11</sup> Newfoundland and Labrador, and British Columbia,<sup>12</sup> (after receiving approval from the Canadian Federation of Law Societies, no less) has struck at the heart of civil society. At issue is the question of whether social capital exists for a Christian alternative to the secular monopoly of legal education in this country.

Legal academics, law faculties, and the legal professional bodies have, up to this point, shown a callous attitude toward the religious freedom claim of TWU. Despite the fact that TWU has been acting in accordance with its constitutionally protected right to practise its religious freedom to favour the definition of marriage as between one man and one woman, TWU has been subjected to unprecedented scrutiny, surveillance, criticism, and censure by the legal profession.

As Putnam observes,

Society characterized by generalized reciprocity is more efficient than a distrustful society, for the same reason that money is more efficient than barter. If we don't have to balance every exchange instantly, we can get a lot more accomplished. Trustworthiness lubricates social life. Frequent interaction among a diverse set of people tends to produce a norm of generalized reciprocity. Civic engagement and social capital entail mutual obligation and responsibility for action.<sup>13</sup>

The legal profession, in this case, has shattered the norm of reciprocity—"I'll do this for you now, in the expectation that you (or perhaps someone else) will return the favour."<sup>14</sup> The legal academy has been willing to withdraw all of its social capital from the "favour bank" with the evangelical Christian community by its dogged assault on TWU. The lack of trust exhibited by the legal community toward TWU's law school proposal has meant the system has become totally inefficient. Rather than trust the Federation's exhaustive review and decision in favour of TWU, the law societies took the

task upon themselves to re-examine the application *de novo*, that is, from the beginning. At each turn, TWU has had to incur additional expense, effort, time, and energy to meet the ancillary requirements of the examining law society for documentation, face-to-face consultation, and attendance at yet another public hearing of the benchers to answer the very same question decided by the Federation. It is redundant, inefficient, and unnecessary and evidence of a lack of trust. In short, it grounded the national approval mechanism for law schools to a halt. We have yet to see the long-term effect of this development, but already there is one result: the promise of mobility of the legal profession is in serious jeopardy, as there is a patchwork of some law societies accepting TWU grads and others not.

It appears that the opponents of TWU are so adamant in their position that they are willing to sacrifice the national integration of the legal profession, which has only recently been able to establish an efficient streamlining of the approval process for new law schools by means of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. It is conceivable that this campaign may result in some law societies accepting TWU graduates and others rejecting. British Columbia and Prince Edward Island have joined Alberta and Saskatchewan in approving the TWU School of Law for the purposes of students articling in the province or territory.<sup>15</sup> Ontario and Nova Scotia have refused to so accept TWU students. Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon remain. Such a patchwork across the country will not only be unprecedented but also highly problematic going forward—problematic for the profession and for religious freedom. ■

Barry W. Bussey is vice-president of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities.

<sup>1</sup> Robert O. Bothwell, "Indicators of a Healthy Civil Society," in John Burbidge, ed., *Beyond Prince and Merchant: Citizen Participation and the Rise of Civil Society*, (New York: Pact Pub., 1997), pp. 249-261.

<sup>2</sup> Robert D. Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993).

<sup>3</sup> Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, p. 182.

<sup>4</sup> Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, p. 177.

<sup>5</sup> Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000), p. 19.

<sup>6</sup> Lyda Judson Hanifan, "The Rural School Community Center," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 67 (1916): 130-138, at 130, as quoted by Putnam, *Bowling Alone*, p. 19.

<sup>7</sup> John Ebbs, "Core Values of Civil Society," in John Burbidge, ed., *Beyond Prince and Merchant: Citizen Participation and the Rise of Civil Society*, (New York: Pact Pub., 1997), pp. 275-281.

<sup>8</sup> Ebbs, pp. 279-281.

<sup>9</sup> Law Society of New Brunswick, "Trinity Western University," <http://www.lawsociety-barreau.nb.ca/en/public/trinity-western-university>.

<sup>10</sup> Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, "Seeking Input on Trinity Western's Application for a Law School," February 13, 2014, <http://nsbs.org/news/2014/02/seeking-input-trinity-westerns-application-law-school-february-13>.

<sup>11</sup> "Treasurer's Remarks on the Law School Program Proposed by Trinity Western University," January 23, 2014, <http://goo.gl/Os1qZF>.

<sup>12</sup> The Law Society of British Columbia Bencher Meeting, April 11, 2014, transcript, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/newsroom/TWU-transcript.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Putnam, *Bowling Alone*, p. 21.

<sup>14</sup> Putnam, *Bowling Alone*, p. 20.

<sup>15</sup> Janet Epp-Buckingham, "TWU School of Law update," email dated April 2, 2014.

# Conscientious Assistance in Somalia



Refugees in one of the tent cities in Mogadishu.

entitled “2014 Timeline of the War in Somalia” outlines an almost-daily timeline of activities that have occurred in this war zone in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

Private security forces escorted our group at all times. Watching their rifle-clad bodies surrounding our vehicle, we could only pray that they were, indeed, the good guys. These paramilitary groups, heavily armed with machine guns and other assault weapons, secured the road from would-be attackers by diverting oncoming traffic to prevent our vehicle from sitting on open roads.

Our first stop was the ADRA office, where we met with the ADRA Somalia staff. They are intensely brave people who have answered the call to serve. Our objective was to see how ADRA Canada was participating in supplying life-giving potable water to the downtown area in the capital city of Mogadishu.

In addition to creating a fully sustainable business, they also supply ice to the area residents, altogether providing employment for several people. According to Adventist Mission, an entity of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, there is no organized Adventist church in Somalia. Even so, this contribution to the local economy has earned respect for the work of our church in a predominantly Muslim society.

After visiting the downtown area, we went to tent cities that were erected as people fled to

Mogadishu. One in particular had a population of 700,000 at its peak. ADRA Canada has made a significant difference here. We were introduced to a lady who stated, “I am not interested in the comfort words of NGOs any longer; I am interested in food for my children.” She went on to say, “When ADRA Canada says they will do something, they are the one organization that delivers.”

Conscientious assistance is important for ADRA Canada. Rather than putting local stores out of business by handing out food directly, qualified recipients follow a process similar to the ration stamps that Canada used during the Second World War. Products are then routed through local food stores, along with a small income to cover their needed expenses.

After being in Mogadishu for the better part of the day, we headed back to Kenya for some much-needed rest and food. I came away being thankful that I can be a part of this life-changing project just by providing a monthly gift to ADRA Canada. ■

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

Boarding a plane is not unusual for me, exiting a country is commonplace, and crossing international borders is something many of us do on a routine basis. However, this time was different. I was leaving a different country on a different kind of airline going to a place that I had only read about over the years. The country I was exiting was Kenya, heading for Somalia, and the flight was provided by the United Nations.

Somalia has been in a civil war for years. Many people, like us, wake up in the morning, try to provide basic necessities for their families, and pray for their children. Yet unlike us, those in Somalia suffer every day under the hands of terrorists. I thank God we have that difference, and I thank God that ADRA Canada is making a difference in their lives.

The team, consisting of James Astleford and Anita Odoni (from ADRA Canada), Daniel Stojanovic and I (from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada), arrived in Somalia not quite knowing what to expect. Just two weeks before our arrival, scores of people were killed in a bombing close to the location where our United Nations plane landed. The *Wikipedia* entry

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014\\_timeline\\_of\\_the\\_War\\_in\\_Somalia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_timeline_of_the_War_in_Somalia).

## “WELL, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN?”

The question, directed to nine-year-old Sofia by a classmate, hung uncomfortably in the air. Sofia, a Muslim, responded by saying she believed she would because she believed in God. Her classmate responded, “The only way to get to heaven is through Jesus.”

Sofia grew up Shia Ismailia Muslim and was active in the faith growing up. From the age of nine, she volunteered at services and eventually taught religions classes to children. But at about 12 years old, Sofia began to ask questions. Why did she have to pray through a man to get to God? Why could she not access God directly? The questions troubled her, but she continued to practice, pray, and hold on.

When Sofia was 19 years old, her brother passed away suddenly. Her brother had been her world, and after he died, she began to question her faith in God. Did He care? Did He love her? Did He even exist? A few years later, her father died as well, and this dealt another blow to her faith. Soon she gave up on religion entirely, but she couldn't quite let go of her belief that God was out there somewhere.

In September 2011 Sofia was talking with a work colleague when he asked, “What is your religion?” Sofia replied, “I believe in God but not in religion.” Sofia could not accept that God could be identified by a specific religion, preferring to believe that all faiths held a picture of God and that many roads led to Him. To her response her colleague said, “Sofia, I am going to pray that God shows you who He really is.” He left, Sofia logged into her Facebook account, and the first post she saw was, “Muslim Sees Jesus Christ in Toronto.”

That moment began to stir something inside Sofia. All her life she had heard of Jesus and seen pictures of Him, and these experiences had always given her chills. The memory of her elementary school conversation had stayed with her and remained vivid in her mind. Could Jesus, this Jesus who had haunted her all her life, truly be God?

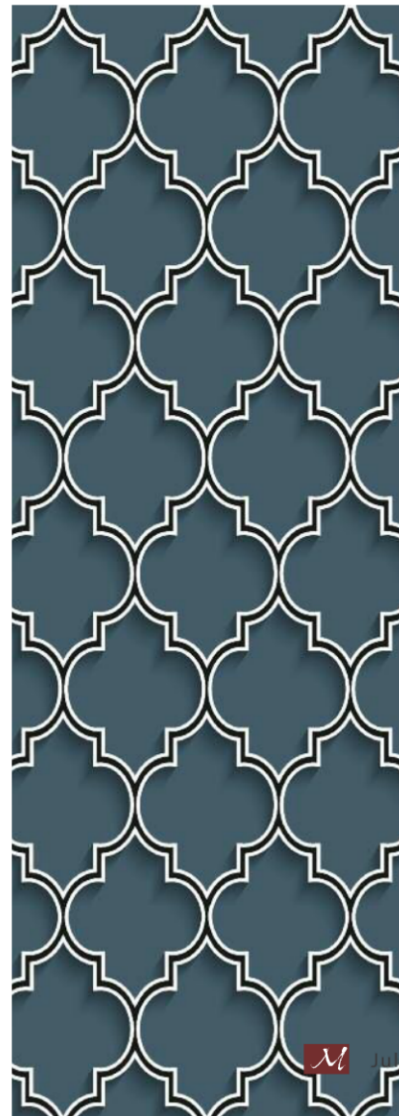
Another of Sofia's work colleagues was a Seventh-day Adventist, and in September 2013 he invited her to visit the Toronto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. She accepted. From the moment she walked through the doors, she felt as if she had come home, and began attending regularly. There she was introduced to Hopeton Blake, a literature evangelist. Hopeton became her friend, her Bible teacher, and an understanding ear in those moments when she felt overcome by the losses she had experienced in her life. He shared with her many books that encouraged her and helped to broaden her understanding of the Bible. And in those moments when she felt unworthy of Christ, she was reminded that Jesus came for people just like her. In the last week of October 2013, Sofia sent Hopeton a text message that caused him to jump for joy—she had decided to commit her life to Jesus and be baptized.

Sofia's story reminds us that literature evangelism is not just about books; it's also about relationships. The world is full of people who are hurting and suffering from loss. Through this ministry we meet people where they are, show true love and concern for them, and lead them to Jesus, in whom they will find comfort, joy, and the promise of a heavenly home. ■

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*Jonathan Zita is the director of Lifestyle Canada Education Service*

# A Muslim meets Jesus



# Ontario Conference School of *E*

*“Every Member Should Enrol in  
the Ontario Conference School of  
Evangelism,” Says Graduate*



# rence vangelism

“I think every member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario should enrol in the Ontario Conference School of Evangelism,” said Keith Williams, shortly before commencing his sermon at Mt. Olive Adventist Church last October. He spoke with the newfound confidence he gained as a student at the Ontario Conference School of Evangelism (OCSE).

“I would encourage anyone who has the calling of the Holy Spirit for lay evangelism to enrol as soon as possible in this program, as it offers so many learning opportunities at such minimal cost,” he said.

A former Pentecostal, Williams heard of the OCSE shortly after becoming a member of Mt. Olive Adventist Church. Thinking that such a program would cost thousands of dollars, he was discouraged, but upon learning that it was only \$200, he immediately enrolled and has not looked back.

Williams is just one of many who are experiencing a remarkable shift in church life—a move from being a spectator at church to becoming involved in ministry

activities and sharing Christ with others.

Linton Haughton, first elder of Ottawa East church, and Drucilla Antoine are experiencing the joy sharing Christ with others as a result of the motivation and skills they gained at the school. Seeing seven people with whom they had studied the Bible being baptized was a remarkable and fulfilling experience for them.

Haughton has since been joined by his wife, Paulette, and they are currently conducting weekly Bible studies. “Since attending the school,” he said, “I can now better appreciate the more practical work of the church, such as visitation, Bible studies, and the preparation and delivery of sermons.”

Cheryl Bailey was among the first graduates, and she is busy working for God. She has personally studied with three individuals and has facilitated their decision for baptism. The school also helped her discover a gift of preaching. “The school has equipped me and given me the courage and confidence to stand before people and preach,” she says.

Upon her graduation, Cheryl and her husband, Delton, felt they needed to be part of a church where they could put

their training to use. Oakville, with just five people regularly attending, seemed the right fit, but there was talk of the church closing. She is currently providing leadership there, and the church now has over 30 people attending regularly.

Cheryl is in demand for her preaching and teaching gifts and has received invitations to preach in a number of churches between Niagara Falls and Barrie.

Vera Hurlock from Ruth church simply loved the course *How to Give Bible Studies and Gain Decisions*. It has helped her lead 14 individuals to a decision to follow Christ and be baptized. She is currently studying with a family of four. What pastor would not want such an active, fruitful member in his or her congregation?

Jason Ontegi’s passion for evangelism has resulted in a new group in the Jane and Finch area. Shortly after graduation, he turned his living room into a Bible study centre. After a few weeks of receiving people into his home for weekly studies, the group became so large that he had to rent a place in the community. The group is now holding Sabbath services.

*A remarkable and fulfilling experience awaits . . .*



Top: Eustace Williams congratulates youngest graduate, Kedric Ireland.



Right: Mark Johnson congratulates Vera Hurlock.

### WHY A SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM?

The OCSE is an outgrowth and extension of the evangelistic training programs offered through Maranatha and Festival of the Laity. While these were effective to a degree, they were limited to a weekend, and their location in the GTA made access difficult for those living in other locations.

The school of evangelism, on the other hand, provides consistent long-term training, covers a wider range of subjects, carries practical requirements and is held in various regions of the province.

Since March of 2011, the OCSE has run five schools: one in London, one in Kitchener-Waterloo, two in Toronto and one in Ottawa, graduating nearly 250 people. There are currently four schools being held in Heritage Green (Southern Ontario), Toronto, the far north (Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Elliott Lake, North Bay, etc.) and Barrie (the near north churches) with 120 students.

### NEW OCSE SCHOOLS FOR 2014/2015

Plans are well underway for new schools for 2014/2015. Both Toronto and Ottawa will be hosting schools. It is very likely that a brand new school will be held for East Central Ontario (Oshawa, Whitby, Bowmanville, Cobourg, etc.).

The extensive training takes place one Sunday each month over a 13-month period. Major emphasis is placed on the eight-hour course *How to Give Bible Studies and Gain Decisions*. However, other relevant courses include, among others, *Bible Doctrines*, *Church History*, *Hermeneutics* (how to interpret and understand Scripture), *World Religions*, and *Understanding the Secular Mind*. Most of these are six-hour courses.

The OCSE is clearly fulfilling two major biblical mandates by preparing God's people to live and preach the gospel as outlined in Matthew 28:19, 20 and Matthew 9:35-38, and by helping the

church in Ontario to embrace the truth of the priesthood of all believers (see 1 Pet. 2:2-12, NKJV).

Since the inception of the OCSE, other conferences are recognizing the great value of a school of evangelism and have either launched or are planning to launch similar schools. Among these are Bermuda, the South England Conference in the United Kingdom, as well as Alberta and British Columbia.

In Ontario the OCSE will continue to help God's people identify the gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit. By God's grace, it will help them develop and use their gifts for the expansion of God's eternal kingdom by working for the salvation of others.

Have you registered for the next course? ■

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*Eustace Williams is the director of the Ontario Conference School of Evangelism.*



# A New Adventist Asks

I have read so many things about Ellen G. White on the Internet that have left me troubled. Is it really necessary to study so many of Sister White's books? Isn't the Bible sufficient?

Thank you for your message and for your interest in developing a proper understanding of Christian truth as well as in determining Ellen White's place within the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Before answering your question directly, I would like to affirm the importance of employing a sound methodology in our search for truth. The main reason is that the information available online is not necessarily impartial, intellectually honest, or even legitimate. Of course, technology has given us access to countless sources and exhaustive material, and some of these resources are excellent. However, it is hard to use the Internet as a valid reference. It is much better to dig deep and think critically in order to get to the truth. As Neil Gaiman aptly said, "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. Only a good librarian can bring you back the right one."

We need to investigate all aspects of a topic in great depth, using reliable sources. This approach is biblical. For example, the text in Acts 17:10 shows that verifying everything is a noble practice. "Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (NKJV).

The Seventh-day Adventist Church accepts the Bible as the only standard for truth. Our 28 fundamental beliefs underline this essential reality. "Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental

beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures." "The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history."<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, we should reaffirm, again and again, that the books of Ellen G. White don't constitute the standard for our Christian life. This privilege is reserved exclusively for the Bible. As it is the case for all authentic Christians, we cannot add any other measure, any other rule, to our beliefs. We are proud to proclaim that the Bible only (*Sola Scriptura*) is one of the central tenets of our church.

By affirming our exclusively biblical foundation, do we then diminish the value of Ellen G. White's writings? Not at all. It is important for us to remember that we don't believe in the inspiration of her writings because she was one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Rather, we give credit to God's messages in her books because of the principle of *Sola Scriptura*. In fact, it is the Bible that emphasizes the ministry of the prophets. Don't forget that Jesus said, "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward" (Matt. 10:41, NKJV). The apostle Paul affirms this as well: "And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers" (1 Cor. 12:28, NKJV).

Thus, the gift of prophecy is not an Adventist invention or precedent. The prophetic gift is part of *Sola Scriptura*. Typically, if one supposedly accepts the Bible as a measure of faith but refuses to

accept the prophets who were inspired by the same Spirit that inspired the Bible (as evidenced by a biblical verification process), that believer will ultimately have a problem with all other truths; consequently, we position ourselves as arbiters of truth and, in effect, no longer regard the Bible as authoritative. We become selective concerning truth coming from God's Word, rejecting what we find to be inconvenient.

We believe that Ellen White manifested the prophetic gift. Her inspired writings confirm that the promises of Jesus are true and that the Holy Spirit is ready to give us guidance, instruction, and wisdom for the end-time challenges.

In conclusion, I would like to give you two recommendations. First, read some solid books regarding the ministry of Ellen G. White. It will help you to analyze her writings properly and also give you the tools to understand and interpret them well. The second suggestion is to start reading some of her books. *Steps to Christ* is always a great start. You will also enjoy *The Desire of Ages*, *The Ministry of Healing*, *Christ Object Lessons*, and *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*. These will help you gain a better understanding of the power of her messages and familiarize yourself with her theology. Pray and examine all things. I have no doubt that if you search God and His will with all your heart, you will continue to flourish in your relationship with Him now and for eternity. ■

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

<sup>1</sup> General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Twenty-eight Fundamental Beliefs, [www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/28Beliefs-English.pdf](http://www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/28Beliefs-English.pdf), pp. 1, 3.

# Blessed to be a blessing



ZAHWA DEEB

*"I love serving God with all of my heart, and in every aspect of my life. The most important thing in life is not only to serve God but also to share Him with others!"*

—Zahwa Deeb

Zahwa Deeb, cafeteria attendant at Kingsway College, has served for 15 years to help cook delicious as well as nutritious meals for the students and faculty of Kingsway College and visiting guests. In addition, she also helps to host the catering for major events at Kingsway such as Fun(d) Dinner, Preview Weekend, Alumni Weekend, and more.

One of her duties and activities that she enjoys the most is supervising student workers in the cafeteria. Her passion is getting students connected to Christ, and working with them allows her to build close-knit relationships as well as foster a personal relationship with Him.

"I believe that when students can get connected with God, anything is possible!" Zahwa shares. "Through the power of the Holy Spirit, young people can have transformed lives that are disciplined, exciting, and bring glory to God."

Zahwa believes strongly in Christian education and the principle that "regardless of what role a person is in, God has that person there for a purpose." The opportunity to pour God's love into the lives of students and help them when they are struggling brings fulfillment to her role as a Christian.

Some time ago a student seemed to have difficulty fulfilling his work duties. It was then that Zahwa took the opportunity to get to the heart of the matter.

"Did you know that you are serving God when you are working in the cafeteria?" Zahwa asked the student.

The student stepped back and raised an eyebrow. "Really?" he asked, quite surprised.

"Yes," Zahwa continued. "Since God gave you this job, He wants you to do it to the best of your ability. You were placed to work here because He believes you are

needed here."

The student responded, "Oh. I never looked at it like that before!"

This is just one of the instances Zahwa was able to connect with a student and remind the student of God's care and desire to be a part of our lives.

She recently took some time off to visit her daughter who had just had a baby in the United States. She was gone for two weeks, and upon her return, she received many hugs from students who truly missed her and her delicious cooking!

Students and staff had been so accustomed to relying on Zahwa and seeing her in the cafeteria helping with various needs, that they sorely missed her when she was gone! Many students told her she could not leave again, because it just was not the same without her; she is an essential part of the success of the cafeteria's ministry.

Psalms 34:7 is one of Zahwa's life verses. "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them." It was this verse that helped her family get through a devastating house fire several years ago, and this verse continues to bring peace to her as she shares her testimony of God's goodness and faithfulness in her life.

Kingsway College's cafeteria would not be the same without Zahwa and her passion for the Lord. Praise God for her ministry and how He continues to use her in incredible ways for His glory! ■

Ashley Arriola is the communications assistant at Kingsway College.

# YOUTH RALLY Mud

**EXPECTATIONS WERE HIGH** for this year's British Columbia Conference youth rally, held March 7 and 8, 2014, in the Fraser Valley region. The theme for the rally was "Mud." One day a father went to pick up his boys, who were playing baseball. He had just cleaned his car beforehand. Then the boys got in all dusty and dirty from playing ball. He proceeded to scold the boys and then realized the happiness and joy on their faces. At that moment he decided the mud in the car was well worth seeing the happy, enthusiastic boys. This story illustrates and grounds the theme.

By application, the same goes for the church. Sometimes we want clean, sanitized churches, but in reality we are all muddy. He sees our longing to learn about Him, to connect with Him, to be forgiven by Him. He accepts the mud in our lives so we can be with Him, so that we can be transformed. Hence, the church is messy, muddy, and in the muck of life, yet God loves us still. And we can love others, too. We have the opportunity to act as the father did, because our heavenly Father smiles at us as we grow, change, and work through our challenges—and it is rarely, if ever, a clean process. God can deal with the mud as we learn to be friends and followers of Jesus with eagerness and enthusiasm.

Following are a few comments from those who attended the rally.

"The Mud Youth Rally was one of energy, fun, connection with people, and, most importantly, spiritual depth and growth. ... It was a blast and easy to make friends and build on older ones. There was a warmth that continued all weekend. What a great atmosphere for worshipping and drawing closer to our God, who loves us even with the mess. ... Having Canadian University College (CUC) lead out also gave the youth the sense that godliness is not something only for the aged but also, and more importantly, for the energetic, passionate, and young at heart!"—*Adam Bussey*

"I had a blast! It almost felt as if it were the annual youth

retreat but closer to home, and having a full staff of CUC students leading out was fantastic. The activities were a lot of fun, and somehow were able to get everyone involved (a rare feat)."—*Mark Kyslik*

"Mud was a fun-filled, bonding time to connect with other youth our age and with God. Through relating to one another in small groups, meeting new people, playing games, having fun, and getting dirty, we learned how much Jesus loves and cares about us. When some of the students from CUC shared their testimonies it showed me that even though we don't have perfect lives, God is still always there for us, and all we have to do is ask Him to help deal with the mud in our lives. It was an amazing hands-on, exciting weekend that anyone would definitely enjoy!"—*Kiana Kapiniak*

"The youth rally was an extraordinary outreach for our youth. Not only did we learn more about God but we also talked about personal experiences and asked questions. I personally loved the entire program. There wasn't one moment I was bored. There was always something to do; there was lots of singing, skits, talking and socializing. What I loved most was that there were testimonies with different messages from the CUC students. We had time to talk about what we learned at the end of the rally. I grew to know and see God in different ways. This youth rally helped me get closer to God."—*Nathalia Herrera*

"The theme, 'Mud and Messy Spirituality' really resonated with me as well as, I'm sure, with everyone in the gym that weekend. Rough times happen to everyone, but having faith in a God who not only goes through these tough times with us but also provides us with a way out is so empowering. It truly was a spiritually renewing experience." ■

*Brian Wahl is youth director for the British Columbia Conference.*



**David Rodriguez illustrates "Mud and Messy Spirituality" at the 2014 Youth Rally held in the Fraser Valley Region of B.C.**



Andrea Laskowski

# Parkview Profiles

*"Everything was so fun. I was taken aback by how incredible everything was."*

Andrea Laskowski came to PAA late. She arrived one month into the 2012/2013 school year, 12 months later than she had hoped.

Andrea attended PAA Days' open house weekend as a prospective Grade 9 student from Regina, Sask., and was convinced then that she belonged on the hilltop. Not long after her first visit to Lacombe, Andrea's dad became sick with cancer. Moving away at that time was not an option, and Andrea waited out his recovery with prayer and anticipation. Her goal of going to PAA was not forgotten.

The graduating senior says she came to PAA because she wanted to focus on the future God had in store for her. Faced with the inconvenience and the expense, her parents posed the question, "What's at PAA for you?" Andrea's answer was so honest it surprised everyone.

She had begun to recognize the choices her public school friends were making as dangerous and undesirable, and she wanted something different for herself.

"The world doesn't display God in a very positive way," Andrea said. "But PAA is a place for people to grow without distractions."

Every summer for as long as she can remember, Andrea has taken what she calls "a vacation from secular life" by going to the Man-Sask Seventh-day Adventist youth camp, Camp Whitesand. The first summer she was old enough to join the staff, Andrea was quick to do so, and having spent almost two months immersed in the deeply spiritual environment, she began to crave a space where she could be herself all year round.

Following Camp Whitesand of summer 2012, Andrea and her family took a trip to Poland, and all PAA plans were put on hold yet again. Even though it seemed obvious that she wouldn't be able to go, Andrea felt impressed to contact Mr. Jamieson, PAA's vice-principal, and inquire about what it would take for her to enrol.

"You have to define your life, or the world defines it

for you," she says of her choice. "I knew coming to PAA would be difficult, but it would be possible if I wanted to make it possible."

It took several long telephone conversations to work out finances and course registration, but before Andrea got on the plane to head back to Canada, it was decided.

She arrived on campus just in time for Class Challenge, a fall tradition at PAA. It was a little overwhelming, but "everything was so fun. I was taken aback by how incredible everything was."

Andrea was able to return to PAA and graduate in 2014. She applied to work as a resident assistant in the dorm and won the office of Grade 12 class president. "I really feel like I belong here," she says.

For the 2014 student-led Week of Prayer, Andrea was invited to preach one of the sermons. She shared her insights on 1 Corinthians 13 with the hope that her experiences might help someone else to see God as real in his or her life.

In her two years as a PAA student, Andrea has seen God work in so many ways. "My suite-mate and I were both in Mr. Saylor's biology class when he talked about finding your philos-love in this life. It was about being the kind of friend Jesus is to us, and we both knew that we would be that best friend for each other." From the daily worships offered by the teachers to the endearing friendships, Andrea's memories of life at PAA will reflect a time when she grew to love the Lord.

"I'm scared to think about what my life would look like if I hadn't come here," she says. "There were times when I wondered, 'Why did God bring me here?' but then I remember the bigger picture. I need to find my life purpose in God, and PAA has helped me do that." ■

*Katelyn Ruiz is the communications assistant at Parkview Adventist Academy.*

## ADVENTIST EDUCATION

## The Best Evangelistic Tool

I first met Shawna Lammers and Kaylie Copeland at a Maritime youth rally at Sandy Lake Academy (SLA) in the spring of 2012. Their mutual friend Maddy Casco had made it a habit to invite her friends to every youth rally and campmeeting during the summer.

The youth tent speaker for that summer was Mark Witas, who made it a point to tell everyone about the importance of attending one of our Seventh-day Adventist schools. He pleaded with the adults to sacrifice all they could to make sure that every student could afford an Adventist education. That summer an overwhelming number of young people wanted to attend Sandy Lake Academy. That was the summer that one of our college-aged camp staff gave up their summer salary in order to send a Grade 11 student to SLA.

During an outreach activity at camp meeting that summer, youth covered the small town of Pugwash with Adventist literature. Shawna had just finished her street and had come back to talk with my wife and me. The conversation was simple: Shawna was planning to attend Sandy Lake Academy that Fall if she could get the funding to do so. Kaylie came back

from her street and said the same thing. Both girls filled out the paperwork and prepared to move into the dorm.

That school year Shawna and Kaylie immersed themselves in Sandy Lake, especially the spiritual activities. They were active in leadership and training for Sandy Lake's new church plant and also trained to be part of a student-led health screening outreach that toured the Maritimes.

That summer both girls were hired to work at Camp Pugwash, sharing their faith with the campers and staff. During Blind Camp, God poured out His Holy Spirit on the campers and staff in answer to the prayers of the staff. By the end of teen camp, 23 campers and staff requested baptism. Kaylie was one of them. Her friends and family came out to witness her walk into the Northumberland Strait for baptism, the highlight of every Pugwash Campmeeting.

This coming summer Shawna will be baptized during campmeeting on August 2. Both Kaylie and Shawna are currently attending CUC, where Shawna is preparing to become a teacher and Kaylie makes plans to serve as a missionary, beginning

this summer as a student missionary to Kolkata, India.

Our Adventist youth rallies, schools, summer camps, and universities play a significant role in leading our young people to Jesus. As our youth, camp, and education departments work together, many more young people like Kaylie and Shawna will join in the final push to share the gospel with the world. I look forward to the day when every single child in our church can attend our schools, the best evangelistic tool we have in our church. Adventist education is the responsibility of the whole church, not just of parents. Youth like Kaylie and Shawna need your support to make Adventist education possible for them. Jesus is coming soon. Now is the time for every church member to sacrifice and work together to ensure that all our children receive an Adventist education that will prepare them to share Jesus with the world. ■

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*Paul Llewellyn is the executive secretary for the Maritime Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*

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## Alberta

### ACS Leadership Symposium Reaching Up to Reach Out



Mary Ellen Colon, one of the speakers at the Adventist Community Services Leadership Symposium, speaks to attendees on social justice.

“Prepare the way; Jesus is coming. Jesus is coming; prepare the way,” proclaimed May Ellen Colon. “We need to prepare the way, for Jesus is coming soon. One of the ways we can help do this is through the ministry of social justice.”

As I sat and listened, I sensed not only a passion for helping the poor and the marginalized, but also an urgency coming from Dr. Colon. May Ellen Colon is the assistant director for Sabbath School/ Personal Ministries at the General Conference and director for Adventist Community Services International. It was interesting to listen to her perspective on social justice. Dr. Colon started with a theology of social justice, building a firm biblical foundation. What stuck out to me was the fact that we have a biblical mandate to stand up for the powerless and give voice to the voiceless.

As Sung Kwon, the North American Division Community Services director gave his presentation, he asked, “If this church were to move, would the community miss us?” He was trying to convey the idea that our communities must not only know where we are but also who we are. We must involve ourselves and interact with our community on a weekly basis.

We also had Lily Wagner, director of Philanthropic Services for Institutions at the North American Division. In one of her presentations on “Ministering Cross-Culturally,” she gave an example of how different cultures can be. “Some cultures eat dessert first, while others eat dinner first.” The importance of learning and understanding cultural nuances came across loud and clear.

Our last presenter for the weekend

was Lynn McDowell, director of Planned Giving/Trust Services and Philanthropy for the Alberta Conference. Lynn shared how church members can work with conferences on writing proposals for grants and funding. Lynn brought an informative look into what the Alberta Conference provides in terms of wills, estate planning, and philanthropy.

It was a great weekend of community and learning. We had over 50 individuals equipped and empowered to reach their communities with new tools.

We reached up to God spiritually, and we learned how to reach out to our communities. ■

—Lyle M. Notice, Associate Youth Director, Alberta Conference of SDA

## Ministering to the Community

Five years ago the personal ministries department at the Sherwood Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alberta decided that they wanted to impact their community; they decided to register a booth at the annual Sherwood Park trade show. This wasn't a traditional way of outreach at all, but through this outreach, people have received valuable resources that, with God's help, can bring them hope. After two years in Sherwood Park, they also decided to branch off into a nearby city, Fort Saskatchewan, and register a booth in their trade show, as well.

During these past years, a few dedicated church members have put some hours from their weekend into representing our church and handing out literature, VBS invitations, surveys, pamphlets and Bible study cards. Among the literature that was handed out this year were Bibles, children's Bibles, various E. G. White writings, and pamphlets about improving health. God also moved in such a



Jaroslav and Michelle Sevcik offering a wide variety of literature to those visiting their booth.

way that 31 individuals received Bible study cards. These cards belong to our Impact 2015 Edmonton initiative, and when these cards are sent, Bible studies will be delivered to these individuals and they will be matched up with someone who will study the Bible with them. Praise God!

Jaroslav Sevcik has taken it upon his heart to reach the community in this way and has been blessed by both young and

old who have received materials in hopes of meeting Jesus. He has been greatly blessed by organizing and participating and allowing God to use Him in this way. Please continue to pray for future trade shows, the individuals who give their time, and also those people who have received materials. ■

—Michelle Sevcik, Nursing student, Edmonton, Alta.

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## British Columbia

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### Bags of Love Bring Comfort to Children in Turmoil



Donna Rose, Joan Hathaway, Marjorie Wright with Bags of Love program.

*"A genuine Christian looks after the needs of others, especially orphans and widows in distress.... This is the kind of religion that our heavenly Father accepts"—James 1:27*

The Women's Ministries team of the Rutland church in Kelowna took this passage to heart and decided to do something that would reach out to a child in need, especially one who might be "orphaned" because of a parent's drug addiction, or perhaps by abuse or neglect.

Such children are in need—not because of anything that they have done but because of the poor choices of their parents. As a result, the Bags of Love program was launched in Kelowna.

This is a Seventh-day Adventist program based in the United States, with chapters all over America but only a few in western Canada, including our recently established local chapter in Kelowna.

Bags of Love reaches out to touch the lives of displaced children in our



Bundles of Love layettes.



Grades 3-7 Sew4Service quilters from Okanagan Adventist Academy

community who have been removed from their homes by social workers at the Ministry of Child and Family Development.

Their job is often emotional and heart-wrenching but is made much easier when they can hand a Bag of Love to a child who is traumatized and fearful! As you can imagine, these bags become a very important part of their lives!

Each colourful, hand-sewn bag includes a beautiful handmade quilt; several age- and gender-appropriate toys, books, and puzzles; personal care items (hairbrush, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.), and a large stuffed teddy bear at the very top of the bag. The children's eyes light up when they realize the bag is especially for them to keep!

The handmade child-sized quilts in each bag are lovingly made by a team of

quilters in the Kelowna Adventist Church as well as by a few individuals in the Rutland church.

Stuffed toys are donated by several local stores. Church members have supplied other items, and even some non-church members have heard of the program and are donating their time and talents to supplying us with knitted slippers and toques. Cash donations are always welcome for purchasing other necessary items.

The response from the social workers has been overwhelmingly positive. They urge us to keep the program going! One social worker recently took three bags to one home, and the children excitedly opened them up, spread their quilts on the floor, and put the rest of the gifts on top and examined each item closely. She said it felt like Christmas all over again!

Surprisingly, two of the younger children hugged the small bag of personal care items to their chest and seemed especially thrilled to have their very own toothbrush and hairbrush.

Still other social workers report that their child won't let go of the large, cuddly teddy bear that finds its way into the top of each bag. Many more stories could be told about the joy that the Bags of Love bring to each child who receives one.

As a result of the successful Bags of Love program, another phase has been added and has been appropriately named Bundles of Love. This smaller version is especially designed to brighten the heart of a single mom or one in dire circumstances. Often these mothers are facing an uncertain future for their new child, and knowing that someone whom they have never met is concerned enough to give them such a thoughtful gift touches their heart.

The bags include a beautiful baby-sized quilt made by grade three to seven students in the Sew4Service Club at Okanagan Adventist Academy, a receiving blanket, sleepers and onesies, diapers and wipes, washcloths, and an assortment of other baby items.

The maternity department at the Kelowna General Hospital has enthusiastically embraced the Bundles of Love layettes, and we anticipate supplying them with enough "bundles" to provide for all moms of newborn babies who find themselves in a critical situation.

Those of us who are involved in the Bags and Bundles of Love programs have found inspiration in the following *Ministry of Healing* statement: "We are to look upon every duty, however humble, as sacred because it is a part of God's service. Our daily prayer should be, 'Lord, help me to do my best. Teach me how to do better work. Give me energy and cheerfulness. Help me to bring into my service the loving ministry of the Saviour.'"<sup>2</sup>

What a joy it is to be the hands and feet of our compassionate Father in heaven! ■

—Donna Rose, Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church coordinator for the Bags and Bundles of Love programs

>> See more at: <http://goo.gl/AMERh1> <<

<sup>1</sup> Jack J. Blanco, *The Clear Word: An Expanded Paraphrase of the Bible to Nurture Faith and Growth* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1994).

<sup>2</sup> Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1942), p. 474.



## Penticton Seventh-day Adventist Church Baptism and Marriage

April 19, 2014, was a high Sabbath in the Penticton church as candidates were accepted into church membership through baptism and profession of faith. In addition, a precious baby boy was dedicated to the Lord.

Chris and Natasha Miller moved to Penticton two years ago when Chris accepted a position as a mechanical engineer. Natasha had an Adventist background, but Chris had never stepped foot into an Adventist church until January 2013 when they both started attending. Since then, their first child, Byron, was born, and after attending all the evangelistic meetings held in March 2014 by Pastor Wellman, the young couple gave their hearts to the Lord. They were baptized, and their son Byron was dedicated.

A few years ago, Courtney Hakanson, a young lady in her early 20s, traveled to the Philippines with her father and other members of a missionary group led by Pastor Brian Hawes, of Kelowna. Courtney had an exciting experience there and determined to return. However, before embarking for a yearlong mission trip back to the Philippines in April of this year, Courtney heeded the call to commit her life to the Lord through baptism. The church body had a special prayer for Courtney, as she will be serving the Lord in a very remote part of the Philippines.

Hugh Williams knocked on the door of the Penticton Adventist Church a few years ago, explaining that he was living in the area and wondered if our church knew of anyone who was able to do housecleaning for him. Pastor Greg Wellman was not only able to help follow through with his request but also invited him to church and eventually Bible studies. Hugh attended the April series and joined the Penticton church through profession of faith.

On the same Sabbath afternoon, the Cawston-Keremeos church congregation gathered in the Penticton church to witness the baptism of Emily Gryschuk, who has been attending that church. Emily was joyously welcomed into their church fellowship.

April 26 was another high Sabbath! Approximately two years ago, Ritah Kabongoya moved from Uganda to Penticton to attend college. She was an active member of the Adventist church in her hometown and had requested transfer of membership to Penticton, but somehow the transfer got lost in transit. Notwithstanding, the BC Conference allowed her membership transfer, and Ritah was accepted into church membership. Ritah has accepted the role of a deaconess as well as leader of prayer ministries. She has had amazing answers to prayer!

The church was then blessed by the “Keepers of the Faith” as they presented the Sabbath worship service. They dedicated a special song to three recently married couples in the Penticton church.

Long-time friends Carolyn Rowse and Don Magill exchanged marriage vows on February 7 on the patio of the famous Los Flamingos Hotel in Acapulco, Mexico. The day was made even more special by the appearance of a pod of whales and the stunning sunset over the Pacific Ocean.



L to R: Garvin and Emmy Michell, Ed and Kathy Helfenbein, and Carolyn and Don Magill.



Courtney Hakanson, Natasha and Chris Miller were baptized at the Penticton church by Pastor Greg Wellman (second from the left).

Kathy Shewchuk and Ed Helfenbein were married on February 12 at the Sandals Grande Riviera Resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Their endearing friendship began six years ago after both suffered the loss of their spouses, but they believe their marriage was heaven-sent and happiness has once again filled their hearts.

And then, on April 12, Emmy Janzen and Garvin Michell were married by Greg Wellman before their families and friends in the Penticton church. They are living proof that marital happiness can be achieved at any age!

The Penticton church is rejoicing as we see people committed to the Lord and to each other. May He be praised as He continues to lead people from every walk of life into a loving relationship with Him and with others. ■

— Connie Kiefiuk, communication secretary, Penticton Seventh-day Adventist Church

>> See more at: <http://goo.gl/LNvN6z> <<

## Rock Creek Presents Healthful Living Program

Rock Creek, a small, picturesque B.C. community at the intersections of Highways 3 and 33 between Grand Forks and Osoyoos, is home to about 15 Adventists who are extremely active in reaching out to their neighbours through service.

They run frequent health programs and gather on Sabbaths in the Westbridge Community Hall and Tuesday evenings in the Rock Creek Medical Building. What an energetic, enthusiastic, positive, and joy-filled group they are! Their lay leaders, Harald and Gisela Zinner, invited Dr. Sid Kettner of Creston to present a Healthful Living Program at the Kettle Wildlife Association Clubhouse on the weekend of April 19.

The club's rifle target range, trap shooting area, and frequent groups of deer grazing on the beautiful lawnlike area were seen through a long wall of windows.

Inside, a very attentive, eager, and engaged audience took in the PowerPoint lectures entitled "Committing



Slow Suicide" (heart disease), "People Are Precious" (family relationships), "Peace and Purpose" (stress), "Fighting Fat and the Sour Side of Sugar" (diabetes and obesity) and "Stalking the Killer" (cancer).

Delicious vegetarian food was served twice with a number of "wows" being heard as it was enjoyed. Insightful questions were asked at the end of each session. Advice on healthy choices for

specific chronic conditions and family counselling was available during the "free time" and walking periods.

What a grateful group of participants! And what wonderful interaction was observed between all the Adventist members and their community friends. A joy to behold, for sure.

The local newspaper sent their reporter to observe the meetings, pulling him away from a large community event Sabbath evening—the Lions' Club Annual as Supper. He came, but instead of a few posed shots, he took numerous candid photos and decided to stay for the whole session, appearing extremely interested in the topic of cancer prevention—actually taking pictures of all the PowerPoint slides! A neat gentleman.

May God continue to bless this active little group of vibrant believers in South Central British Columbia. ■

—Dr. Sid Kettner, *Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP)* coordinator

>> See more at: <http://goo.gl/6c9RBe> <<

## Ontario

### Christ Alone Northern Ontario Campmeeting

August 29-31, 2014 at Camp Noronto, Monetville, Ontario



**Bob Winsor**  
Pastor,  
St. Catherine's  
and Niagara Falls  
Seventh-day  
Adventist Churches  
in Ontario



## Manitoba-Saskatchewan

### Benton Lowe to Start New Church in Nunavut



In July of 2014, Benton Lowe will be moving to Nunavut to launch a new church. Benton recently graduated with a religious studies degree from Canadian University College. Benton will begin his ministry by spending several months in Iqaluit, where our church members will help familiarize him with Inuit culture. Then, by the end of 2014, Benton will move to Rankin Inlet to establish a Seventh-day Adventist church in that community. There are currently no Adventists in Rankin Inlet. Be sure to keep Benton on your prayer list as he heads to Nunavut. Pray that God work in a mighty way in Rankin Inlet.

For months Benton has had a growing conviction that God has called him to serve in Nunavut. I asked Benton to share a

few thoughts about his call. He said, “In the summer of 2013, I asked myself the question, ‘Why not go to Nunavut? What’s keeping me from fulfilling the gospel commission in that part of the world?’ Through a lot of prayer, research and discussion with others, I came to the point where I could answer the call of God found in Isaiah 6:8 with a confident, ‘Here am I Lord. Send me.’ I’m actually really excited to head up to the Arctic region of Canada to share the gospel and the love of Jesus with others.” ■

—Jeff Potts, executive secretary, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference of SDA

## SDA Church in Canada



### Congratulations

We’re pleased to announce that at the annual Associated Church Press (ACP) convention, held this year in Chicago, Ill., on April 23-25, your Canadian Adventist Messenger received an honourable mention (third place) for the Connected Church column, written by Kumar Dixit. This is the second year in a row that the ACP has recognized Connected Church. ■

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of May 31, 2014, there were 442 depositors with a total deposit of \$23,999,748. There were 79 loans with a value of \$21,023,177.

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

## Build a Better Tomorrow for Victims of Abuse

Statistics and news stories clearly show that domestic violence is on the rise across Newfoundland. In 2012 over 8,500 women sought help from transition houses in the greater metro region alone.

This year during “I Love Christian Radio Week,” VOAR held “The Biggest Baby Shower” on behalf of provincial transition houses. This was in support of women and children who are fleeing domestic violence. The four participants included Iris Kirby House in St. John’s, Cara Transition House in Gander, the Transition House in Corner Brook, and Libra House in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. VOAR was overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity from our local churches and the general public. Community support such as this plays a major role in the healing process.

We were thrilled to see local businesses come on board, as well, to help make this event such a success. A small locally owned restaurant really touched our hearts. The staff at Ocean Devine restaurant in Conception Bay South, Nfld., took it upon themselves to join in and raise much-needed items in memory of a young baby named Allison Marie Parsons. Instead of giving tips to the staff, customers were asked if they would like to purchase a baby item instead. The staff had a full display of items for customers to choose from. It was a huge success. The group collected three large boxes of items, including diapers,



cloths, stuffed teddy bears, rattles, blankets, and just about everything a mother would need. VOAR’s baby shower was a tremendous success. VOAR hopes to make this an annual event, to help strengthen community ties. ■

—Tina Taylor,  
communications  
director, VOAR



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- 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](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger).
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
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**New Members**

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Stephfashia Clarke** was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on April 19, 2014, by Brian Hawes. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

**Wayne Clarke** was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on April 19, 2014, by Brian Hawes. He is now a member of the Rutland church.

**Obituaries**

**Gordon Burton** was born on March 23, 1931, in Pietermaritzburg, Union of South Africa, and died on March 8, 2014, in Hendersonville, N.C. Gordon taught Grades 3 and 4 at the church school in St. John's, Nfld. from 1957 to 1960. He was the personnel manager at Branson Hospital in Willowdale, Ont., from 1960 to 1964. He also pastored several churches in the United States. Gordon is predeceased by his son Glenn; parents, Ithiel Basil and Lenora Dalton Burton; and brother, Irwin Barry (Thelma), of Littleton, Colo. Surviving: wife, Virginia; son Gordon Jay (Consuelo), of Fort Worth, Tex.; daughters, Lenora (Allan) Burton, of Great Falls, Mont.,

and Charlene (Tore) Ingulfson, of Fletcher, N.C.; and three 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 brothers, Leonard, Edward, Richmond, Carl, and Otto; and parents, Friedrich and Emilee Singbeil. Surviving: his wife, Anna; sons, Daryl McGillivray and Lawrence (Bernadette), of B.C.; daughters, Sharon McGillivray and Kim Hood, of Alberta; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Dale Visger** was born Oct. 13, 1929, in Leesdale, Alta., and died on Dec. 26, 2013, in Walla Walla, Wash. Dale spent 39 years in denominational teaching, as principal/teacher in Calgary and in the Industrial Education departments at Canadian Union College and Walla Walla College. He also established a vocational training school near Bangalore, India, and spent many years volunteering in the church and community service after retirement. Dale is predeceased by his first wife, Ruth (née Steeves) Visger; parents, Francis Lyle and Zerola (née Wagner); brother, Robert; and sisters, Alberta Smith, Elva Rice, and Joan Ferguson. Surviving: wife, Evelyn (née Groulik) Visger; sons, Darryl (Ann) of Henderson, Nev., Darcy, of Airway Heights, Wash.; stepson, Steve (Shelly), of College Place, Wash.; stepdaughters, Lynette (Kenny) Tellefsen, of Orlando, Flor., Roma Edmonds, of Kent, Wash.; sisters, Nora (Harvey) Simmons of Vulcan, Alta., Bonnie (Vern) Triebwasser, of Calgary, Alta.; one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

**Adela (née Best) Werner** was born Dec. 3, 1943, in Coupe, B.C., and died on Sept. 21, 2013, in Ponoka, Alta. Surviving: husband, Forres Werner; daughters, Laurie (Daren)

Capcara, Dlaine (Kelly) Werner, Dawnell (Brent) Werner, Lee-Ann (Layne) Leming, Sharla (Rod) Bugarin, Tanya (Chris) Kuiper, Lindsay (Roel) Meijer; and 11 grandchildren.

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**Andrews University offers** a 6-day Natural Remedies & Hydrotherapy Workshop August 3-8. University faculty and the following speakers will present: Don Miller, Uchee Pines Institute; David DeRose, Weimar Center of Health & Education; Elvin Adams, US Health Works; Norman McNulty, neurologist. For informa-



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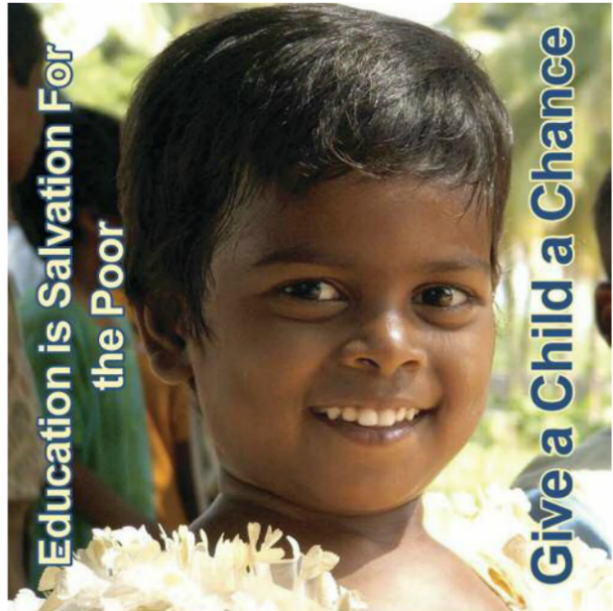
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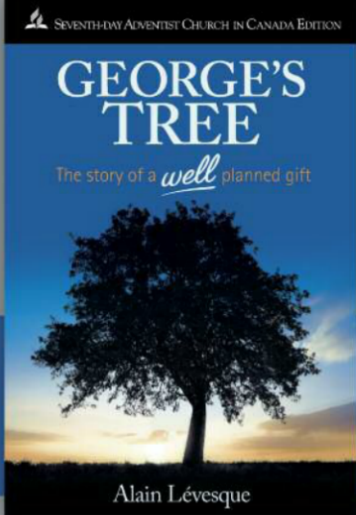
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**Wanted:** The White Estate is looking for original photographs, personal items, or other artifacts relating to Ellen White for display in its new visitor center scheduled to open in 2015. To discuss your item(s), please contact James Nix at 301/680-6557 or [JimNix@WhiteEstate.org](mailto:JimNix@WhiteEstate.org). All messages about your items will be

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## from the editor

### I love campmeeting!

This summer I will be at several of the Adventist campmeetings across our great nation. I recall my first campmeeting experience at Foothills Camp in Alberta. As a new Adventist I barely knew anyone, but I did know this: if you were Adventist, you went to campmeeting. Most church buildings closed as families escaped to the country for a week of camping. Fields were transformed into tent cities, and caravans of recreational vehicles kicked up dust storms on rural dirt roads.

Many people look forward to the Sunday book sale, a time when the Adventist Book Centre (ABC) is able to sell enough books to offer substantial discounts. A few years after my first campmeeting, I started working for the ABC, and my campmeeting experience changed dramatically. We put in long days and short nights. No off-duty hours were allocated for employees to be able to attend the main meetings; we put everything we had into serving the saints with their literature and vegetarian food needs. Even so, that was a high honour for me.

To this day, it remains the highlight of the year for many. Powerful speakers and God-fearing leaders give encouragement to believers, delicious vegetarian meals and cooking schools are enjoyed, reports from churches and schools around the conference thrill and encourage, and the opportunity to attend some of the best seminars and training sessions of the year are presented. Long before Facebook came into existence, campmeeting served as a kind of live Facebook. We updated statuses, connected with old friends, poked fun, shared pictures and stories, visited others to find out their status, learned who had a child (or grandchild), who graduated from college, and who changed jobs.

Campmeeting allows us to share the excitement of those who have accepted Christ and publicly declare their life-changing choice through baptism in front of family, friends, and hundreds of brothers and sisters in Christ. Family members are made proud, friends are amazed, and others become inspired to follow suit and take the same stand. While campmeeting traditionally serves as the Mecca for Adventist fellowship and culture, people who do not regularly attend church throughout the year also find great appeal in this annual event.

Enjoy campmeeting this year and plan to bring someone back next year. Perhaps someone is waiting for an invitation from you. Perhaps. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stan". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Stan Jensen, editor,  
*Canadian Adventist Messenger*

**CHILDREN, BESIDES BEING FULL OF ENERGY AND INNOCENCE**, are the future of our church. It is, therefore, the responsibility of every single adult to nurture the spiritual journey of the youth in his or her life. From birth through young adulthood, special attention must be paid to raising conscientious leaders who will stand firm in these morally ambiguous last days.



As one of the first programs to teach children about God and the world He created, VBS is useful for all children. October 31, 1956, *Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 25, no. 22, p. 8.



Of the eighty children attending the vacation Bible school at Newfoundland Academy, 88 per cent were non-Adventists. They studied lessons based on God's wonderful world and in the consecration service all of the children decided to follow Jesus.

As one of the first programs to teach children about God and the world He created, VBS is useful for all children. *Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 25, no. 21, p. 12.

## 10,000 Pathfinders Converge in Colorado



Pictured KC students: Aaron Amparo, Brent Bol, Andrew Clarke, Crystal Chamberlain, Crisolito Atiga Jr., Angie Greer, Shannon Hampson, Adam Jenson, Paul Jones, Judy Maranan, Genevieve Tagabing, and Mrs. Mona Karst. Not available for photo: Brian Adams, Alvin Amparo, Mae Atiga, Susan Clarke, Laura Domanais, Gwen Tagabing, Justin Jefferies, Lorilee Ross, Roger Santos and Erin Weststrate.

Kingsway College students at the Dare to Care International Pathfinder Camporee in 1994. Do any of these faces look familiar? *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, Vol. 63, no.9, p. 14.

**QUESTION** What can be done to ensure that young people remain members of the church?



“ Make them welcome and have them be more active in the church service. Tell them why it is important to stay in the church. Young people must be given responsibilities.”

—Sanjay Patra, 17

One of the keys to ensuring that young people remain active in the church as adults is to involve them—and not just on Youth Day. *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, Vol. 62, no. 4, p. 11.



Counsellors Grant Egdsen (Fairview) and Warren Windels (Calgary) in uncharacteristic role on the unfamiliar side of the food deck.

The Alberta Conference launched their first Teen Camp in 1974, giving young people the opportunity to experience work, play, learning, and meditation in nature's wonderful classroom. *Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 43, no. 20, p. 13.



Stirring up something (as usual) — Kathy Walsh and Carol Cretney.

*Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 43, no. 20, p. 13.



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