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august 2014

Messenger

canadian adventist



Adventist Health Care in Canada

Our goal is to foster an Adventist culture
of caring within a Christian atmosphere.

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“No one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But the new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

—Mark 2:22, ESV



Wine and Wineskins

This technology is gone now—it changed with time—but it caught the attention of those who listened to Jesus.

The question had been about fasting. In His time, people who were obviously fasting were thought to be particularly devout, extremely religious. In response to the question, Jesus used three quick metaphors to contrast real and imagined spirituality. In doing this, He taught a valuable lesson about daily life.

All around Christ and His friends were people whom everyone considered to be deeply religious. Their attention to detail would have gotten them a job in quality control today. But activity does not guarantee salvation, and despite the appearance of piety, Christ knew that their souls were vacant.

Faith changes a person if it carries with it the power of God. Conversely, if something labeled as faith is not life-changing, it is merely a substitute for the real thing.

The wineskin passage contains the promise of newness through Christ. Those who met Jesus during His ministry saw immediately the difference that He brought to the practice of religion. For Him, faith had to be livable. The faith practised in the temple and synagogue of His day, while founded on truth, had lost its power. Christ came to change that.

Christ comes into our lives to change each one of us too. In our neighbourhood, we can live like Christ. Doing so requires a change in our priorities. It requires a personal renewal beyond our own ability. Our only hope is in the transforming power of Jesus. When Christ is able to change us, He will transform the church.

At its core, the church must show that the God it worships is alive and powerful, able to change men and women from materialistic, contentious and self-absorbed to spiritually deep, caring people who can merge their faith with their daily activities.

Will you invite Him to begin that needed change just now? ■

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

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Communication Director/Editor Stan Jensen
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

Art Director Joan Tanasychuk
tanasychuk.joan@adventist.ca

Ad Manager/Circulation Aimee Perez
perez.aimee@adventist.ca;
messenger@adventist.ca

Copy Editor Vesna Mirkovich
messenger@adventist.ca

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Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

1148 King Street East
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

President Mark Johnson
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

VP Administration Daniel Stojanovic
stojanovic.daniel@adventist.ca

VP Finance Joyce Jones
jones.joyce@adventist.ca

General VP Dennis Marshall
marshall.dennis@adventist.ca

Conferences

Alberta 58208 Highway 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5, phone 403/342-5044

British Columbia Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4P5, phone 604/853-5451

Manitoba/Saskatchewan 1004 Victoria Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

Maritime 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E 1A6, phone 506/857-8722

Newfoundland 1041 Topsail Rd., Mount Pearl, NL A1N 5E9, phone 709/745-4051

Ontario 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8, phone 905/571-1022

Quebec 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4H 3M3, phone 450/651-5222

Canadian University College 5415 College Ave., Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5, phone 403/782-3381

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MOTHERS AND CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP



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Stand Firm



"I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you." — 1 John 2:14 NKJV

It was 1996. My wife, Slavi, and I were working in Paris for the North France Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and our daughter Sonja had just changed schools. However, some problems occurred with the school's administration, and it underwent some changes. The new team insisted that Sonja could no longer be exempt from attending school on Saturdays (school was in session Monday through Saturday); she was now expected to go to school on the Sabbath. However, we decided to continue going to church every Sabbath with our children. Unfortunately, the pressure mounted every day as the staff became increasingly insistent. This led me to request a private meeting with the director of this big public school (of more than 2,000 students) and explain to him the entire story of our attachment to God's day of rest.

At the beginning, the administration repeatedly refused to set up an appointment for me. But after some time, the administration changed their approach, and the director finally accepted my request and set aside one hour to meet with me. He spelled out the issues: If I was not ready to collaborate and to find a constructive outcome, the chief education officer of Paris would dismiss my daughter from the school. And if that were to transpire, the only option I would have then would be to send my child to a private school, which was very difficult to find.

During the discussion, it became evident to me that the director was an incredibly kind man—and very respectful of our beliefs. The only challenge appeared to be the administration of the ministry of education. This is why he offered me two solutions.

The first option was to ask Sonja to come to school every Sabbath—just to show up—her presence confirming that she was respectful of government legislation. The school was prepared to guarantee that she would not be expected to write any tests, answer any questions, or complete any assignments that day. She would be permitted to remain silent all day long if she so chose. As a parent, I was asked to authorize her to attend school on the Sabbath day. My answer was unambiguous: "Sir, if I were to sign for a decision on behalf of any of my members, I would need to change my denominational affiliation. A signature representing the conscience of Adventist members, replacing their own personal decision, or authorizing them to do or not to do something does not exist. Each member is individually responsible. Therefore, ask my daughter. I will fully accept

her choice."

After my daughter declined this option, the school director presented another solution. He presented a two-paragraph document to me. I had to sign the first one, authorizing my daughter to come to school every other Sabbath. The second part of the document was the director's signature, authorizing Sonja to come to church every other Sabbath. According to his words, "This will send a positive message to the ministry of education, confirming that you are not narrow-minded. Just be flexible, and everything will be fine for your daughter."

My answer surprised him a little. I said, "Sir, with your second solution you are once again insisting that I change my denominational affiliation. Imagine, for a moment, that I have encouraged my children to keep, by God's grace, the Ten Commandments in all circumstances. And now you want me to contradict what I told them. It would be like saying the following: 'Sonja, I have told you before never to steal, to always pay for everything that you want buy at the store. But from now on, every other week, you are not obligated to pay for your items. Don't bother standing in line at the checkout. Just put the items in your pocket and run away as fast as you can. The same goes for your exams. I have told you never to cheat. But from now on you can cheat once every two weeks.'"

"No, no, this was not my intention!" protested the school director.

"But this is what your suggestion comes down to," I continued. "We cannot keep the Sabbath holy only every second week. And the commandment of the Sabbath is in the same category as the commandments forbidding to kill, to steal, to lie, or to commit adultery."

God was good to us, and the school administration granted Sonja a free Sabbath for two more years, until our next move.

We live in challenging times. Everything is up to debate. Christian values are confronted and contested in the media on a daily basis. And public opinion fluctuates as never before. But God remains and is always the same. Therefore, continue to be attached to the eternal values of God's kingdom. Enjoy the day of rest. Take care of your health. Keep hope alive. Promote salvation in Jesus Christ. ■

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

teen talk

Q: How do you respect your parents when they behave poorly?

A: The same way you'd respect them if they behaved nicely. You see, when the Bible tells us to honour our parents, it implies that we ought to give them respect not only for merit but also for rank, for the simple fact that they are our parents. It is so important that God included it in the Ten Commandments! Interestingly, it's the only one that has a promise attached to it. Yes, a promise, not a condition—which means that, if your parents misbehave (as in acting remarkably immaturity or against God's principles), you've got to swallow it. But swallow it with class. That means with love, consideration, respect, and much prayer.

A very good example is that of David and Saul. Although they weren't father and son, Saul was David's father-in-law and king. When Saul turned against God and went on to chase David, David had to run for his life. But although a fugitive, he kept respecting Saul. At one point David had an opportunity to kill Saul when the king went to rest in the same cave where David was hiding. David spared his life and even apologized for cutting off a corner of Saul's robe. Now, that is respect!

Paraphrasing Paul, I'd advise you to not let your parents' behaviour put you down, but be an example to them in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, in your faith, and in your purity.



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

creation corner for Kids

*That ye be not slothful, but followers of them
who through faith and patience inherit
the promises.—Hebrews 6:12*



Three-toed Sloth

The three-toed sloth (or more correctly, the three-fingered sloth, since all sloths have three toes) lives in Central and South America. They are perfectly suited for hanging from tree branches and are good swimmers. But when they are on the ground, all they can do is dig their claws into the dirt and drag themselves along because their hind legs are very weak.

Three-toed sloths are not very active, moving only a total of around three hours each day, usually just to scratch or climb. They spend most of the day sleeping—up to 18 hours a day. Because they're so inactive, they don't eat much. Just 200 grams (less than half a pound) of leaves each day is all that's needed to keep three-toed sloths healthy. Sloths are famous for moving slowly. Three-toed sloths are so slow-moving that algae grow on their hair—and beetles, moths, and ticks live in it.

Think about it.

In Jesus' parable, all the bridesmaids were sleeping when the bridegroom came. If you are living a slothful Christian experience—eating very little spiritual food, dragging yourself through the dirt of sin, and sleeping spiritually instead of working for Jesus—you need to wake up! The Bridegroom is coming!

Do it!

Let nothing come before Bible study and prayer each morning. If you need to go to bed earlier in order to get enough sleep and have time to meet with Jesus in the morning, do it. Do whatever it takes to grow your faith and patience so that you may inherit the promises.

Learn more about sloths at
www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com.



Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation.
You can contact her at tammie.burak@gmail.com or follow her blog at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.

Unifying Leadership



Doug Matacio

IN MY FIRST ARTICLE (MARCH 2014 ISSUE) I SUGGESTED CHRISTIAN UNITY MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THE WORLD TO KNOW AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL (John 17:20-23).

Unity is possible despite diversities of spiritual gifts, economic realities, and ethnicities (1 Cor. 12); so, it is *pluriform oneness in Christ through the Holy Spirit*.

In the May issue, Bruce Boyd reminded us that “unity in diversity” was a major theme in the writings of Ellen White, who emphasized attachment to the Vine and agreement on fundamental doctrines. He suggested the church can remain united in Jesus despite a diversity of missionary methods.

HOW CAN LEADERS STRENGTHEN UNITY WITHIN CHRISTIAN GROUPS?

A Christian leader is someone with the God-given capacity and responsibility to influence a person or group to achieve God’s purposes.¹ This means that every Christian at home, at school, in the workplace, and at church is called to be a leader. One of the tasks of leaders is to influence persons and groups toward God’s purpose of unity development.

In 1993 I spent three months in Singapore doing participant observation and interviewing people who worked at the Far Eastern Division, (at that time Seventh-day Adventist headquarters for East Asia), on how to develop unity within a multinational organization. I promised I would not cite anyone by name, so many opened up to me and shared their deepest thoughts and feelings, some even through teary eyes. I compared my findings there with what the Bible says about “unifying leadership.”

I found the need for Spirit-filled leaders to hold commonality and diversity in balance as two aspects of unity. Commonalities such as Christ and His Spirit, the gospel commission, fundamental beliefs, and natural human affinities make it possible for diverse factors (culture, race, gender, job definition, etc.) to harmonize within the whole. Leaders still need to be careful about over-emphasizing uniformity in the unifying process.

Also, my informants and my Bible study agreed on four necessary conditions for the nurture of unity. If leaders can manage and strengthen the following four conditions, unity is likely to follow.

First, *Christian spirituality*: unifying leaders are followers of Jesus; they rely on the Holy Spirit for power to live and lead. Further, they provide spiritual growth opportunities such as joint worships for group members to choose intimacy with God. One informant said, “Our goal is a healthy spirituality” that “enjoys God for who He is” instead of trying to use His power to accomplish our aims. Yet, the Holy Spirit is recognized as the source of unity.

Second, *communication*: unifying leaders encourage open communication between members. As God created the world by speaking, leaders create unity by modeling and encouraging open speaking of the truth in love (Eph. 4:15, 16). One informant remembered a committee meeting where someone blurted out, “You just don’t trust me! You treat me like a three-year-old kid!” Good communication requires trust that flows from perceived love.

Third, *discovering and appreciating each member’s unique qualities*: unifying leaders encourage members to identify and use their natural abilities, acquired skills, and spiritual gifts for the good of the whole (see 1 Cor. 12). The group learns to value the contributions of each member.

Fourth, *defining mission*: unifying leaders uplift Christ and His gospel commission while encouraging group members to participate in the definition of their particular mission. A group that is working together toward the same goal is a united group.

Unifying leadership encourages a growing group unity that is the foundation for mission accomplishment. It provides the essential supporting context for evangelism and church planting. ■

Doug Matacio is a professor of Religious Studies at Canadian University College.

Alumni Awards Handed Out at Homecoming

HOMECOMING WEEKEND AT CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE begins with the Friday evening vespers and awards ceremony, a chance to recognize the accomplishments of our alumni. Pastor Hugh Roach was the weekend guest speaker and also the recipient of the Don F. Neufeld Medallion of Excellence. Pastor Roach, who graduated from CUC in 1959 with BA in theology, was also made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

CUC ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Merlin Nichols, HS '59

PAA ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Ronda (Wombold) Ziakris HS '89; C '93

DON F. NEUFELD MEDALLION OF EXCELLENCE

Hugh Roach, C '59

HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD

Keith Leavitt, staff '86 to present

EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

Edith Fitch, HS '50

Stay in touch with your CUC, Canada’s Seventh-day Adventist university. Visit our website, www.cauc.ca, and click on the President’s Page banner for the latest news about CUC. ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director for Canadian University College



Pastor Hugh Roach, C '59 and weekend guest speaker, is awarded the Don F. Neufeld Medallion of Excellence by Dr. Mark Haynal, CUC president.

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Aimee Perez, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *Pastor Bacchus, you have served the Adventist Church officially as a minister for 44 years. How did it all begin?*

Rick Bacchus: It all began when I was a young lad growing up in church school on the beautiful island of St. Vincent in the Eastern Caribbean. One day in class, my Grade 3 teacher pointed directly at me and said, “You are going to be a minister someday.” I took it seriously. That was the beginning.

M: *Were you born into an Adventist family?*

R: My parents were baptized when I was six years old. On the day of my mother’s baptism, I remember seeing tears on her face and asking her why she was sad. She laughed and said they were tears of joy because she was happy she had found Jesus. It was natural, then, for me to be raised a Seventh-day Adventist. Incidentally, from elementary school through Andrews University Seminary, my formal education was completed entirely within the Adventist system. I have never attended a public institution of learning. It was on the Andrews campus that I met and married my wife, Gerzel, who has been my strongest supporter in ministry.

M: *How did you begin your ministerial journey?*

R: During my last semester in the seminary, I received a call to serve in the South Caribbean Conference. My first assignment

was assistant pastor of the Cleveland Temple in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

M: *When did you come to Canada?*

R: My family and I arrived in Toronto in 1970, and soon after I accepted the position of associate pastor at the West Toronto Church, serving with Pastor Earl J. Parchment. He was an excellent spiritual leader from whom I learned a lot. I enjoyed working with this fine Christian minister.

M: *How have you and your wife served the Adventist church?*

R: We have served in various capacities; Gerzel for 40 years as a church school teacher and I as a pastor, conference, and union departmental director, and conference president.

M: *What was your passion while in ministry?*

R: Evangelism has always been my passion. As a pastor I have personally organized, led out in several outreach programs, and given support to many more. I find great joy and satisfaction in leading a soul to Christ and membership in His church.

M: *In your opinion, which area of church ministry needs the most support?*

R: Our church is losing its youth and young adults, particularly when they reach college age. I can see that the church is trying to keep them, but it is hard to see them leave.

M: *So what have you been doing to keep your Southern Asia youth?*

R: We show them love—much love—encouragement, and affirmation. They are fully engaged and enthusiastically involved in church life. We treat them as family, regard each one as uniquely special, keep the lines of communication open, and give them ownership. They are comfortable in positions of leadership. We pray that God will hold them fast.

M: *What is the most important lesson you have learned in your 40-plus years of ministry?*

R: I have learned that God is at work everywhere and that one should never take God’s church for granted. Serving God’s people is a sacred responsibility that impacts the future of His work and the destiny of souls. I have learned to depend on Him for strength and wisdom to face any situation. I have learned that God’s work is in His hands; to be called to serve is a high and holy privilege.

M: *Where are you now?*

R: We find great joy in spending quality time with our two delightful grandchildren. We are also thrilled to be church planting, devoting our time in building up the first-of-its-kind in Canada: the newly formed Southern Asia Company, in the Brampton area.

*This is the second installment
of a two-part story that began
in the July 2014 Messenger.*

Paying it Forward



CUC's Administration Building entrance and lobby.



Eugene Clarence Glanzer

EUGENE CLARENCE GLANZER was known for “paying it forward,” for showing unexpected kindness to others with no thought of personal gain. He followed this same spirit when he left bequests to Adventist universities he had attended or had simply admired. Canadian University College (CUC) is very grateful to have benefited from Eugene’s generosity.

The Glanzer family name became well known in both Canada and the United States because of Eugene’s older brother, Ben. In his time Ben sang with the Voice of Prophecy’s King’s Heralds. And these brothers are both fondly remembered at CUC for rescuing the nine-foot Chickering grand piano during the 1930 administration building fire. In his later years, Eugene recalled how difficult it was for him, Ben, and Jack Hardy to drag that heavy piano to safety. Because of them, this same saved piano remained on the CUC campus for 78 more years, until 2008.¹

Eugene and his wife, Oleta (Lee), were

caretakers and caregivers in their Takoma Park, Md., neighbourhood. They faithfully helped an aging neighbour so that she could remain in her home; they shared their garden produce all around the neighbourhood; they set great examples in the area of healthful living; they were cat lovers and cat sitters; and when Lee died in 1997 after volunteering for more than 25 years with Meals on Wheels, Eugene stepped in to take her place.

Eugene died on Dec. 27, 2008, just three days before his 96th birthday. The celebration of his life was held in the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he was a member. Tributes by family and friends painted a picture of a dynamic individual who lived to serve. A note in the memorial service bulletin stated, “The flowers are from the Sligo Adventist Church with thanks for his [Eugene’s] service to the congregation.” His service included many years of recording weekly Sligo sermons for broadcast on a local station.

Is it any wonder that someone with a heart this big would make large plans for his legacy gifts? In addition to the CUC and Parkview Adventist Academy scholarships reported in last month’s *Messenger*, Eugene’s gifts helped to enable several urgent campus projects that otherwise would not have been possible. His legacy allowed the exterior renovation of the McKibbin Education Building, the remodelling of the Administration Building entrance and lobby, and a new façade for the aging library building. As with most legacy gifts, Eugene’s donations came at just the right time. Now these facilities stand proudly to be used for many years to come.

Eugene spent a lifetime paying it forward, and with his final planned gifts he did it again! For as Jesus advised, “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:20, NKJV). Could the Saviour have been speaking about a form of paying it forward? ■

¹ Edith Fitch and Denise Dick Herr, *Changing Lives: The Hilltop Story, 1907-2007* (Lacombe, AB: Canadian University College, 2007), 47.

The sewing program was created out of the school's desire to improve the lives of girls now and in the future.

A Better World Canada

Helping Bolivian Girls Make a Better Life



Girls are learning how to sew at the Bolivia Industrial School, thanks to a project sponsored by A Better World Canada



This student attending Bolivia Industrial School is learning how to sew, a trade expected to help her well into her adult life. A Better World Canada is sponsoring the sewing project.

On the Amazon floodplains of northeastern Bolivia lies a high school where girls are learning a new trade. Female students attending Bolivia Industrial School, also known in Spanish as Unidad Educativa Tecnical y Industrial de Richard Gates (UETIRG), can participate in a sewing program sponsored by A Better World Canada.

Five sewing machines were delivered last December to the rural school after A Better World Canada, a volunteer-run organization created and governed by Lacombe's College Heights Adventist Church, raised about \$1,270 for them. Bolivia Industrial School is a Christian boarding school, founded through a non-profit organization known as Gospel Ministries Industrial. It prepares students for gospel service through an education that balances academics with spiritual pursuits and training in practical labour. Students are not charged tuition and only pay a registration fee amounting to about \$17.

Rob Weich, operations manager for A Better World and project co-ordinator for Bolivia, said the sewing program was created out of the school's desire to improve the lives of girls now and into the future.

"They want to teach useful trades to their students," said Weich.

The sewing program has been in the works since last August, he added.

The aim to help female students is an important one. According to CIA World Factbook figures, Bolivia's income inequality is the highest in Latin America and one of the highest in the

world. Public education is also of poor quality, and education opportunities are among the most unevenly distributed in Latin America. Girls and indigenous and rural children are less likely to be literate or to complete primary school.

"The majority of children, especially girls, don't go on to a higher education," said Weich. "So having practical skills will help them in getting a job and pursuing a career, or even when they get married and have a family."

Bolivia Industrial School is found 30 kilometres southeast of Guayaramerin, a community of about 35,000 people. Weich was set to return to the school in late May and be in Bolivia for almost three weeks. He expected to take a four-seater plane into the jungle region where the industrial school is located.

A Better World volunteers would be assessing this school where both male and female students attend. Plans are to hire a sewing teacher and to possibly expand the sewing program. Weich said the girls will make their own school uniforms as well as make items that can be sold to area residents.

"They'll be able to make products that will support the school," he added.

A Better World Canada sees the sewing program as part of a bigger investment in the school, including raising money to build a boys' dormitory and staff housing. ■

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

I was shopping with my wife on Granville Street on a sunny afternoon in Vancouver. Like most men, I suddenly became fatigued from window-shopping and began looking for a place to sit down.

Then I spotted Harold the palm reader sitting outside of the Gap.

"I'm going to sit out here while you shop." My wife quickly ducked inside, glad to have finally gotten rid of me.

Harold the palm reader was sitting on a lawn chair, with a large A-frame sign parked beside him. The sign announced his ability to foretell the future. "Do you mind if I sit down next to you?" I inquired.

"By all means," he gestured to the second lawn chair, reserved for his clients. "Would you like to have a complimentary palm reading?" he asked.

"No thanks, but I do have a couple of questions to ask you." He waved his hand to signify that he was willing to answer.

"How many people come by to get their palm read. This is a busy street corner. Are they willing to do this in the wide open?"

"Absolutely. I've been doing this for 20 years. People are unsure about their future. They are anxious. They are looking for peace," he responded. "I usually charge \$10, but if I see them wearing gold, I charge them \$20," he said, winking at me.

Just then, a woman walked by carrying several shopping bags in her hands. "Would you like a complimentary palm reading?" Harold asked. The smell of alcohol from his breath was rank. His unkempt hair and soiled clothes didn't appear to project an air of confidence or professionalism. I could hardly imagine someone paying for a reading from this man.

"Yes," she said. I really want to have my palms read. I've been wanting to do this for a long time."

I stood up and gave her my seat.

"But I'll have to come back, because I am running late to a hair appointment. I will be back," she promised.

As she turned, I quickly stepped in her way. "Excuse me, can I ask you a quick question? I'm a pastor of a church in Vancouver. If I had a sign that read 'Free Prayer: Confidential and No Obligation,' would you have stopped for prayer?"

"Absolutely," she said with confidence. "I've never had my palms read before, but I have so many questions about my life. I feel like there is something bigger out there, and I am being drawn towards it. I have never been to a church either, but I really want to go. I think I am a spiritual person."

While most people don't consider themselves religious, many of them do believe in a spiritual element. They may not have the right words to describe the empty pit in their stomach that we Christians call the Holy Spirit, but they are searching.

Yesterday I ordered a large A-frame sign. I am planning on setting up my two lawn chairs and offering prayer to anybody who is searching. I'll let you know how it goes. ■

Free Prayer

"Excuse me, can I ask you a quick question?"

I'm a pastor of a church in Vancouver. If I had a sign that read 'Free Prayer: Confidential and No Obligation,' would you have stopped for prayer?"



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.



SOLID GROUND



Words by God —Psalm 25:4, 5, NIV

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."—Psalm 25:4, 5, NIV

This text has been my verse this summer through the challenges and new adventures that have arisen. It reminds me that God is our teacher and He will guide us through the things He has set before us. When my feet seem to land on rocky paths, He reaches out a hand to steady my footsteps. Though sometimes it may seem like a huge leap of faith, He does not hesitate to catch my fall. He is not caught unaware by the circumstances in my life nor is He wondering what to do about it.

One summer I was with some friends, climbing over the large rocks that lined the pier. It was quite steep, and my feet felt as if they would slip. Nothing was particularly steady or reassuring in my steps nor do I remember anyone reaching out a hand to help me. I remember praying and afterwards feeling secure and steady, as if God was holding me up as we maneuvered around the waterfront. God gave me His perfect peace as He guided my footsteps over the rocks.

Whatever you come across, God will guide you on solid ground. His arms are big enough and strong enough to hold you steady. "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand" (Ps. 37:23, 24, NIV). He has given us a true promise that He will never leave or forsake us. God has a plan for your life. And you know what? Nothing is a surprise to our God! He has not only made a way for all His plans to succeed in our lives—God is with you always. In Him we can put our hope because His promises stand firm forever. ■

Be Blessed

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



refresh with Tia



Watch "My Help Comes From the Lord" by The Museum on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/QUeXqH>





review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App:

SDA Sabbath School Quarterly

In Brief:

This app provides the Adult Sabbath School Quarterly for the current quarter and the previous three quarters. When you open the app, it takes you straight to today's lesson, and a simple swipe left or right will take you to the next and previous lessons. Linked Bible verses are opened using Bible Gateway through your browser. While this is not the official Sabbath School Quarterly app and only offers the adult lesson, it is simpler and in some ways easier to use. The iOS version includes the teachers' comments, while the Android version requires a quarterly donation for access to the teachers' comments. One nice feature is that you can set daily study reminders.

Wow Factor:

Easy to use, with daily reminders.

Meh Factor:

Will not work with third-party Bible apps.

Developed for:

Rusek Ministries

Price:

Free/Donation

Works on:

Android, iOS

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



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

prayer life

Prayer is Key (*keys, in this case*)

Only Leo, Susan, the custodian, and God knew the keys were missing.

It was when I went to Alberta and attended my very first prayer conference that God showed me the importance of being specific. Jesus demonstrated this in the story of blind Bartimaeus (see Mark 10:46-52). When we are specific, it is easier for us to recognize His answers and praise Him for what He has done.

One Sabbath during testimony time after communion, my friend Susan shared how God had recently worked in the lives of her and her husband, Leo. Unfortunately, space only allows room for a portion of the story.*

On a Friday morning Leo walked out the door to go to work only to discover that his car was gone. He had recently been blessed with a new job working for the school district and had the keys for all the schools in the glove compartment of his car—which was now stolen. Leo and Susan were more concerned about the missing keys than they were about the car and prayed that somehow the keys would be found.

There was no school that day, so Leo called the

school custodian, explained the situation, and asked him to meet him at the school to let him in for work. As the day went on, Leo and Susan continued to pray that the keys would be found. Only Leo, Susan, the custodian, and God knew the keys were missing.

That morning the custodian went to another high school to attend a first aid course. As he walked past the school superintendent who was also in attendance, he overheard the superintendent tell someone that a lady walking her dog that morning found a large bundle of keys in the ditch. She recognized them as school keys by some markings and brought them to him at the high school.

By noon that same day God had answered their prayers and Leo's keys were back in his possession! ■

Diane McGiverty is Prayer Coordinator for the Maritime Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

*For the rest of the story, see the June issue of the *Maritime Pulse* at www.maritimesda.ca.



Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

Aileen Pornillosa is the newest addition to the SDACC family, where she currently serves in the Retirement department. Too often it may seem that people with a bright smile and sunny disposition have always been that way, but Aileen has faced many hardships and joys in her young life.



AILEEN PORNILLOSA

EDITOR: *Where were you born and raised?*

AILEEN: I was born in the province of Batangas in the Philippines. When I was five we moved to Manila, where I attended school.

EDITOR: *What was it like growing up in the Philippines?*

AILEEN: It was fun! Growing up in the Philippines

surrounded with wonderful people and beautiful places was amazing. For me, it doesn't matter where you grow up—as long as you're with your family and loved ones, you will be happy.

EDITOR: *What did your parents do for a living?*

AILEEN: My father was a police officer, and my mother owned a small restaurant (or *carinderia*) and a beauty salon.

Her businesses were on the first floor of the building, and we lived on the second floor.

EDITOR: Being a police officer in the Philippines must have been dangerous.

AILEEN: It was. In fact, when I was 12 years old, my father was a jailer. A family had forced a prisoner into detention because of his drug addiction. While in my father's custody that prisoner committed suicide. His family, seeing the opportunity for gain, sued the police force (including my father) and manipulated the judicial system.

EDITOR: How did he handle these allegations?

AILEEN: We stood with my father and believed in his innocence. Unfortunately, he was convicted of foul play. He went into hiding for several months, which was difficult for all of us, until he surrendered and was imprisoned. After a few months in prison, he felt excruciating pain in his back. The day after attending my brother's wedding, he became paralyzed and was unable to walk. However, after three years of paralysis, he was able to walk again, by God's grace. He passed away from a heart attack almost 10 years ago. But through it all, I remember his smile. His faith in God grew stronger, and our family made sure that we praised God through the good and bad times.

EDITOR: How did you deal with such a difficult situation at your young age?

AILEEN: I had many health issues, at one time taking as many as 10 medications per day. My doctor attributed it all to the stress in my life. So at first I thought that's what life would be for the rest of my life: full of trials and heartaches. But thank God I was wrong. Those trials build your faith in God. During those times I couldn't find the answers to my questions. *Why is this happening? Why us? Why this?* But I learned that only God could answer them. I just prayed for patience and His wisdom to see the good of the situation.

EDITOR: Did you have a favourite Bible verse or promise that helped sustain you?

AILEEN: During those times, our family's favourite verse was "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isa. 41:10, NIV). I also love Matthew 17:20 and Luke 1:37.

EDITOR: What lessons did you learn from that experience?

AILEEN: God is good. God is loving. He is faithful despite our unfaithfulness. We just need to be patient. He has three answers when we pray: (1) "Yes, you may have it," (2) "No, what you asked is not good for you," and (3) "Wait, because I have something better." He has reasons why things happen in our lives. I learned that God's promises are real. This gives me hope that there will always be a light at the end of the tunnel. I have strength and assurance that the God who delivered Israel is the same God we have today. He is the God of our every story.

Pain in this world can be unbearable. We might have struggles that almost push us to give up, but we shouldn't. God uses pain for us not to love this world. When I cried to God because of what was happening in my life, I realized that if we had a comfortable life on earth we would never aim to be in heaven, but because we are suffering we want to go home. We just need to live every day with Jesus until He comes back to take us home.

EDITOR: How did you come to Canada?

AILEEN: My sister, Arlene, and brother-in-law, Finnie Flores, were kind enough to sponsor my mom and me after my father passed away.

EDITOR: What have you done since arriving in Canada?

AILEEN: I babysat and volunteered at ADRA Canada; then I worked as an application software developer at the Bank of Montreal for almost four years. In November 2013 I started work at ADRA Canada until coming to the SDACC in May 2014 as payroll clerk for the Retirement department.

EDITOR: What is your favourite song and why?

AILEEN: I love music and love to sing, so I have many favourite songs. I have a song for every feeling. However, one that I heard last year, which seems to answer all my questions, is "Blessings" by Laura Story. Our human nature is to ask God why things happen. We doubt His power or think that He doesn't love us, but we're wrong. The trials we face are blessings in disguise. ■

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



barry's blog

"... an alarming and unprecedented action that was based on innuendo and unsupported accusations."

Going nuts in Nanaimo over Chick-fil-A

"This is just nuts, you know; it is just nuts,"

Coun. Jim Kipp said on May 5, 2014, when Nanaimo City Council was confronted with the discovery that the American fast-food chain Chick-fil-A upheld ideologies that the council might find disagreeable. City Council had already signed an agreement to rent out the city's conference centre for a Leadercast event sponsored by Chick-fil-A. But when council realized that Chick-fil-A's CEO, Dan Cathy, openly upholds the traditional definition of marriage, opposes same-sex marriage, and is active in organizations/causes holding to the same ideology, council voted 8–1 to break the rental agreement only four days before the Leadercast event was scheduled to take place.

The motion to cancel the rental was brought to the meeting at the last minute by Councillor Fred Pattje—without any notice to the organizers of the Leadercast event. When others confronted Pattje staging his motion unfairly, namely, without giving the organizers an opportunity to respond, Pattje stated it was "kind of beside the point as far as I am concerned." Further, the council staff did not have sufficient time to research the issue for the councillors' benefit.

Pattje set the context of his motion by describing

Dan Cathy, the CEO of Chick-fil-A, as having a "rich history of homophobia and other divisive practices." Pattje did not describe or outline exactly what that history was or what the practices were. In 2012, Cathy was criticised for his support of traditional marriage. Despite the controversy, even the American Civil Liberties Union supported Cathy's right to speak on public policy and has been very critical of government officials denying the right of Chick-fil-A restaurants to open in new cities.¹ A full airing of the Chick-fil-A controversy and ACLU support of Cathy's right to speak might have doused some water on Pattje's motion. Unfortunately, the Nanaimo City Council was not interested in hearing any contrasting views.

Pattje's statements were challenged only by Coun. Bill McKay, who was the sole vote against the ill-conceived motion. The rest of the councillors chimed in with Pattje. Hence, Kipp's exclamatory statement, "It is just nuts—so I support this." The total disregard for a fair hearing and the self-righteous attitude against Christian views on marriage was palpable. At one point Kipp called Cathy's views on marriage an "almost a criminal point of view in this day and age." In the same breath, Kipp then alluded to the Islamic extremist group

Boko Haram that had kidnapped 270 school girls in Nigeria! How the Nanaimo City Council got from a Leadercast event to describing its Christian sponsors as even remotely similar to the Boko Haram is, well, just nuts.

Troubling Development in Public Debate

The 20-minute debate of the Nanaimo City Council about the Leadercast program to be held at the city's conference centre is an apt example of what is parading as "rational discourse" in the public square on issues involving religious communities that adhere to a traditional definition of marriage. The reality is there is little opportunity for debate. It is now vogue to simply assert a truth about a group's view on marriage without asking probing questions and getting verifiable answers directly from the group. It is a form of horde mentality: someone points the finger, and everyone copies.

Opposition

However, in this case, the council's folly has indeed led to a firestorm of opposition from the Christian community in Nanaimo and across the country. Dr. James Lunney, MP for Nanaimo-Alberni, wrote an open letter on May 21, 2014, to the city council, citing his "profound disappointment and on behalf of concerned citizens who are left feeling confused and disenfranchised by council's support of an alarming and unprecedented action that was based on innuendo and unsupported accusations."² Lunney encouraged council to "publicly express regret for the unfortunate and apparently unforeseen consequences of an ill-considered action with assurances such will not be repeated without a thorough airing of the issue and convincing evidence of ill intent."

Finally, on July 3, after two months of public pressure, the City rescinded its earlier motion to break the rental agreement and apologized. It now falls to the Christian community to do its part in calming the waters—giving the benefit of the doubt to the councillors who made the ill-fated decision. We must recognize that public office is never easy in the best of times. During the July 3 meeting rescinding the motion, Coun. Fred Pattje stated, "As we all know, and very painfully so, that [vote] has been interpreted in a very different manner," he said. "I hope that all of us together can find it in our hearts to

search for solutions that must be found if in the future we find ourselves in a similar situation."³ Well said.

What Can We Learn?

What can we learn from this event? I suggest we consider the following:

- In our current environment, there are public officials who want to be vogue by adopting a "progressive open-minded" stance by denouncing Christian affiliations that support traditional marriage.
- Often these political leaders are ill informed, and their methods of decision making are not only unjust but also illegal.
- Christians in particular, and religious groups in general, would do well to keep public officials accountable for their denial of open and fair public deliberations that take away rights of community organizations and their access to public facilities. At the same time, Christians need to ensure that such officials be given the benefit of the doubt; public officials are not malicious but rather perform their duties in the public interest as they see it at that moment in time. Mistakes are often made and allowances for such failures must be given. We all know that no one is perfect.
- Vigilance pays off. As this story gains attention, public officials across Canada will think twice about accepting unsubstantiated allegations in taking away access to public facilities on the basis of religious belief.

When the dust settles on this "nutty" situation, we can only hope that Christians will not be so maligned by well-meaning but ill-informed public officials who claim to be "progressive and open." Further, it is only as we continue an open dialogue that we can move together. Given the sensitive public apology of the Nanaimo City Council to the public reaction, we can all learn to live together on the same real estate in the spirit of peace and accommodation of all. ■

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

¹ ACLU stated, "[W]e oppose using the power and authority of government to retaliate against those who express messages that are controversial or averse to the views of current office holders." See: www.aclu-il.org/statement-on-chik-fil-a-matter/

² James Lunney letter to Nanaimo City Council, May 21, 2014, online at: www.jameslunneym.ca/english/?p=3136

³ See more at: www.nanaimodailynews.com/news/controversial-city-council-motion-now-rescinded-1.1193521#sthash.gDA3dZy2.dpuf



Mi, Sok, and Yoeurn have a brighter future because of ADRA's SMILE project.



Some of the gourd, morning glory, and winter melon harvested from Sok's garden.

An eggplant a day keeps the doctor away

A young family in Cambodia finds health in a vegetable patch

Sok Soeymao lives in a remote village in the Prear Vihear province of Cambodia. She is 20 years old. Her husband, Mi Somoeurn, is 23 years old, and they have a one-year-old boy named Yoeurn Thou. She has never been more than a few miles from her village.

Life in a typical Cambodian village is very hard. Without some kind of help, Sok would likely lose one or two children to childhood illness. She would never learn about good health practices, nutrition, or clean water. Trapped by illiteracy and ignorance, Sok would continue to live the hand-to-mouth life of rural Cambodian farmers, growing as much rice and cassava as possible for the harvest season but then foraging for food when the harvest is consumed. Drought and flooding could very well destroy her livelihood, forcing her husband to travel to Thailand in search of work. Health issues would likely end her life early.

However, Sok is no longer resigned to

such a fate. She is part of ADRA Canada's SMILE project. This project, which stands for "Securing Mothers' and Infants' Lives with Equity," is a comprehensive health and livelihood project designed to help young mothers and their children. By working closely with local village leaders, ADRA is able to identify needy families like Sok, Mi, and their son, who were happy to join the SMILE project.

Like many rural farmers in Cambodia, Sok never completed her education. She attended school until Grade 4, and her husband attended until Grade 5. Because of her lack of education, she did not know much about caring for her son, who was often sick. Since joining the program, Sok has learned how to make a nutritious vegetable-and-rice porridge. The baby loves this food and has become more active and energetic because of his improved nutrition. Sok has also learned to give him fluids if he gets diarrhea, to help him cool down when he has a high temperature,

and to take him to the doctor when he is sick. Sok now knows that eating fresh vegetables can help keep her family healthy!

The family's health benefits have been tremendous! Now they boil their water before drinking it. They even invested \$5 in a water filter (ADRA paid the other \$7 to purchase the \$12 filter). As a result, her baby boy no longer battles diarrhea, which is often a deadly disease for young children in Cambodia.

Before joining the SMILE project, Sok and her family went through hungry periods in which they had to go to the jungle to forage for leaves to eat. Now Sok and her family no longer go hungry. She still collects fresh bamboo shoots from time to time, but this is for enjoyment and not out of necessity. She has many vegetables to supplement their diet of rice and cassava.

Through the SMILE project, Sok and Mi have learned how to grow new kinds of vegetables in a kitchen garden. They grow morning glory (a delicious leafy green vegetable similar to spinach), pumpkin, eggplant, gourd, and winter melon (a squashlike food). Of course, they still grow rice and cassava. Whatever they don't eat, they sell in the local market. Because of the surplus they were able to produce last year, they earned US\$200.

Sok and her husband are now hopeful for the future. With their newfound health and financial stability, they plan to expand their family: they want to have two more children!

"I want to say 'thank you' to ADRA for coming to our village," says Sok. "I hope this project can continue so that we can learn more about health. Ten of my neighbours have also joined the SMILE project, and we are telling our friends what we've learned!"

Every day ADRA is helping thousands of people in Cambodia (and many other countries around the world). With your support, we are able to help them improve their lives! Thank you so much for making this possible. For more information, please visit www.adra.ca. ■

Ryan Wallace is a communications specialist at ADRA Canada.

One Last Door

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you"—Jer. 31:3, NKJV



IT WAS LATE IN THE EVENING, AND I WAS TIRED AND HUNGRY. Having spent several hours knocking on doors, my partner and I were ready to call it a night. But before heading home, we decided to knock on one last door. A young woman named Linda answered. Her demeanour intimated that she would most likely not be interested in spiritual things. Still, we went through our usual introduction, and to our surprise, she let us in.

Once inside, I explained what we were doing in her community and showed her one of our health books. She liked it very much and, encouraged by her response, I showed her a spiritual book called *God's Answers to Your Questions (Bible Readings for the Home)*. Her face suddenly changed and she angrily told me she did not believe in God and didn't want my "God" book. She muttered something about her dad being killed and couldn't understand why God would allow that—if He existed. Seizing on her muttered words, I took a chance and asked, "If God exists, wouldn't you want to ask Him why He let your father die? As you can see from the title of the book, it might really answer your question!" But she refused.

We kept talking and after some time, she decided to buy the book on health. She went to get some money, and when she returned, my partner asked her if she really would not prefer the *God's Answers* book. Her face showed the struggle that was going on inside, but she firmly declined.

We talked with her for quite a while after that, but as night drew on, we decided it was time to go. I felt impressed to pray with Linda. I could sense that she was so empty and needed the comfort and blessing of God, so I said, "I know you don't believe in God, but

do you mind if I pray for you?" She smirked and told me that I could do whatever I wanted. So I prayed for her health, her needs, and her future. It was a simple prayer, but I meant every word of it.

When I finished praying and looked up, I saw she had tears in her eyes. She was silent, and in that silence, we picked up our bags and prepared to leave. Suddenly, she stopped us, looked at me, and said, "Jon, I think I'm going to take the God book. I'm ready to give God a second chance."

The night we met Linda, my partner and I were tired, hungry, and ready to go home. But God impressed us to knock on one last door. I'm so grateful to Him that we did. I'm also grateful to Him for showing us that sometimes the window of understanding into another soul is opened not so much by what is said, but by what is muttered, or even left unsaid. We must therefore listen carefully, observe attentively, and seize on the opportunities presented.

Linda's life was empty, and she tried to drown her pain with smoking, drinking, and immoral living. But the emptiness remained because it was a void only God could fill. There are many Lindas out there, Lindas whose lives have been darkened and whose faith in God has been shattered but who, if approached, may give Him a second chance. We can go. We can reach. But we can do this only if we surrender our lives to Jesus and make ourselves available to be used by Him. ■

Jonathan Zita is the director of Lifestyle Canada Education Service



Almost Vegan

I grabbed my jar of honey, got down on my hands and knees, and twisted, twisted, twisted with all my might. Clearly, my might was not very mighty, because the jar remained stubbornly shut. Spread all around me were the ingredients I would need to make delicious sweet bread. Would a cantankerous jar of honey keep me from my tasty goal? No way! I grabbed the jar and ran outside into the frigid night air, searching for someone, anyone, to help me open my jar. Then I spotted him: a lone police officer sitting in an idling police car. Slowly, cautiously, I approached the officer. "Excuse me sir," I said, "will you please help me open my jar of honey?" He looked at me, as if I had lost my mind. Still, he took my jar, popped it open, and handed it back to me. Delighted, I skipped off to continue my happy task, knowing it had all been worth it. Sweet bread. It's *that* good. ■

Afia Donkor is a lawyer in Ontario, Canada.

SWEET BREAD*

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- 3 tablespoons soy flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons instant yeast
- ½ teaspoon soy lecithin granules (optional)
- 1 1/3 cups water
- 1/3 cup honey
- 3 tablespoons oil

HONEY GLAZE

- 1 teaspoon soy milk powder
- 2 teaspoons water
- 2 teaspoons honey

INSTRUCTIONS

- Combine dry ingredients, including yeast, in a large bowl.
- In a smaller bowl, combine water, honey, and oil.
- Pour wet ingredients into dry and knead 15 minutes by hand or two minutes in a food processor using a dough blade (you may need to process the dough in batches depending on the size of your food processor).
- Place dough in a large, lightly oiled bowl, wrap with plastic wrap, and let rise for 1 hour, 15 minutes.
- When it's done rising, divide dough into 16 equal pieces and shape into balls. Lightly oil a medium-sized loaf pan, and arrange balls in two layers of eight, slightly offset from each other (as shown in picture) so they are not directly across from each other. This helps to ensure the dough balls stick together better. Let dough balls rise for 30 minutes.
- In the meantime, prepare honey glaze by mixing glaze ingredients together until smooth.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly brush surface of dough balls with glaze and bake for 30 minutes or until loaf is golden brown. Remove from oven, brush surface of loaf with remaining glaze, allow loaf to cool completely, and enjoy!



The SAFETY Officer



HAVE YOU BEEN ELECTED CHURCH SAFETY OFFICER?

Does your church elect this position? If not, please consider the benefits of having someone dedicated to safety.

First of all, you need to know that you are not alone. Protecting people and property requires a team effort on the part of church pastors, elders, and deacons; Sabbath school and activity leaders; the safety committee; the church board; and all members. Good communication and interaction between you and these individuals is crucial.

An important part of the safety officer's role is to identify and correct hazardous conditions before accidents happen. At least once a year, with assistance from the safety committee, you should perform a walk-through inspection of the church.

Because hazards can spring up rapidly, more frequent surveys are recommended, and all staff, elders, deacons, and volunteers should be vigilant and report or correct them when observed.

Following are some of the issues you will want to consider:

- slips, trips, and falls
- security
- emergency plans and preparedness
- activities
- transportation

When accidents occur at the church, the church safety officer, along with the safety committee, will conduct an investigation. Investigations help to identify the causes and what actions might help prevent similar accidents from occurring again.

You have a big responsibility and an excellent opportunity to promote safety throughout the church. It is an important role, and your efforts are appreciated.

To learn more, please visit www.adventistrisk.org. You will find resources for safety officers in the "Prevention" section of our website. ■

David Fournier is manager of marketing and communication at Adventist Risk Management.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky AT THE PETERBOROUGH
CHURCH IN ONTARIO.

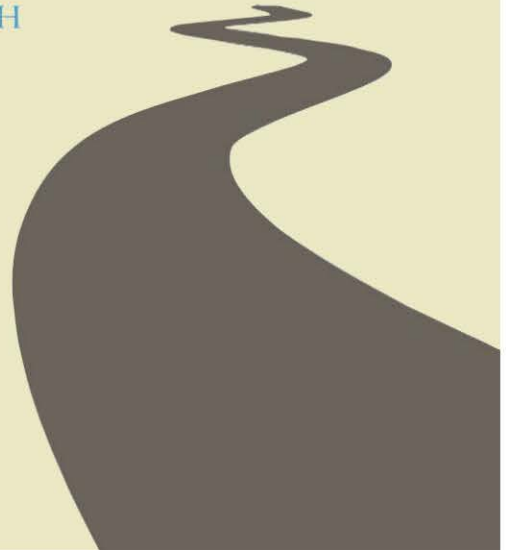
*Your best friend loves to sing but can't stay in tune.
She wonders why no one asks her to do special music.
What do you tell her?*

Bex Williams: I believe that friends should be honest with each other. However, we should be cognizant of one's feeling. With that said, I will tell her that we all have been blessed with various talents and gifts. I will also say that although she loves to sing, I believe that group singing is better suited for her voice and strengths.

Valerie Fudge: I would tell her she can't stay in tune but that God gives everyone special gifts.

Lea-Anne Smith: Can I give you lessons? We can work on a song together.

Quayse Hurlington: I would tell her that all it means is that she needs a little bit more practice and then offer to go practise with her.



cover story

Adventist Heal

Our goal



th Care in Canada

is to foster an Adventist culture of caring
within a Christian atmosphere.

John is a happy and pleasant man in his 90s. His playful character and uplifting nature are a pleasure to the staff and residents of Park Manor Personal Care Home in Winnipeg, Man. But John is not a resident. He is a volunteer who lives next door and visits the home five days a week, giving his time to encourage all with whom he comes in contact. People like John are one of many blessings the care home community experiences. Family members, volunteers, and, of course, staff members all engage in this vital ministry of caring that Christ modelled.

After only a week in care at Rest Haven Lodge in Sidney, B.C., the family of a new resident remarked that they had their mother back. They further explained that while she was in acute care awaiting placement, their mother had lost interest in living. "But since she has come to live here, she is herself again. Thank you for your care," they expressed. We often talk about sharing what God has done for us, but as the saying goes, actions speak louder than words. The love, respect, and dignity residents of our Adventist care homes receive each day is a witness of God's love.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been actively serving seniors across Canada through the establishment of long-term care homes, beginning some 50 years ago. These Adventist health care organizations confidently serve their respective communities by offering warmth, compassion, quality nursing, and personal care for their residents. Every day our staff and volunteers meet the needs of our aging seniors, which includes round-the-clock professional nursing care delivered in a way that promotes dignity and respect.

The Canadian Adventist Long Term Care Association (CALTCA) has been around in one form or another for at least 40 years and currently comprises seven care homes across the country. Many church members do know about our care homes, having heard about them at conference sessions or other local meetings, or through the experience of supporting a family

member who was cared for as a resident. Also, many of our members have dedicated their lives to this ministry, and so we acknowledge and thank each of you for your past or current service.

Nevertheless, as a church we tend to neglect including our care homes when planning local ministry outreach or considering the mission of the church. Generally, our focus is on local churches and church schools with their many programs. And even when we look beyond our local ministries, we typically think about supporting our colleges, universities, hospitals, and many other valuable ministries or institutions around the world. As a result, we may forget about the work that dedicated staff perform on a daily basis at our long-term care homes in our own communities, and are unaware of the opportunities to become involved in this caring ministry.

Each care home has deep roots within our local Adventist history and reflects our collective desire to serve in our communities. But you may be wondering, *If the Adventist Church was very involved in building these homes, are they still involved and how are they funded?* Well, the answer to that has changed over the years, but today funding comes from two main sources: our respective provincial governments through a local Health Region, and from resident fees. These revenues go to cover the cost of staffing the various departments, including administration, employee benefits, general operating expenses, and capital improvements; yet it is an ongoing challenge to make ends meet in today's environment. We also appreciate the support of our church members and people from the communities around us to both maintain and enhance our facilities; to ensure they are safe and pleasant for our residents and their families. The Adventist Church does not provide any direct funding, but each facility's governance is connected to a local conference, with local Adventist members serving on our boards and at corporation meetings.

Something that our church members, especially young people who are considering their future career path, may be interested to know is that Adventist nursing homes are managed and staffed by Adventist business and health care professionals. Each of our sites hires competent caring Adventists to work in all areas: from nursing to dietary, housekeeping to maintenance, and especially for management positions. We need people who are willing to build positive relationships in our communities beyond church walls and who can expect to enjoy a fulfilling career of service.

What about ministry? Our Adventist nursing homes serve people of all faiths and cultures. These are people who are going through challenging transitions in life because of age or any number of disabilities and who need support from caring hearts and helping hands. Every day we are able to share the love of Christ. Most of our residents and staff are not Adventist. Still, it is always our goal to foster an Adventist culture of caring within a Christian atmosphere.

CALTCA members typically meet every fall near the location of one of those homes, and meetings are dedicated to sharing ideas, challenging, and supporting each other. Our most recent CALTCA meeting was held in October 2013 in Hamilton, hosted by Heritage Green. It was a wonderful few days for sharing and reconnecting, with SDACC president, Mark Johnson, joining us for worship along with SDACC legal counsel, Grace Mackintosh. Our next meeting is scheduled for September in Toronto, and we plan to continue meeting regularly in the future as we look to increase capacity and awareness of our ministry across Canada.

Thank you for your support, and please look in the pages of the *Messenger* for upcoming articles from each care home as we highlight our collective ministry; then stop in and check us out—we are always looking for volunteers! ■

Collin Akre is Executive Director of Park Manor Personal Care Home.

YOU MAY WONDER, WHO, THEN, MAKES UP CALTCA?

Here a brief introduction of
our members, from east to west:

VALLEYVIEW RESIDENCE, TORONTO, ONT. (174 RESIDENTS):
WWW.VVRES.ORG / WWW.ADVENTHEALTH.ORG



The newest CALTCA home, Valleyview, opened in December 2004 and is located on the same campus as the former Branson Hospital, the Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Crawford Adventist Academy. We can be thankful for the pioneering spirit of Anthony Kaytor, who was instrumental in building the Branson Hospital, which really was the beginning of Adventist health care in Canada. Valleyview operates under the Advent Health Care Corporation, which is developing plans for other buildings on this site in the future. Administrator Mike Savatovich has provided leadership since 2006.

HERITAGE GREEN NURSING HOME, UPPER STONEY CREEK, ONT. (167 RESIDENTS): WWW.HGSENIORCARE.COM



Established in 1983, Heritage Green is located in the greater Hamilton area. The campus includes 110 independent living seniors' apartments, 21 assisted living suites, and the Heritage Green Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was the vision and leadership of Pastor Eric Juriansz and members of the Hamilton Mountain Adventist Church that resulted in this important ministry for the community. Rosemary Okimi has been administrator since 1997 but was involved with the facility since its earliest beginnings.

PARK MANOR PERSONAL CARE HOME, WINNIPEG, MAN. (100 RESIDENTS): WWW.PARKMANOR.CA

Park Manor opened in 1967 with strong support from the community and has a long history of serving the Transcona community on the eastern edge of Winnipeg. Everyone enjoys the family atmosphere, as many of the staff and residents have lived in Transcona all their lives. In 1986 a 60-suite independent seniors' building was opened, creating



opportunities for spouses to live next door to Park Manor. Currently Park Manor is working alongside the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority to expand our site with a new 120-bed care home on our adjacent vacant property. Collin Akre joined Park Manor as executive director in 2012.

WEST PARK MANOR PERSONAL CARE HOME, WINNIPEG, MAN. (150 RESIDENTS)



The vision of West Park Manor leadership and the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference came to life when West Park Manor opened in 1973 in the community of Charleswood on the western side of Winnipeg. Ed Gallant was the primary motivator in its construction and served as the first administrator. A sizable plot of land was acquired, some of which was later was made available to the West Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. The site features a fenced courtyard for various summer activities and is located in a "green space" community, with numerous walking trails and wildlife, and is close to the city zoo. Ruben Wollman was appointed as executive director in 2011 after having served as assistant executive director for over 20 years.

SUNNYSIDE ADVENTIST CARE CENTRE, SASKATOON, SASK. (97 RESIDENTS): WWW.SUNNYSIDECARE.CA



Sunnyside is one of the oldest Adventist nursing homes in Canada, again with start-up leadership from Anthony Kaytor, who as then conference president and was instrumental in the planning and construction. Sunnyside opened its doors in 1964 with space for 68 residents. Since 2003, the capacity has been 97. Overlooking the South Saskatchewan River, it features an expansive courtyard and has undergone many improvements over the years. It is located near the Saskatoon Seventh-day Adventist Christian School. Randy Kurtz has provided leadership as administrator since 2008.

SHERWOOD CARE, SHERWOOD PARK, ALTA. (100 RESIDENTS): WWW.SHERWOODCARE.COM

Sherwood Park Nursing Home opened in 1969 with 100 residents,



later expanding in 1998 to provide more private rooms. Since then there have been many improvements in order to provide a pleasant and caring environment for its residents. Located near Edmonton in the heart of Sherwood Park next to beautiful Boardmoor Lake and its walking trails, the site has numerous award-winning garden areas and outdoor living spaces and includes the Sherwood Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. Now known as Sherwood Care, Gerald Northam has served as executive director since 2005.

REST HAVEN LODGE, SIDNEY, B.C. (73 RESIDENTS): WWW.RESTHAVENLODGE.CA



Rest Haven Lodge opened in 1982, located near the centre of Sidney and not far from the Rest Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church. The history of Rest Haven goes back much further, to when it was operated as Rest Haven Hospital on a small nearby island, serving the community from 1921 through 1978. It was then a place for healing and the promotion of our health principles. The current facility located right in Sidney is a comfortable residence featuring great landscaping and many recent improvements. Gary Zachary provides leadership as the current executive director since 2008.

Purpose-Driven Life



Ashley Arriola

Ashley Arriola was first introduced to Kingsway College by family friends who invited her to Preview Weekend in 2007. She enjoyed her time on campus and chose to attend for the remainder of her high school career, graduating with the class of 2009. Fast-forward three years. Kingsway had a job opening posted in the church bulletin, and after prompting from church friends and family, Ashley applied for the position. She had planned to attend Trent University for Psychology, but God had a different plan.

Ashley has been an integral part of the Enrolment and Development Team since 2012. She believes that Christian education focuses on the development of the social, physical, intellectual, and, most importantly, spiritual aspects of an individual. For most of her life, she had attended both public and Catholic schools, and coming to an Adventist high school allowed her to develop her relationship with Christ. As a staff member, Ashley appreciates the time and effort her teachers at Kingsway College put into teaching and guiding her with her studies.

“Christian education prepares individuals to serve the world with whatever talents God has blessed them with, whether it is to help with feeding the needy, leading in church services, singing in a choir, or being a prayer warrior. Christian education shapes individuals into the people God intended them to be. Anyone can make a difference, but youth are at a stage in their lives when they are ready to take on new opportunities because it’s the peak of their most adventurous years. I believe the youth are the main instrument in showing others who God is through their actions and words. Simply by being themselves, honouring Christ in all that they do, and having the motivation to do what they do for God.”

“Each day is a memorable experience at Kingsway because each day is unpredictable.” Ashley gets many student visitors in her office. Students will come to just talk, sit, or say hi. “I admit, we have work to do, but students need us, and we’re here because they are here.” As her job requires her to stay in the office the majority of time, having an open door gives Ashley the chance to get to know the students on a personal level. Having the opportunity to be a listening ear for the students and being able to pray with them fills her heart with joy. She says, “I feel as though my purpose has been fulfilled. I’ve become a part of a teen’s growth and development to help them reach their potential.”

When Ashley began working at Kingsway, she wasn’t sure whether she could handle the demands of the job. Within a couple of weeks, God spoke to her one evening and reminded her that her work is a ministry and that the work He has given her is His; therefore, all she needed to do was trust Him. Ashley’s favorite text can be found in Psalm 37:4: “Delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” This text gives her peace in knowing that God is with her and the yearning of her heart is known by Him. ■

Christina Lister is development coordinator at Kingsway College.

Pathfinders Shine at North American Division Event

Three Canadian teams win first place and one second place.



Canadian participants of the 2014 Pathfinder Bible Experience

Hundreds of Pathfinders from across North America and the United Kingdom beamed with joy and excitement as they took part in the third annual North American Division (NAD) Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) championship, held on April 12, 2014, at the Takoma Academy gym, Takoma, Md. Among them were four Canadian teams that brought home first- and second-place awards: Berea Beacons (Ont.), first place; Durham Trailblazers (Ont.), first place, Mt. Zion Filipino Maharlika (Ont.), second place; and Salem Aigle (Que.), first place.

PBE was launched in 2012 by NAD for the purpose of challenging Pathfinders to go deeper into the study of God's Word. Every year Pathfinders commit themselves to studying and memorizing verses and chapters of the designated Bible book. For 2014 the book was 2 Samuel.

As each team, composed of six members, earns first-place standing, the team advances from the district to the conference level, then to the union level, and finally to the division level.

In 2012 there were 34 teams that made it to the division level. In 2013 there were 39. And this year, 2014, an unprecedented 88 teams (including from the United Kingdom) advanced to the NAD championships. Remarkably, out of the 88 teams, 70 achieved first-place ranking, 16 got second place, and two got third place. "This is significant," states Elder James Black, NAD youth director, "because this says it (PBE) is more than a game, but a commitment." In addition, Elder Black shares the story of Trisha from Las Vegas, who decided to be baptized because she fell in love with Jesus during the course of studying the Bible through PBE. Nelson, a young Pathfinder from Minnesota, though in grief, has found courage to join PBE because his grandmother, prior to her passing, had expressed her wish that

nothing should hinder Nelson from attending PBE—not even her death or burial. Such demonstration of commitment to God's Word was lauded that inspired more than 2,000 people in attendance.

Speaking of the benefit of PBE, Ariel Brown of Berea Beacons says, "Pathfinder Bible Experience was enjoyable, and by studying God's Word,

my personal relationship with Him grew stronger." Teammate Josiah St. Aubyn shares the same sentiment and adds, "It made me develop better study habits and it impacted my life very positively."

"Studying the Bible has definitely changed my daily life.

Instead of reading worldly books, I read 2 Samuel and learned many lessons," declares Amayah Shaw of the Durham Trailblazers. Team captain Kimberly Junsay says, "When I joined PBE, I felt like I could be myself and use my brain not for marks or grades, but for God." Her teammate Anna Flores states, "I learned about teamwork, responsibility, determination, and, most of all, God's Holy Word, the Bible." She continues by saying, "Pathfinder Bible Experience is something that all Pathfinders should have a chance to do." Tyler Ninalga, team captain of Mt. Zion Filipino Maharlika, describes his experience as fun and exciting: "It has been a great feeling that our team received second place, but the best experience of all is that I got to learn more about God and to have my life completely changed."

Participating conferences this year include Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. All conferences in Canada that have Pathfinder clubs are encouraged to participate next year. The book to study for 2015 is Matthew (NKJV), including the book's introduction found in the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary. The 2015 PBE schedule for the various level events is as follows:

February 7—Area/District
March 7—Conference
March 21—Union (SDACC)
April 17, 18—NAD (Dallas, TX)

Edwin Martin is Pathfinder director for the Ontario Conference and SDACC representative of the NAD Pathfinder Committee



Josh and James Southcott

Parkview Profiles

"Rather than fitting into a smaller group that's part of a larger group, you are the larger group."

Proverbs 18 describes "a friend who sticks closer than a brother," but one would be hard-pressed to find brothers closer than James and Josh Southcott. Born and raised in an Adventist home, the Southcott twins have experienced much of what the church offers to young people. From Manitoba-Saskatchewan and Alberta campmeetings to Pathfinders, vespers, and the occasional youth rally, Josh and James exemplify the difference we find in Christian environments and friendships.

In the halls of Parkview Adventist Academy, the Southcotts are synonymous with fun. The 17-year-old boys and their older brother, who graduated from PAA in 2013, are well known for their sense of humour, their quirky expressions, and their strong sense of family. Diane Southcott, mother of the three boys, shared at PAA graduation that putting her children into a Christian school is placing them right where they need to be to prepare for their future.

In 2007, the Southcott family relocated from Regina, Sask., to Lacombe, Alta., in order to provide the boys with an Adventist education. Beginning with Grade 4 at College Heights Christian School, Josh and James have made lifelong friends. According to James, "It's smaller here, and everyone has close relationships." Josh especially enjoys PAA now because "you get to meet people and make friends from everywhere."

These friendships really came into play during the 2012/2013 school year when James became sick. As the more outgoing twin, Josh excused his brother's absence with jokes about whether he was really ill or not in the first few days. The symptoms of staph infection, which occurred in James' leg, were not immediately recognizable, and by the time he was diagnosed, it was a serious case.

James missed a considerable amount of school, and Josh could no longer laugh it off. The students at PAA rallied around the brothers, sending many good wishes to James and supporting Josh through prayer. "We prayed together, like, 4,000 times a day," Josh exaggerates, "but it was all good. The teachers and students in every class cared so much."

The nicest thing people did for him, says James, was "come to visit me and make fluorescent cards so bright I couldn't look at them."

Three surgeries and many prayers later, James was deemed well enough to return to school and finish Grade 10. Where the support of friends had been so vital in his recovery, James's teachers invested extra time and assistance to aid his return to normal life.

"They really helped me catch up on the essential things," James says, "and I even made the honour roll!"

Now James can be seen in the hallways laughing with friends as Josh rides a rolling office chair. Together, they make people smile and contribute to the caring community at PAA.

As they get ready for Grade 12, Josh and James are looking forward to PAA traditions like Senior Survival (a weekend retreat for the graduating class), Class Challenge, and the educational tour to Europe. They take the same schedule of classes because, as James says, "It's easier for our mom to keep track of us."

Their time at PAA has been filled with character-building experiences, "such as Math class with Mr. Spentz," says Josh. James appreciates the worships offered by PAA staff and both boys liked the hands-on learning of Bio 20. They hang out in the dorm with the friends they've made and open up their home for students to visit, too.

For these boys, PAA is a place where they can be themselves within an accepting group of peers pursuing God together. James says, "Usually, it's weird for me to just go up and talk to somebody," but at PAA, "there are a lot more people with the same beliefs as you. Rather than fitting into a smaller group that's part of a larger group, you are the larger group." This group of students, teachers, and parents who support Adventist education on a large scale are also there to support individuals through everyday struggles, and that's the difference of Christian education: teachers and students who love God also learn to love and care for one another. ■

Katelyn Ruiz is the communications assistant at Parkview Adventist Academy.

MYTHBUSTERS

The truth about online education

"You teach classes online?

Wow, that must be a great job!

You don't even have to change out of your pyjamas to work!"



This seems to be a common misconception among individuals unfamiliar with online school.

If you had asked me three years ago what online school looked like, I probably would have been just as confused. I remember when I first started teaching at Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool (PACeS); I had no idea what to expect. The truth is there are many misconceptions associated with online schooling. Let's consider some of these common myths and highlight the benefits of attending a school like PACeS.

MYTH 1

Online students get to do school in their pyjamas.

While this may happen periodically when a student accidentally sleeps in, at PACeS we have an expectation of professionalism. That means we all get ready to go to school in the morning by dressing appropriately and preparing our work areas before logging in. Our online classes utilize webcams, which allow teachers and students to see one another, and just like any other school, showing up in your pyjamas can be a bit awkward.

That doesn't mean we can't have fun, though. "One day that stands out the most is when my teacher sounded like a chipmunk because of technical difficulties, and she sang the song

'Christmas, Don't Be Late' by Alvin and the Chipmunks," said one junior high student.

Throughout the year, many of the teachers provide activities such as theme days, which can be quite entertaining. One of my favourites was backwards day, which asked students to come to class wearing hoodies and pants backwards and even doing their hair backwards.

MYTH 2

Online school is too isolating.

Gone are the days when doing school online meant reading books, completing assignments, and mailing them in for grading. The theme in my junior high class this year has been "building community," and this is a concept that all PACeS teachers are very intentional about providing for our students. Being a student at PACeS doesn't mean you get to passively watch other students and their teacher in a classroom somewhere.

"One thing I like about my teacher is how she takes the time to be with each of her students personally, like how she took the time with each of us who were behind in our homework to come up with a work plan to get caught up," states another student.

Students are active participants in a myriad of ways that include discussions, activities, and projects done during class.

Also, because we are a Google Apps for Education school, our students are provided with many opportunities for group collaboration.

MYTH 3

There is no real difference between Adventist and public online school.

This couldn't be farther from the truth. Aside from the Bible curriculum we are able to provide, teachers and students at PACeS regularly pray together, participate in service projects and mission trips, and enjoy a Week of Prayer program twice each school year. When asked what his favourite memory of the year was, a Grade 8 student responded: "Last August, on my birthday, I got baptized. My teacher drove all the way from where she was visiting her family to my baptism at the Red Deer River. I think it just made it more special because she took the time to drive all the way to see me get baptized."

Flexible schedules and personalized programs are often listed as the benefits of online school; at PACeS we offer these and so much more. One of my Grade 8 students said it best: "I really just enjoy spending time together as a class. Talking, laughing, and smiling together." ■

Danielle Rochford teaches Grades 7 to 9 with PACeS.

My 25 Years in Canada

A Testimony of God's Faithfulness



September 3, 1989, will forever be etched in my memory. It was the day my parents, two siblings, and I arrived in Canada. I felt as if I had reached heaven! I am forever grateful to God and, next, to my sister Grace and brother-in-law, Sahn, who sponsored us. After recovering from jetlag and sightseeing, I decided that it was time to job hunt. Several odd jobs later, I landed a job as an insurance claims adjudicator. This was a great blessing, as it financed my college education.

I had always dreamed of becoming a medical doctor. Having no one to support my education, I decided on the shortest schooling that would land me a well-paying job and enable me to pursue further education. I chose a diploma in computer studies. Having to work 20 hours a week while studying full-time, I used my time efficiently and my meagre earnings wisely. In 1994 I obtained my diploma with only a \$250 loan debt. A few months later, God provided a business analyst job.

To further my education, I studied through distance learning while working full-time, still hoping to enter medical school. However, “while many are the plans in a person’s heart, ... it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails (Prov. 19:21, NIV).”

In 1995, I went back to the Philippines to meet a lovely lady, Arlene Pornillosa, with whom I had been corresponding, and a year later we were married. After our honeymoon, we settled in Ottawa, our home for the next 10 years and the birthplace of our two daughters, Malissa and Anna.

In 2006, the year I finished my graduate degree, we said goodbye to our church family and friends and moved to Oshawa. Again we experienced God’s intervention, as we had two months to sell our house but it wasn’t until three days before we were to take possession of our new house that our previous one was sold. This experience reminded us to trust God’s perfect timing and that God always comes through.

Life in Canada has not always been easy, but we have seen God’s helping hand to carry us through. For example, one difficult period was when my father-in-law, who was in the Philippines, fell ill, became bed-ridden for four years, and eventually died. This experience was difficult for us emotionally and financially, but we pulled through by His grace.

Before immigrating I was told that it is easy to get caught up in the pursuit of riches in Canada and lose interest in spiritual matters. I thank God that He has kept our faith and commitment to the church strong. We have also been committed to returning a double tithe—10 percent as tithe and 10 percent for offering/charity—from our one-income household. This has enabled us to support various ministries and to help needy friends and relatives. I can testify that we can never out-give God! His promises in Proverbs 3:9, 10 and Malachi 3:10 are true.

My advice to new immigrants is to make God your partner, embrace Canada as your home, be a lifelong learner, and integrate yourself into Canadian society. This has been my approach, and my testimony is that God is faithful! He has abundantly blessed my family and has used us to bless others. I’m confident that He who began a good work will continue it until the day when Jesus comes again (Phil. 1:6). ■

Finnie Flores is an elder at the College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oshawa, Ont. He is married to Arlene, a stay-at-home mom. They have two teenaged daughters whom they homeschooled in elementary.

A New Adventist Asks

My husband and I are recent converts, and my children, aged 10 and 12, do not want to come to church with us. There are only a few children at church, and they usually want to play with their friends instead. Please give me some ideas.

I understand your challenge and am so glad to see your desire to maintain the unity of your family and to encourage your children to form an attachment to God.

In the context of the great controversy, nothing is easy. Our enemy is ready to use all circumstances in order to separate us and the members of our families from the love of God. However, there are some essential things we can do, and we know that despite all efforts of Satan, God will prevail.

DON'T FORCE YOUR CHILDREN INTO RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

God created us to have free will. The absence of freedom is incompatible with the notion of true love. Many passages in the Bible present God as someone who highly respects His creatures' decisions. For example, in the book of Revelation Jesus is standing at the door and knocking. He says, "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door ..." (3:20). If Jesus cherishes the freedom of His children, we should do the same.

Religious values cannot be promoted through discipline or blackmailing. The love of God is powerful enough to touch the heart and to transform the life of each and every one. Therefore, don't impose church on your children. Follow the advice of Proverbs 22:7: Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." The original word for "train up," *chanak*, is more accurately translated "create the desire." The root of this word comes from the custom established with small babies in Semitic countries where young mothers placed date juice on the gums and palates of newborn children in order

to activate their desire for food and to prepare them to suck mother's milk.¹

It should be the same with our children. We need to find ways to make their connection with God meaningful and their church attendance a blessing. May your daily worship service be used as an opportunity to show the immensity of God's love and to help them to see the church as being part of His plan for human happiness.

SHARE YOUR PROBLEM WITH YOUR PASTOR

Everybody knows how deeply Jesus loved children. They had a special place in His heart. However, sometimes church leaders, just as did the apostles in the time of Jesus, forget this reality. Ellen G. White wrote about this question extensively. Quoting a text written for the Christmas season in 1889: "Those who love God should feel deeply interested in the children and youth. ... By his Holy Spirit, Jesus is drawing the hearts of the children to Himself, while Satan is working to keep them away from him. ... Then how important it is that the children come to Jesus in their earliest years and become lambs of His flock! How important it is that the older members of the church, by precept and example, lead them to Jesus."²

As you can see, this problem is beyond your capacities. You have to do your part. At the same time, you need inspired church leaders to be on your side and to help you in your search for the right solution. Every local church should have the right vision of reaching children and youth for Jesus. When children spend time together in meaningful activities at the feet of Jesus, they will start to appreciate one another,

and this will be the beginning of an unforgettable lifelong relationship.

CONNECT WITH OTHER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF THE CHURCH

Following the example of Jesus and the inspired texts of Ellen G. White, just do everything possible to mingle with the youth of your church. Invite them to birthday parties; think about their important life events (graduation, exams, achievements, birthdays, etc.); connect with their parents and simply share God's love. But always be positive. Everybody understands the language of a smile. Very soon you will see that the children of the church love you. Thus, you will become a factor of unity and a blessing for the entire church family. And in a united church children have always a place of choice.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Nothing can be done without God's intervention. He knows how to act in every circumstance. He will calm your fears and stimulate your thoughts. He will open the right doors and prevent the mistakes. You can trust Him because He has loved your children "with an everlasting love." (Jer. 31:3). Only God can show you the path to the heart of your children. Only His grace will make the difference in your church. So pray, act, and praise the Lord for the wonderful things that He is doing for you and your church family. ■

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

¹ Theodor H. Gaster, *Customs and Folkways of Jewish Life* (New York: William Sloane Associates Publishers, 1955), p. 14.

² *The Review and Herald*, December 17, 1889, art. B.

EXPLORE EXPERIENCE ENGAGE



ADRA
CONNECTIONS
CANADA



Haiti

December 26, 2014 - January 9, 2015

In Haiti school children are being kidnapped. To help protect them, ADRA is constructing a wall around a school in the town of Petit Goave. Spend the new year with us as we travel to Haiti to assist in the construction of the wall around the local school.

Mongolia

May 11-27, 2015

In Mongolia healthy food is too expensive for most people. ADRA is showing families how to grow their own food so they can have a healthy diet all year long. Help Mongolian families prepare for the growing season by helping set up greenhouses, or planting vegetables.



Cambodia

October 2015

Many Cambodians suffer from malnutrition and preventable illnesses. ADRA is improving the quality of life in many villages by promoting good nutrition and hygiene. Travel to Cambodia to construct hand washing stations, latrines, and learning centres in a remote village.

**To get more information, and
to sign up email us at
connections@adra.ca**

20 Robert St W
Newcastle, ON L1B 1C6
888-274-2372
www.adra.ca/connections



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Alberta

Marching to Take a Stand Against Drugs



Drugs and alcohol are a major challenge in the town of Lac La Biche. "Eighty percent of the calls that come into victim services are drug- and alcohol-related, we are really glad Pastor Toby is putting on this annual anti-drug march," said Melody Littell of Lac La Biche Victim Services.

The morning started off with Pathfinders and members from Cold Lake, Bonnyville, Fort McMurray, Edmonton Maranatha, Lac La Biche, and Smoky Lake churches rallying together in front of Portage College. After several pictures together, Constable Chris Clarke, of the local RCMP detachment, led the charge with his vehicle. Pathfinders followed in full Class A uniform carrying a sign written with bold red letters, "SAY NO TO DRUGS."

Cheri Notice led in singing songs such as "We Are Soldiers" and "Marching to Zion." As we marched, many of the community members honked their horns in solidarity. Passersby walking the streets smiled and gave thumbs-up,

saying, "Good job; we need this in our community." Although the one-hour march drew to an end, the singing and praising did not. Joyous melodies echoed through the town, leaving a fresh presence of Christ's footprints.

After returning from the march, we had a scrumptious potluck and then gathered in the auditorium for a service. During the service Littell spoke of some of her experiences with drugs and alcohol in the community as she responded to calls. She further expressed the importance of events such as this one in bringing the issue of drugs to the forefront. Constable Clarke spoke briefly about the challenges of drugs in the community, but his speech was cut short because he was called out to an emergency.

Pastor Toby Wong of the Boyle, Lac La Biche, and Smoky Lake churches, spoke candidly about his intention to make a difference in his community of Lac La Biche. Wong exclaimed, "Healthy families equal healthy communities. If

we can share the transforming power of Christ with each family in this community, we will see an everlasting change never seen before!"

At the end of the service, I had special prayer for Pastor Wong and his community partners, praying that God would continue to reach his community and use him to bring revival and reformation. It was amazing to see a pastor so passionate about not only his church but also his community.

As we marched through the streets of Lac La Biche that day, I realized that if Christ were here today, even though it was His custom to attend synagogue service, He probably would have been in His community standing and speaking out about social injustice. That day we truly sensed that we were marching and speaking out to make a difference in a community for which Christ died. ■

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

Learning to Respond to Disaster and Providing Spiritual Care in Times of Crisis

Under the North American Division (NAD) Adventist Community Services (ACS) Department, there are six components: Elder Care, Mentor and Tutoring, Youth Empowered to Serve, Community Development, Disaster Response, and Crisis Care.

The Alberta Conference has chosen to focus on two specific areas, Disaster Response (DR) and Crisis Care. DR training entails learning how to attend to local or global emergencies efficiently and effectively. Those who choose to go through the three to four days of DR training receive information on emergency preparation, leadership, warehouse management, donations operations, and forklift training.

Crisis Care training is an essential form of training originating from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF). It involves Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), which is essentially how to best facilitate healing and counselling through grief or severe trauma. CISM provides leadership, education, training, consultation, and

support. Those who choose to take the first level of training learn techniques that help the individual to navigate stressful situations through debriefing methods.

While hosted by the Calgary Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, the weekend was tightly packed with powerhouse presenters such as Sean Robinson, NAD ACS Disaster Response director; Dr. Martin Feldbush, Crisis Care coordinator/Western US; and Joe and Sherry Watts, National ACS DR coordinators.

Each morning Robinson brought powerful and passionate devotional messages that challenged participants to be active in their communities for Christ. With his soothing British accent he shared candidly, "It's a privilege to come here to Canada and share with the members of Alberta. God is calling us to do more and be more for him ... essentially [to be] a bright light for Christ in our communities."

Following the devotionals, the amazing husband-and-wife team of Joe and Sherry Watts presented an introduction to disaster response. During that time,

keen listeners learned how to prepare for disasters lasting up to 72 hours. There was a tabletop exercise with miniature-sized trucks, pallets, and clothing drop box containers. As I sauntered downstairs I heard joyous laughter and discovered Dr. Feldbush, a retired chaplain who now devotes his time to teaching crisis care intervention. To lighten the mood from the seriousness of trauma and crisis he would show hilariously funny video clips and then smoothly transition back to the subject matter.

At the end of the four exhausting but informative days, we came together for a group photo and prayer. In light of our catastrophic floods in Southern Alberta last summer, we felt good knowing that over 50 of our members are fully trained and equipped in disaster response and crisis care for future disasters. At the end of the day, we may not know what the future holds but we do know who holds our future! ■

—Lyle Notice,
Associate Youth Director,
Alberta Conference

British Columbia

Multicultural Sabbath



On the Sabbath of June 28, Oakridge Adventist Church (OAC) celebrated its annual Multicultural Sabbath, followed by a cultural banquet of foods from around the world.

This year was particularly special, as OAC was honoured with a letter of recommendation from The Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Multiculturalism, Social Development, and Employment. The letter, along with a certificate of congratulations, was presented to senior pastor Kumar Dixit during the service

Kumar Dixit receives a certificate of congratulations from The Hon. Jason Kenney presented by MP Chung Sun Leung.

by MP Chung Sun Leung, parliamentary secretary of Multiculturalism.

The letter commended OAC for its contribution to the promotion of multiculturalism and its commitment to social harmony amongst the diverse cultures of Vancouver.

"We were delighted and honoured to receive the recommendation as a church! Just to be recognized for something we often take for granted, such as our diversity, really was something amazing!" said Dixit, who along with other ministry leaders intends to

continue to celebrate multiculturalism at OAC long into the future! ■

—*Leela Landers, Marketing, PR and Community Engagement Coordinator, Oakridge Adventist Church*

Kelowna's SonValley Fellowship Hosts Father/Daughter Spring Banquet and Mom/Son Adventure Night!



On Sunday, March 9, 2014, SonValley Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship hosted a banquet for the community of Kelowna, B.C. With the desire to uplift the role of parents in the community and honour special relationships within each family, SonValley leadership hosted the Father/Daughter Banquet with much excitement and passion. The team effort included Bray Rogers of Plaid Academy organizing his "Grub Club" youth for the catering, as well as Orchard City Adventist church member Glenda Quiring setting up her professional photo centre to capture special moments for dads and their special daughters. SonValley member Jill Stickle organized the decorations and the "salon" for event.

As the fathers arrived with their

daughters, each little girl was treated to a fresh hairdo and some colourfully painted nails. Okanagan Adventist Academy (OKAA) high school girls volunteered at the little salon and were supervised by teacher Sara Sutherland. "The girls were so cute," says Sutherland.

Games, food, and memories were made as proud fathers and glowing daughters enjoyed a special night with one another—just dad and his little girl.

June 8, 2014, SonValley member William McRorie arranged to host the Moms/Sons Adventure Night at (OKAA). The special relationship between a boy and his adoring mom was uplifted that night in a special way. A spirited game of soccer began the evening, with moms versus sons (guess who won!). Castle building

competitions were next with a break for moms and sons to work together in the kitchen making fun smoothies! Again, Glenda Quiring from the Orchard City church was in attendance offering professional photos for that special mom and son memory. Moms went home with flowers, smiles, and a little boy feeling extra special.

The gift of parenting is such an important role. However, parents and the family in general are under attack. By supporting the role of parents as they raise their children, a strong attachment deepens within the family. What a fun time! More events are being planned for the future. ■

—*Kevin Littlechilds, teacher, Okanagan Adventist Academy*

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Commissioning Service

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference had the privilege and honour of commissioning four people this year. The first commissioning service took place at the Hill Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church in Regina, Sask., for Andrew

Savenye, who is currently serving as the principal of Curtis-Horne Christian School. Andrew is recognized for his commitment to his students and those who work with him. He also holds strong family values and enjoys time with his wife and two

children and was commissioned into the ministry of teaching on June 7, 2014.

The service for the three remaining candidates took place at Camp Whitesand during campmeeting on July 12, 2014. Karen Landry was commissioned into

the ministry of teaching for the caring and loving commitment to the many students she has taught over the years. Karen teaches at Rosthern Christian School and has been able to see the school grow from six students in 2010 to 12 last year. Students regularly comment on how they enjoy learning new hymns for worship, playing hand bells, and learning about Jesus each day.

Richard Williams and Shad Lehmann were also commissioned into their administrative roles at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference office. Richard is currently serving as the youth director,

which involves work with the youth camp, Pathfinders, and other youth ministries throughout the conference. He is also involved in work with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) and the North American Division (NAD). Richard has been committed to youth work during much of his career and deeply desires that youth work around the world continue to grow and reach our young people.

Shad Lehmann is the conference Education and Communication director. Before taking this administrative role, Shad worked as a teacher and principal

in various Adventist schools in Western Canada. Shad has shown a strong commitment to the work of Adventist education and truly realizes the importance and significance that it plays in the mission of the church.

Each candidate who was commissioned felt truly honoured to be able to serve the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and moreover to be called by God to labour for Him and to feel the peace that comes with knowing that they are doing the Lord's work. ■

A New Beginning for Park Manor Care



Park Manor Personal Care Home has been serving the community of Winnipeg for some 47 years. We are a 100-bed facility, with a 60 suite seniors' residence that was built in 1985 adjacent to the personal care home. In the past 10 years, plans were created based on a vision to expand our site with additional beds and other services. Last summer we submitted a proposal to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority to build a new personal care home adjacent to Park Manor and East Park Lodge.

The Board and Administration of Park Manor is pleased to share that on Monday, June 2, 2014, Manitoba Health Minister Erin Selby announced in our own courtyard that a modern new facility will be developed by Park Manor Personal

Care Home, Inc. The new facility will have at least 100 new beds and will be built next to East Park Lodge. The three facilities will be connected by a new concourse and will provide a continuum of care options for seniors in the area. In response, our board chair Ron Nelson noted, "Park Manor has been a central part of community life in Transcona for 47 years, and we are thankful to all our staff, our residents and their families, volunteers, and local leaders who have supported our vision for a campus of care. Transcona is a rapidly growing community, and Park Manor is excited about this expansion on our site, especially with the addition of private rooms that will allow us to serve residents with a variety of needs for many years to come."

This is, of course, a major project with significant investment by the Manitoba government. Park Manor will fundraise and contribute up to \$7 million as part of our community contribution. Design work is underway, and construction is expected to begin next summer, with the new facility opening about two years later, in 2017.

We at Park Manor are very excited about this development and look forward to serving our community in an expanded role on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ■

— Collin Akre, Executive Director, Park Manor Personal Care Home

Ontario

Scarborough Church Perform Their First Fire Drill

It is always best to be prepared in any alarming emergency. We as a church organization tend to forget that even in the safest place, church, critical situations can absolutely arise.

On the Sabbath of June 21, 2014, Scarborough church had its first official fire drill. It was conducted in an orderly and efficient manner. Scarborough church was prepared by posted exit signs and their very own team of fire Marshalls that ensured the evacuation transitioned smoothly to the designated 100-metred safety zones.

The congregation was co-operative and calm to exit and returned to the building promptly when the “clear” signal was given.

Approximately 200 to 300 people were participants of Scarborough church’s first experience of a fire drill,



a training to also encourage, equip, and prepare its sister churches to practice for any unforeseen situations. ■

—Julieann Bullock, Communications Team,
Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Church

SDA Church in Canada



Lloyd Leon Reile

Lloyd Leon Reile was born on June 12, 1915, in Harvey, N.D., and went to sleep trusting in Jesus on May 15, 2014, in Poway, Calif. He attended Canadian Junior College and Walla Walla College, graduating on the morning of June 6, 1937, and marrying Elsie Viola Roth in the afternoon. Lloyd began his ministerial work in Alberta as a pastor and evangelist and also served as the director of Lay Activities, Youth, and Education in Alberta. While in Alberta he conducted the first Junior Camp at Gull Lake in 1941. He worked in several departments at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference. At Christmas time in 1943, Reile and his wife went to work as missionaries, with Reile serving as a departmental director for five years

in the Venezuela Conference.

From there he went to the headquarters of the Antillean Union as a departmental secretary, followed by service in the Inter-American division in a number of capacities and, finally, as president of the Central American Union. They ended their mission service in 1964. Upon his return he was president of the Greater New York Conference for nine years and then president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada for eight years, retiring in 1982, following 44 years of service. His wife of over 71 years passed away on April 26, 2008. He is survived by two daughters, Carol (Bruce) Power and Loella (Lee) Johnson, and six grandchildren. ■

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of June 30, 2014, there were 442 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,075,971. There were 79 loans with a value of \$20,790,215.

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



VOAR—Bringing Comfort and Hope

James, a man tuning in from Nova Scotia after the loss of his wife, found comfort in Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR). The words he heard on VOAR intrigued him, and the songs touched the emptiness in his heart. He called the station to introduce himself and tell us his story. Although we are separated by an ocean, he is now part of our listening family. We never get tired of hearing from listeners telling us how their Christian walk has been enhanced by VOAR's music and teaching programs. Christian radio has a way of bringing people together in daily worship of our God.

During his many telephone calls to VOAR, James spoke about one day taking a trip to Newfoundland to visit VOAR. Since he was in his late 70s at the time, I really didn't think he was serious.



James visits VOAR to visit the people behind the mics.

But he was. James was all smiles one sunny, summer afternoon when he and his sisters knocked on VOAR's door. He spent some time looking around the studios, checking out all the equipment, and telling stories about his wife, his love for God, and life back in Nova Scotia. His sister said, "It was a dream of his to

visit VOAR and to meet the people behind the mics."

It was so wonderful to meet the man whom we spoke with so often and to hear his stories in person. Since James's visit to VOAR, he has become a monthly donor. He still calls the request show regularly and still sends Bible verses of encouragement. He tells us whenever he meets a new person, the first thing he tells them about is VOAR.

We are so thankful for each listener, whether they are in Eastern Canada, Western Canada, Germany, Brazil, or China. We praise God for our listening family and for each opportunity of a changed life in Christ. If you would like to share how you have been blessed by the ministry of VOAR, please call toll-free at 1/888-740-8627, or email voar@voar.org. ■




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■ Announcements

PROCESS:

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

■ Announcements

Okanagan Adventist Academy (OKA/OKAA) will be celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2017. We want you to be part of it if you ever attended OKA/OKAA. Please send your name and contact information to okaaalumni@shaw.ca, or mail to Alumni c/o OKAA, 1035 Hollywood Rd., Kelowna, B.C. V1X 4N3. Please share this with classmates as well.

The Campbell River church is looking for the following missing members: Tearra Avis, Jeanne Metsellar, Roberta Rydeen. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Shirley McKeever at 250/830-0020 or mckeevershirley@hotmail.com.

The Edmonton Central church is looking for the following missing members: Yvonne Brown, Juanita Castro, Happiness Chilma, Greg Cyr, Kathy Davis, Gerry Durrand, Kerry Ken Ferguson, Resmi Fethu, Tina Guthrie, Anna Halupa, Rose Hatherly, Nisha Hewlett, Bernard Hilgardne, Wendy Inalenteng, Madeline Kramps, Kora LeClerc, Ingrid Leon, Girlie Lubo, Micheline

R. McLeod. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Debbie Tirayoh at 780/420-0215 or office@ecsdac.org.

■ New Members

ALBERTA

Marc Dorcéus was baptized in Lacombe, Alta., on May 10, 2014, by Ron Henderson. He is now a member of the Mirror church.

■ Births

Jane Adesina was born on May 16, 2014, to Joel and Ayo Adesina of Portage la Prairie, Sask. She is a sweet sister to Fisayomi and Joseph.

■ Birthdays

Helen (née Tataryn) Kapiniak celebrated her 90th birthday on May 6, 2014, in Kelowna, B.C., with



friends, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as 12 of her 14 siblings and their families with a special potluck dinner at the Rutland Adventist Church fellowship hall. A special surprise guest was Helen's bridesmaid and best friend, Stella Bechthold, of White Rock, B.C. Dinner was followed by a short program of music and memories. Helen has five children, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Helen and her husband, Joe (deceased in 2006), lived in the Rutland area since 1946.

■ Obituaries

Alexander Aab was born on Dec. 28, 1919, in Earl Grey, Sask., and died March 15, 2014, in Riverside, Calif. Alexander graduated from Canadian Union College and Walla Walla College. He worked as dietitian at Paradise Valley Hospital, Glendale Adventist Hospital,

Branson Hospital, and Loma Linda Foods. He retired from denominational service in 1982 after 35 years of employment. Alexander is predeceased by his parents, Alexander and Katharina (née Keil) Aab, and brothers Richard, John, Hebert, and Wilhelm. Surviving: wife, Elizabeth Ramsey; sons, Derek (Lori) and Allan (Arlene); daughters, Lynne Aab Ekelof and Gayle (Dennis) Aab-Grose; brothers Frederick (Marilyn) and Reuben (Lorraine); stepbrother, Clarence (Helen); sisters, Esther (Leo) Aab-Gabrys, Lillie (Emmanuel) Aab-Heckenlaible, and Bernice Aab; 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Ted Andrews was born Sept. 8, 1916, and died on May 2, 2014. He dedicated his life to preaching the gospel as a lay preacher and later as a pastor in Alberta and British Columbia. The church was his life and passion. He was a dedicated Bible scholar and to the very end looked for opportunities to discuss the gospel with those he met. Ted was predeceased by parents, Thomas and Mary (née Murphy); first wife, Esther (née Diminyatz); sister, Winnie Ritchey; brothers, Percy and Dick; half-brothers, Tom and George; daughter Lorraine Gerber; stepgrandson, Warren Matthews; and stepdaughter Judith Matthews. Surviving: wife, Patricia; daughters Sherril (Fred) Palaniuk and Shirley (Robert) Smith; stepson, Gary Thorne; stepdaughter Jill Rhynard; four grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, and five step-great-grandchildren.

Betty (née Hawley) Haughland was born March 4, 1927, in Hamilton, Ont., and died Jan. 24, 2014, in Toronto, Ont. Betty was an active member of the Hamilton Mountain church and served as long-time church treasurer, children's Sabbath school teacher, choir member, deaconess, and Dorcas Society volunteer. Betty was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and had a warm smile and caring heart. She is predeceased by her husband, Ansgar Haughland. Surviving: daughters, Patricia (Brian) Fenton, of Thornhill, Ont., and Penny (Daryl) Dooks, of Richmond Hill, Ont.; and four grandchildren.

Vicki (née Tkachuk) Hillary was born March 15, 1933, in Beauvallon, Alta., and died on March 17, 2014, in Kelowna, B.C. Vicki was very dedicated to the Winfield church and will be greatly missed by her church family and all who knew her. Vicki is predeceased by parents; brother, Nick; sisters, Jessie, Ann, and Lucy. Surviving: husband, Derek, and sister, Esther.

Idella (née Werner) Paul was born Nov. 11, 1930, in Fox Valley, Sask., and died April 21, 2014, in Lacombe, Alta. Idella is lovingly remembered as a caregiver who shared her home with three siblings, a niece, and numerous young men who worked on their farm. She loved to garden and was an excellent seamstress. She experienced many losses but continued to hold on to her faith. She loved unconditionally, and that is how her children remember her. Idella is predeceased by her husband, George; parents, William and Rosie Werner; brothers Elmer and Oscar; half-brother Ralph; and sisters Ruby and Jannette. Surviving: son, Darrell Paul, of Airdrie, Alta., daughter, Sherron Paul, of Lacombe, Alta.; brothers, Lyle, of Portland, Ore., Ronald, of Caddo, Okla., and Forrie, of Ponoka, Alta.; half-brothers Archie, of Lacombe, Alta., and Clemens, of Morningside, Alta.; sisters, Luella Kenney, of Clovis, Calif., and Fern Kijewski, of Red Deer, Alta.; and half-sisters, Judy Gore, of San Diego, Calif., and Grace Allemand, of Rimby, Alta.

Steve Skopyk was born Jan. 27, 1918, in Orlow, Sask., and died April 13, 2014 in Saskatoon, Sask. Steve was a member of Pinehouse church, where he served as elder, deacon, and contributed to many other church functions. Steve loved his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and awaits His return. Steve is predeceased by his wife, Ann; parents, Roman and Helen; brothers, Bill, Paul, and Eugene; and sisters, Mary Kuney and Kay Russell. Surviving: son, Ron (Loretta), of Radisson, Sask.; sister Pauline Cochrane, of Toronto, Ont.; and one grandchild.

Jean Taylor was born July 30, 1933, in Regina, Sask., and died April 16, 2014, in Stoney Creek, Ont. Jean was a faithful attendee of Sabbath school and church. She played the piano for Sabbath school and always helped with Vacation Bible School. Jean is survived by her husband, Ross Taylor; stepmother, Lois Kaytor; son, Barry (Judy), of Bozeman, Mont.; daughter, Sherry (Glen) Grill, of Oshawa, Ont.; and four grandchildren.

Goldie (née Sayler) Triebwasser was born April 25, 1926, in Fox Valley, Sask., and died April 24, 2014, in Lacombe, Alta. Goldie is predeceased by brothers Walter and Vernon, sisters Viola Winkler and Gladys Leiske, and grandson Paul Anthony. Surviving: husband, Raymond, of Lacombe, Alta.; son, Wayne (Karen), of Medicine Hat, Alta.; daughter, Charlene (Richard) Fortsch, of Anahim Lake, B.C.; brothers, Leo (Bernice) and Les (Esther); sisters, Abbie Schmidt

and Delores Tkachuk; and two grandchildren.

Alex Tym was born Aug. 30, 1923, in Naughton Glen, Alta., and died Jan. 31, 2014, in Lacombe, Alta. Alex, a lifetime farmer, took time for others, supported countless community and church events, including CUC and ADRA, and was a sociable, positive, and loving person. He loved his Lord, was dedicated to his family, and was always willing to help those in need. Alex is predeceased by his parents, Steven and Pearl; brothers, Sam (Annie), Peter (Doris), and Mike; sisters, Mary (James) Letniak, Sophie (Steve) Norhton, and Esther (Edwin) Tym. Surviving: wife, Elizabeth; son, Dale (Valetta), of Alex, Alta.; daughter, Donna (Barry) Randolph, of Stony Plain, Alta.; brother Bill (Betty), of Turlock, Calif.; sisters, Lila (Bill) Letniak, of Consort, Alta., Ruth (George) Phillips, of Seattle, Wash., and Josephine (Loyl) Marian, of Sherwood Park, Alta.; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

■ Advertisements

Plumber/Gasfitter: Canadian University College invites applications for a missionary-minded, full-time, journeyman plumber/gasfitter who will be responsible for installation, maintenance, and repairs associated with campus HVAC systems, pool

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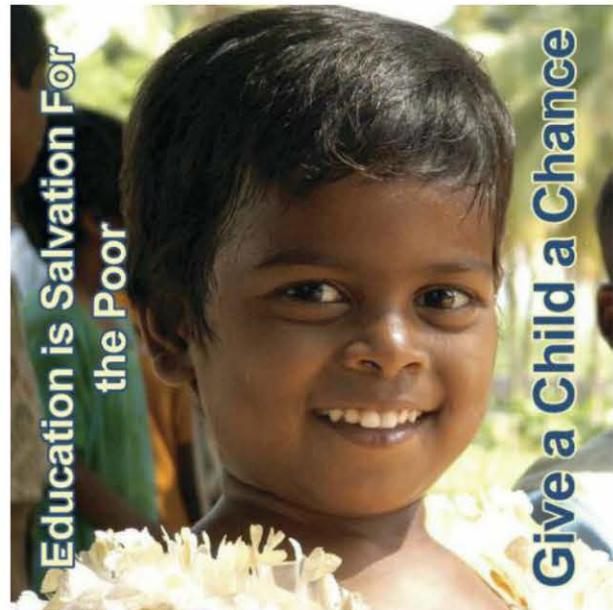
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Job posting for president.

Atlantic Union College is seeking candidates for the position of president. The detailed posting is available on the college's website, www.auc.edu. Send nominations and resumes to the email address of the administrative secretary for Dr. Donald King, chairman of the Search Committee, at pwilmott@atlanticunion.org. (8/14)

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. All messages about your items will be answered. (8/14)

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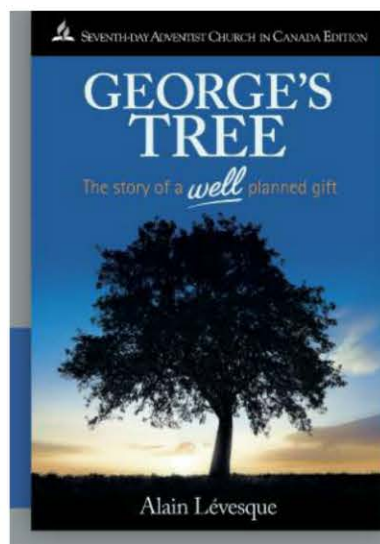
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LET'S MOVE! DAY

Sunday, September 21, 2014

HELP US REACH OUR 2 MILLION MILE GOAL!

Register at www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org

Whether you host a 5K run/walk, join a community event, or organize other activities, consider how your team can involve as many people as possible in physical activity. Invite your community to join your church, school, or hospital as we move together and promote a healthier lifestyle.

Find resources and information at www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org



Let's Move Day is an event of Adventists InStep for Life. It is sponsored by the North American Division Health Ministries Department in partnership with Adventist Community Services, Children's, Disabilities, Education, Family, Women's, Youth, and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, and the Ministerial Department.





from the editor

It Only Makes Sense

I spent my early years in a small and isolated village in rural Alberta. There were nine houses plus an additional home for our courageous teacher, who taught Grades 1 through 9 in a one-room schoolhouse. While I have lost track of all but one of those families, warm memories of the Hamlet of Windfall still live on in my mind.

I remember our family jumping into our shiny, new, white '59 Buick and heading out on a gravel road to drive for what seemed like forever. Three hours later we would arrive in Edmonton to get a month's worth of groceries. There my mother would seek out needed ingredients for her recipes. Already when I was a six-year-old child, she exposed me to foods from India, Jamaica, China, Russia, Mexico, Philippines, and a host of other far-away countries that, up until then, I had only known of from my stamp collection.

I remember my mother telling my sisters and me that although the people we meet may be different, they can add a unique quality to our lives. Later on in life I was able to meet people from those countries, and it made it easier to befriend them.

Unfortunately, I often see churches whose members do not reflect the diversity of the community they are supposed to reach. It turns out that if we do not take the gospel to every kindred, nation, and tongue in our villages and cities, we are not fulfilling the gospel commission given to us by God. Embrace diversity; make friends with those who differ from you. Give special attention to new immigrants who have left behind family and friends as they seek opportunities and blessings in a new country. They are among the best tools to spread the three angels' message.

What my mother said was true. People different from me have added more to my life than those similar to me. You, too, may find your quality (and taste) of life has improved and you learn more about the world around you when you expand your horizons.

It only makes sense. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stan'.

Stan Jensen, editor,
Canadian Adventist Messenger

THIS MONTH THOUSANDS OF PATHFINDERS from around the globe will be converging on Oshkosh, Wis., for the Forever Faithful camporee. In honour of this event, we look back to the Discover the Power camporee, which took place 15 years ago in 1999.

We were in the middle of the storm, we were in our tent praying, and I felt my angel right beside me." Travis Pittman, from the Tierrasanta Pathfinder Club in San Diego, Calif., related his experience during the Thursday night thunderstorm at the Discover the Power International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Aug. 10 to 14.

Other campers discovered the protecting power of the Lord during the storm as well, and while people, tents, and sleeping bags got wet, no one was injured by the brief but intense storm.

Ron Whitehead, camp director, recalled how the severe Wisconsin thunderstorm seemed to be bearing down on the campground. There was almost constant lightning, and thunder rumbled in the distance. Miraculously, the most severe part of the storm with damaging winds and large hail went 20 miles to the north, and the camporee only got brushed by the southern edge of that storm. "It was only God answering the prayers of the campers and others that saved what could have been a tragic situation," Whitehead said. "I believe that the storm obeyed the command of God to slide to the north and not hit us head on."

Many young people remember witnessing God's power as the worst of a major storm passed to the north of the campground, sparing injuries and damage.



Project Word:Pathfinders collected 33,000 Bibles for shipment to Belize and Guyana, packing them by means of this special exhibit.



Project Air Power: A mission plane was rebuilt by Pathfinders and Adventist World Aviation for use in Guyana and was dedicated at the camporee.

Two Alberta Pathfinders, Michael Matiko, from the Wetaskiwin Peace Hills Club, and Wayne Rachul, from the Red Deer River Pathfinder Club, participated in the pinewood car derby during camporee. Each boy received a car kit, designed, built, and then raced their car. Wayne placed first for the Canadian Union and second overall for the world. Michael placed second for the Canadian Union. Albertans should be very proud of their Pathfinders!

Carol Morton
Pathfinder Coordinator

Thank you so much for your support of the Bible project at the camporee. Just to give you a quick update of what happened at the camporee, let me say that we collected 31,898 Bibles and shipped 18,205 to Belize, along with 20,000 *Steps to Christ*; and 11,483 to Guyana, along with 30,000 *Steps to Christ*. We also shipped more than 700 Bibles to Kenya.

We also gave away 10,764 copies of *Where's the Fire*, and we have received a number of responses. I thought you might enjoy this response; it might encourage some of your kids to read the book:

"Hello, my name is _____, and I am from Boise. I went to an international Pathfinder camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. They were giving away these books free, and I would like to tell you it was awesome! I was way low with God until I read this book. It has brought me up with Him. I would like to help send a Bible to a child. I don't have a whole lot of money, but I want to help someone else like they helped me. Thank you so much!"

It is our prayer that it will help others to find the way to a wonderful relationship with Jesus.

Sylvia Kalua
Project Coordinator

The Pathfinder Camporee has been a great deal of fun and excitement. There are 1,500 acres of land here covered with people from all over the world. It also includes the EAA Museum, which stands for Experimental Aircraft Aviation. There are four hangars on site. They contain booths to earn badges, for buying things, and advertising. We have enjoyed playing on air-filled jungle gyms, trading pins with other Pathfinders, and buying souvenirs for our families to see. We also have enjoyed the programs every night. They do lots of singing and skits, and we have a lot of good speakers. We have really enjoyed our four-day stay at Oshkosh and hope to return to the next one, if Jesus has not returned by then.

Heather Welch and Kalee Cherepuschak
Sylvan Lake Pioneer Pathfinder Club, Alberta

Remember when mission work was the most important thing we did as a church?

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- Online at <https://giving.AdventistMission.org>
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Photo courtesy of the Office of Missionary Services