



canadian adventist

Messenger

november 2014

In the Wake of the Storm

Typhoon Haiyan
and the people who
were touched by love

PLUS Cultivating Unity (p. 8)
Change or Die (p. 13)
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“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

—Isaiah 53:5, KJV



Needed: Salvation

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people” (Heb. 2:17, NEB).

Among the great stories of the Bible, those involving sacrifice and the sanctuary should especially catch our attention. Faith and salvation are deeply rooted in the problem of sin. We think at times that we are facing challenges, but it is hard to comprehend what God faced when sin corrupted the universe.

Sin is a killer. Far more contagious and certainly more deadly than Ebola, sin had the potential to wipe out the universe. The Bible stands as the incredible narrative of that threat and how God responds in crisis. Throughout its pages appear words such as sacrifice, lamb, priest, atonement, and sanctuary. All these words are necessary in order to comprehend the enormity of sin and to grasp the astonishing solution, the death of God as a substitute for you and me. As Scripture puts it, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself” (2 Cor. 5:19, KJV).

It is through the powerful imagery of the sanctuary, the priest, and the sacrifice that God so clearly teaches us how devastating sin is. Constantly surrounded by sin, we have become insensitive to its ugliness and danger. In the sanctuary and its service, God shakes us up and reminds us that we’re dead without His intervention. We need a high priest. We need a Savior.

During recent travel, I met a young man who told me a great deal about himself. It was a fascinating story. Somewhere in the conversation he learned that I was a Christian minister. Our talk turned to some of the great religions of the world: Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity. He was attracted to the Buddhist religion because its emphasis on peace appealed to him.

Later, as I thought of that conversation, I reflected on the reason that I’m a Christian. Sin is real. Salvation is necessary as a result of sin. Christianity alone provides the narrative of sin and its solution: Jesus, both lamb and priest for us. ■

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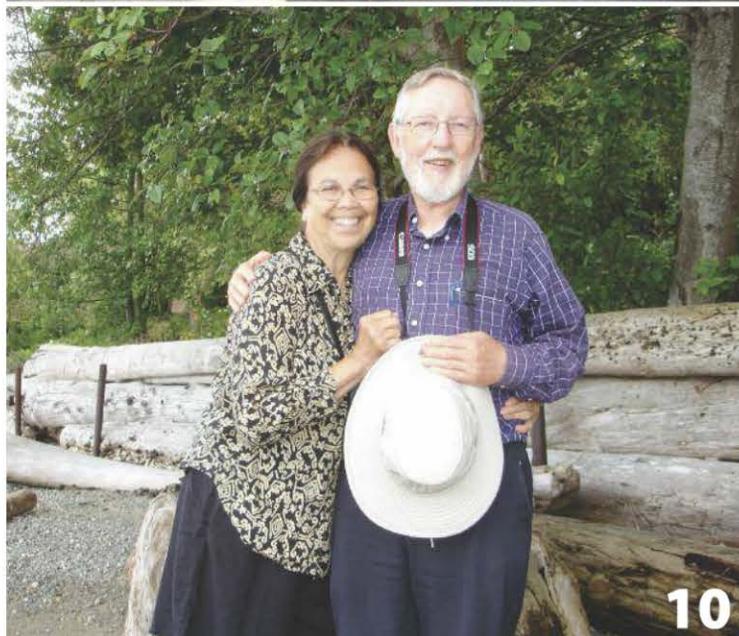
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a new Name

"A new name will not change CUC's distinctive mission and biblically based core values, it will start a new era of institutional recognition that will greatly benefit our students."

Many of you have heard by now that back in July, Alberta's Premier Dave Hancock gave CUC, along with four other faith-based post-secondary institutions in Alberta, permission to legally drop the word college from its current or new name. Please let me share with you why making this change will benefit our students.

Many employers and graduate school admission committees do not fully understand what a "university college" is. A "university college" in one part of the world is completely different in authority and function from a "university college" in another part of the world.

In Canada alone there are three definitions of a "university college." In some provinces a "university college" has authority to offer college diplomas or certificates and undergraduate degrees. In other parts of Canada, a "university college" is merely a subsidiary of a large university and lacks its own degree-granting power. Here in Alberta a "university college" is an independent post-secondary institution with its own board and authority to grant university degrees in its own name.

In the United States, some universities have a "university college" division that simply offers random continuing education courses or deals with the needs of non-traditional students but does not grant degrees. Other US universities refer to all of their students' first year (i.e., that time before they are formally accepted into a degree program) as the "university college" experience.

In many parts of Europe a "university college" is an institution that offers university level courses but does not have full or independent university status or degree-granting authority. Classes taken at such a "university college" lead to receiving a degree from another institution.

Because the Province of Alberta has given us the authority to grant post-secondary degrees in our own name, we are what nearly all people around the world

think of as a university. Dropping the word college from our current or new name will clear up much confusion and more accurately describe our status as an independent degree-granting institution. This will be a very significant, ongoing benefit to CUC's students as they seek employment or entrance to graduate school.

To ensure the process by which we change our name is open and transparent, a facilitator has met with eight different focus groups representing all parts of our constituency soliciting their input. This process concluded in early November when she met with the SDACC board and a group of CUC alumni and friends in the Greater Toronto Area.

Canadian University College's administration is now in the process of carefully reviewing the top names suggested to make sure none of them pose any legal, technical, or linguistic challenges. The Board of Trustees will receive what we believe is the best new name for an up or down vote in the middle of November. Approving the new name in November will allow us the time we need to ensure all of our promotional material and signage is updated in time for the General Conference session in July.

In Scripture receiving a new name was an important event that marked a turning point in the life of an individual or group of people. Although a new name will not change CUC's distinctive mission and biblically based core values, it will start a new era of institutional recognition that will greatly benefit our students. I solicit your prayers for wisdom and creativity for all who will be involved in making this important decision.

Mark Haynal is president of Canadian University College.



teen talk

Q: A lot of my peers are party people, and I don't know how to turn them down politely when they want to go out on Friday nights. It's a strong temptation, and I was wondering if you had any tips for combatting that?

A: That is one of the most difficult parts of changing your lifestyle: your social life. I totally hear you; I've been there too! So here are two tips:

Get busy on Friday nights.

If turning them down politely proves to be difficult, telling them that you're busy that night may be easier. Of course, you've got to be truthful, so make sure you have a plan. Is there a Friday night youth Bible study close to where you live? If so, attend it. If not, create it! Call your youth pastor or leader and tell him or her you'd like to host one. We love it when young people ask us those things! =)

Change peers.

That's what I had to do. And, oh boy, that can be difficult. But it is the most effective. I never went back to tobacco and weed since I let go of my old friends. I don't know how to butter this up, but basically, if a relationship is bringing you down, you've got to let it go. Surround yourself with people who will lift you up, and you'll be happy you did it, for the rest of your life.

I hope this helps. HMU at 204/881-8372 if you want to follow up.
Cheers! ■



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

Creation Corner for Kids



Blue-Spotted Salamander

The blue-spotted salamander has black skin speckled with blue spots. Salamanders are amphibians, in the same family as frogs, and young salamanders look more like frog polliwogs than adult salamanders. They have gills but no legs. Over the summer they develop lungs and grow legs and finally leave the pond in August or September, when they go into the forest.

Blue-spotted salamanders live under rotting logs and sometimes in underground burrows, where it is dark and moist. They are nocturnal, coming out of hiding at night to hunt spiders, slugs, centipedes, and other invertebrates.

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness.— 1 Thessalonians 5:5



Think about it.

Some creatures are diurnal, active during the day, while others are nocturnal, feeding and moving about at night. In the animal world, there's little compromise between day and night. Owls simply don't fly and hunt mice at noon, and robins don't fly at midnight. Spiritually, it should be that way for us too. Christians should be children of the day, not children of darkness.

Do it!

Do your interests match up with your Christian principles? Is what you watch, listen to, read, think about, talk about, etc., in harmony with the Ten Commandments, Philippians 4:8, and other Bible counsel? If not, do something about it. Jesus said, "If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" Light cannot compromise with darkness. To learn more about the blue-spotted salamander, you can visit www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.

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.



Cultivating Unity



Bruce Boyd

*“Apparently
unity in
diversity
is a vital
aspect of
the identity
of God’s
last-day
people.”*

ACHIEVING UNITY is something like a season of gardening. The harvest doesn't just happen. If we want to feast together on the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23)—we must accept the seeds of faith and unity as the Spirit plants them in our lives. The Spirit leads us to nurture the unity seedlings as they sprout and uproot any divisive weeds. While this process calls for a series of changes that are not always comfortable, the results are spiritual growth of members (often called sanctification) and unity in the church. Unfortunately, it is easy for Christians to slip into a static holding pattern where the Spirit is honoured in word but not deed and the cultivating of unity is neglected. As a result, spiritual growth becomes an illusion and destructive controversy a reality.

So far in this series of articles, Doug Matacio and I have suggested that where Christian unity is demonstrated, unbelievers recognize and receive the gospel more easily. We have shown that despite our collective differences in preferences, understandings, economic realities, and ethnicities, the Holy Spirit brings us to a pluriform oneness in Christ as we accept God's unity on God's terms. We have noted Ellen White's support for this concept where she states that the unity Jesus calls his church to is a unity in diversity (see John 15:1-17; 17:20, 21).¹ She goes further, claiming that unity constitutes the credentials of our genuineness as God's people.² Apparently unity in diversity is a vital aspect of the identity of God's last-day people.

Speaking of identity, many of us link the identity of our Seventh-day Adventist Church to our unique understanding of biblical truth. An important part of this identity is our belief that we are called to share that truth in the context of the everlasting gospel as spelled out in the three angels' messages (see Rev. 14:6-12) and elsewhere in the Bible. While this aspect of our identity is of central importance, it also can become a significant

barrier to our unity in diversity, which is also of central importance.

The difficulty arises from the fact that many of us find it far easier to value being "right" and our particular understandings of truth more than we value the respectful care and love God calls us to hold for one another. This is especially evident when we are disagreeing about issues related to Seventh-day Adventist customs, policies, methods, values, interpretations, or beliefs.³ When these disputes happen, we easily equate the love we hold for our particular understandings of truth with true love and loyalty for God. Often they are actually subtle expressions of self-love, and our spirituality becomes twisted, our clear communication is disrupted, our differences become divisive, our last-day message loses credibility, and our mission is left unachieved.

Once a lawyer asked Jesus what was needed for spiritual success (see Luke 10:25-37). Jesus underlined the vital importance of nurturing a loving unity with God and a caring cooperation with community members. When the lawyer asked for clarification about who might be included in his particular community, Jesus told about the rescue of a stripped and battered Jew by a stranger Samaritan. Fellow Jews who shared his beliefs scorned the victim, while the Samaritan reached out to help him.

Where we consistently respect and serve one another the way that Samaritan served the Jew who despised him, we are cultivating the unity for which our world church prays. The more we cooperate with Jesus' Spirit to nurture this caring, cooperative attitude toward fellow church members,⁴ even during disagreements, the more chance our God-given mission of sharing His truth has of becoming a demonstrated success. ■

Bruce Boyd is the associate professor of religious studies at Canadian University College.

¹ Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, 5:1148; Ellen G. White, Manuscript Releases, 5:262-265.

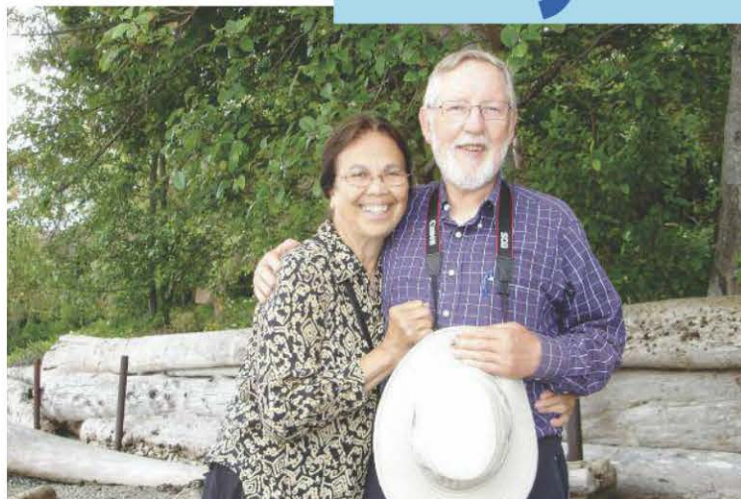
² Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, 1:385; Manuscript Releases, 5:366, 371; *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, March 20, 1894, 177.

³ For examples, consider the many disrespectful responses posted on various online Adventist discussion forums. Furthermore, comments heard in private conversations between Seventh-day Adventists can be even less compatible with genuine unity.

⁴ Jesus' main point in this parable, found in Luke 10:25-37, is that neighbour in "love your neighbour as yourself" does not refer only to people in our particular spiritual community. Rather, it refers to all people, including those considered enemies. In this article my application of this parable is that when we act divisively toward others in our church community as the priest and the Levite acted toward their broken brother, our credibility as united Seventh-day Adventists is smeared, our identity is warped, and our mission capabilities are crippled.

where are they now

Where Are They Now



Interview by
J.D. Victor Fitch,
Messenger
Staff Writer.

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

Messenger: *Where were you born and raised?*

Claude Sabot: I was born in Brussels, Belgium. My father became an Adventist when I was one year old. My mother never became an Adventist. My father and I, along with my brother and sister, used to walk five kilometres every Sabbath to go to church while my mother stayed home.

M: *When and why did you move to Canada?*

C: I was called by Phil Lemon when he was president of the Quebec Conference in 1976. He knew me in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) when he was the president of the Zaire Union and I was the principal of one of our boarding schools in Zaire.

M: *You have served in many areas and varied positions for the church. Briefly outline these.*

C: I served in Africa for nine years as a teacher, principal, and pastor (in Algeria, Madagascar, and Zaire); I served in Quebec for 15 years as a pastor and then conference president; I served for a total of 10 years at the Seventh-day Adventist

Church in Canada as director of Church Ministries and then as the executive secretary; and, finally, I was called to serve as a General Conference associate secretary at the General Conference (GC) session in Toronto in 2000, a position I held until my retirement in December 2010.

M: *What did you learn while working for the church?*

C: I had the privilege of working in 15 different countries as well as the opportunity to visit many other countries during my tenure at the GC, and I realize that the fundamental needs are the same no matter the country in which people live. Everyone needs to be loved and respected. I also saw the Lord's intervention in so many places. This was abundant evidence to me that God never fails, and this dramatically increased my faith in Him.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

C: Farida and I were married in 1965. She has been a tremendous lady. She has been my strength and my support. We have three sons. Philippe is married to Denean; they have one child and are

living in Ottawa, Ont. Eric is single and lives in Bali, Indonesia. Luc is married to Anita; they have three children and live in Laos, where he serves as the ADRA director.

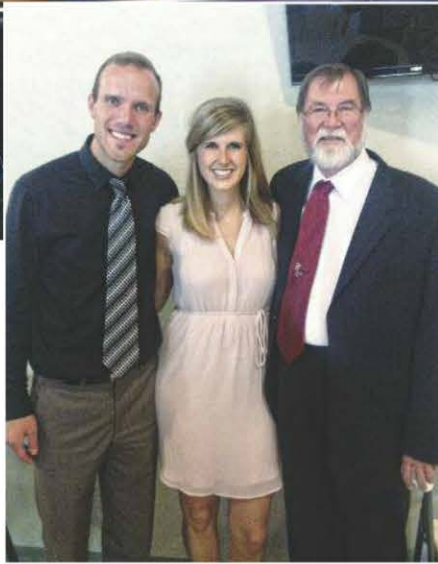
M: *What are you doing in your retirement?*

C: I am currently pastor of the Sechelt church in British Columbia. Following my retirement, I served as the vice-president of the Middle-East-North Africa Union for two years overseeing the work in North Africa as well as Iran. I am presently a member of the BC Conference Board of Directors and assist the GC Secretariat when needed.

M: *Where did you retire, and why did you choose that area?*

C: My wife followed me wherever I was called without ever murmuring or complaining, and so I let her choose the place of our retirement, which I told her could be any place in the world. She wanted to retire in Canada but did not want any snow. Of course, the only such place in Canada was in the Vancouver, B.C., area. We now live on the Sunshine Coast of B.C. ■

The Sign



Seth and Cara Bussey with Mel Thompson.



In his youth, Mel Thompson knew nothing about Seventh-day Adventists or the Adventist university college in Lacombe, Alta. When he drove by the campus of the university college and high school known today as Canadian University College (CUC) and Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA), he thought to himself, *I wonder what that place is*. So he asked a friend, who believed it was a correctional school for girls and jokingly suggested that Mel might find a girlfriend there.

Years later, in 1978, when Mel was working in Edmonton, Alta., an Adventist co-worker set him up on a blind date with Mabel Grovet. As their friendship grew, Mabel took Mel to see CUC's campus, where she had graduated high school. At last, Mel found out that the mystery buildings were really Christian schools. In due time, Mel joined the Adventist Church, and he and Mabel were married in June 1980. All this time, he wondered why CUC didn't have a big sign on its land by Alberta's major north-south artery, Highway 2.

During the 1997-98 school year, CUC president Kenneth Fox visited his friend Mel at his professional accounting firm and asked Mel to consider a donation to one of several CUC projects. "Ken," Mel said, "If I donate to the school, my preference would be to give toward a great big sign on the highway to let everyone know what CUC is." True to his word, Mel not only gave a donation but also oversaw the construction of a large highway sign built strong enough to withstand hurricane force winds.

Fast-forward to the summer of 2011: Red Deer high school graduate Caroline (Cara) Boyce, a Christian teen, had a constant prayer on her heart. She asked the Lord for His will in her choice of a university to attend in the fall. Since her childhood, Cara and her family often drove by the large CUC sign on Highway 2. Cara wondered what CUC was about and who Seventh-day

Adventists were. One day while sitting in the backseat of the family car, the sign really caught her attention. Right then, Cara seemed to sense that God was calling her to attend the school on the hilltop. As Cara continued her search for a university, she spent time with God in prayer and her Bible. Cara felt she could hear His voice telling her to go to CUC. She decided to enrol in their Bachelor of Education

in Elementary Education program. Although she was already a sincere follower of Christ, during her first year at CUC Cara became a Seventh-day Adventist.

Over the past three years, Cara has not only enjoyed her studies but also participated in campus life, getting involved in spiritual leadership and cheering on CUC's men's soccer team. It is through these two activities that Cara met Seth, a religious studies student. Friendship turned into love, and they were married on April 23, 2014, one day after Seth's graduation. The newlyweds live in Lacombe so that Cara can complete her degree while Seth commutes to the churches he pastors in Camrose and Ryley.

Mel and Mabel would not have known about Cara had it not been for David and Julie Grovet, Mabel's brother and sister-in-law. Julie Grovet is the field experience coordinator for CUC's education department and she heard about how Cara ended up at CUC. Because they knew of Mel and Mabel Thompson's donation to the highway sign, the connection was made. David and Julie Grovet invited Seth and Cara Bussey and Mel and Mabel Thompson to their home. It was then, for the first time, that the Thompsons met Cara and heard how the big CUC sign that they had donated years ago changed her life. Cara is a very precious return on their donation. Only the Lord knows how many of His priceless children have been brought to CUC and to the church by something as simple as a sign. ■

"It's hard to learn when you are worried about putting food in your stomach."

Students Relish Free Subs

Some Central Alberta students are no longer going hungry, thanks to a special partnership. The Lunches to Learn program, developed by Lacombe businessman Marty Curtis and his wife, Jeanelle, is achieving success within Wolf Creek Public Schools Division. A Better World Canada, a completely volunteer-run organization created and governed by Lacombe's College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, is playing a key role in that achievement.

Curtis, the franchisee for Subway in Lacombe, was already familiar with A Better World, as he helped raise \$27,000 for a medical centre in Honduras. He approached A Better World after learning that some Lacombe area students were going hungry at lunchtime.

"A friend [working at the junior high] told us about this one student who wasn't doing well, coming from a broken home. He came without breakfast and lunch and wasn't sure if he was going to be staying at home that night or having to go somewhere else." Curtis responded by ensuring the boy had a free Subway sandwich daily for about a month, at which time the school year ended.

Now school counsellors are invited to refer any students to the program, which began in the fall of 2012. Participating students receive a free Subway sandwich every school day until no longer necessary.

About \$15,000 has been raised so far, including \$7,000 from the Curtis family. Service clubs, businesses, a church, and individuals have donated. Several volunteers deliver the food to five Lacombe schools. Other schools have not yet accessed it. In the first year, about 22 students accessed the program and again the following year.

"We don't know who the kids are," Curtis said. "We try to keep it as confidential as possible."

A Better World provides administrative support. Financial donors can receive non-taxable receipts through A Better World. Subway offers a 25 percent discount on the sandwiches, so they are made at about cost, Curtis said. At the end of each month, Subway invoices A Better World for the subs, and it will pay Subway back. A Better World doesn't invest money into the project. "Basically, the donors are giving the money to A Better World so it can finance the program," said Curtis.

Part of A Better World's mission overseas is to ensure that all children have access to education and that they have good nutrition while in school. When A Better World volunteers heard that some students were going hungry in their own backyard, the organization was ready to help.



Jeanelle and Marty Curtis stand outside École Lacombe Upper Elementary School where they bring free Subway sandwiches to children in need.

"You have a hard time seeing a need, and nothing is happening [to alleviate] it," said Rob Weich, operations manager for A Better World. "So we definitely wanted to start helping right away. It's hard to learn when you are worried about putting food in your stomach."

Three years ago, A Better World created its Neighbours program to help Central Alberta's less fortunate. While the school campaign isn't directly part of Neighbours, its mission is similar.

Weich said that no one knows of A Better World's direct involvement with the Lunches to Learn program—and that's okay.

The Subway sandwiches are delivered to the schools in such a way that the students don't stand out from the crowd.

Ian Wilson, assistant principal at École Lacombe Upper Elementary School, said the response has been "fantastic." "The kids are so thankful that somebody is looking after them, ... and I'm sure that's the response from the families as well," said Wilson.

An average of five students have received a free lunch annually. "It's really a great link between community and school," he said. "We're just so thankful that somebody would step forward and do this for us." ■

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

Change or Die^{, Part 1}

Attracting and Retaining Young Adults

Last Sabbath two different fathers expressed their deep sadness because their daughters had left the church. “We did everything right,” explained one father. “We homeschooled them, lived in the country, and kept them away from modern influences. To be honest, I’m not only sad but also embarrassed. I’m not sure what we could have done differently.”

The other father had a similar story: “Our children all went to Adventist school. We were all involved in ministry, and yet, the day she graduated from high school, she received her diploma and walked out of the church, never to return again.”

These stories are repeated in Adventist churches throughout the country. A recent study from LifeWay Research found that up to 70 percent of all young people will leave the church once they reach high school. Why is this happening? Numerous studies have effectively documented why young people leave the church. However, until recently, there has been very little focus on what keeps young adults in the church.

A common expression we have heard, “Change or die,” may be applicable to the Adventist Church in North America. As boomers begin to retire and die of old age, will the Adventist Church retain its membership over the next 50 years? Are there enough engaged young people in our denomination to support our mission? We used to depend on young people to return to church after they were married. Anecdotal evidence suggests that these young married individuals tend to return with their young children to attend Sabbath school divisions after several years of absence. Unfortunately, even those stories are becoming rare. With the influence of secularization, people are finding avenues other than organized religion to fill their spiritual voids.

There are three important questions that church boards and elders must ask.

ARE WE BEING REAL?

Churches used to be a place where Christians put away their true selves and put on a “face” Sabbath mornings. Younger generations value honesty over perfection. This means they are likely to talk about their problems and struggles with doubt. We, too, can share our questions and acknowledge that just because we are Christians does not mean we always have *all* the answers. The church should be a safe place to voice our questions and concerns and demonstrate God’s love and acceptance for one another.

ARE WE ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY?

Churches in past generations have been bent on keeping their members outside of the culture. We started our own schools, planned our own extracurricular activities, and enjoyed keeping outside influences out of our sphere of Adventism. Younger generations realized that when we live our lives interacting solely with one another, we cease to be a relevant part of the community. The church doesn’t have to give up our beliefs, but we do have to share our talents, strengths, and resources to reach the communities around us.

ARE WE WILLING TO DO CHURCH DIFFERENTLY FOR THE SAKE OF OUR KIDS?

If you were a missionary in India, what would you do differently to reach people for Jesus? Would you speak in a different language? Would you wear different clothes? Traditions are only useful when they are relevant and understood. What traditions does your church follow that are not relevant to the current generation? Older generations may find comfort in the language, music, and order of service of our church, but these traditions need to be made relevant for future generations or they need to change. Can we make changes without losing moral values?

ARE WE WILLING TO GIVE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS TO NEW OR YOUNGER MEMBERS?

Many church boards and ministry teams are made up of elderly people who have served in their respective positions for decades. How many years have you been serving in your ministry position? Do you continue to serve because nobody else is willing or because you aren’t willing for change to happen? Can you identify a few people under the age of 40 who could be mentored into your position?

Next month we will take a closer look at five principles that are attracting and engaging young people in the church. ■

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





Strong Arms



Words by God —Psalm 121:7, 8, NIV

I heard this true story the other day: A woman and a little boy were looking out across the vast ocean on top of a bluff. The little boy was holding her hand tightly as they watched, and he seemed to be obeying and staying close, right beside her. The view was breathtaking, and so the woman turned to the child and asked if he would stand there while she took a photo of the water. The little one agreed, and she captured that magnificent picture only to discover the young boy was not anywhere in sight. She looked around and went quickly to the bluff's edge to scan if she could see him. Hanging about four feet down on a small vine was the little boy, the ground nearly 30 feet below him. The woman called out to the boy and told him to hold on while she tried to reach for him. She lay on her belly and stretched down as far as she could until her hands grasped the little one's arm. Immediately, when the boy felt her strong arms' touch, he let go of the vine. The full weight of his three-year-old body resting in her hands, she carefully wiggled and rolled until he was almost secure on sturdy ground. That's when she was able to pull him up all the way; now he was safe and sound. The little boy clung to her, not wanting to let go of the arms that rescued him. The woman whispered to him, "It's all right. You're safe now. I will not let you go."

This story reminds me of God, our heavenly Father and protector. He holds on to us even when it seems that we are hanging out there on a limb; our God is always by our side. His promises stand firm that He will never leave us or forsake us, no matter what happens in life. God works

faithfully, earnestly, to help us through. Like the woman who held on no matter the difficulty or challenge, God holds us even tighter. His arms never grow weary. He never gives up.

"You are all around me—in front and in back—and have put your hand on me. ... Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run from you? If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the grave, you are there. If I rise with the sun in the east and settle in the west beyond the sea, even there you would guide me. With your right hand you would hold me" (Ps. 139:5, 7-10, NCV).

Even more vigilantly than a mother cares for a newborn, the Lord looks after His children. "The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore" (Ps. 121:7, 8, NIV).

There is nothing He wouldn't do to rescue one of his kids. In many ways that is what God did for us when He sent His only son to take our place on the cross. He gave His life so that we could live. In John 15:13, it says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (NIV). God loves us with so much passion and care that nothing would keep Him from holding on to us. Even when we fail to listen or when we wander too close to the edge, He is right there to catch us when we fall. His arms are open and his hands are strong enough to save. God loves you and me. ■

Be Blessed

Tia Lawrence is 20 years old. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com



refresh with Tia



Watch "Safe" by Phil Wickham
on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/k2J0Sh>





review

Keith Chant, Manager, IT Services, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App:

SDA Hymnal

In Brief:

This app includes the complete Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal—including all the responsive readings—plus additional hymns from the old hymnal, and other songs. There are two versions of the app, a lyrics-only version and a full version that includes the sheet music for all the hymns, plus organ accompaniment for many of the hymns. You can browse songs by hymn number or title, or search for songs based on a keyword. Once you have pulled up a hymn, you can simply swipe back and forth to go to the next or previous hymn in the list. You can also set bookmarks for your favourites. Overall a great app and handy for when you need the words or music for a hymn.

Wow Factor:

All the hymns with sheet music in an easy-to-use app.

Meh Factor:

Full version is a very large download.

Developed for:

MyGadgets2

Price:

Android: Free/\$8.26, iOS: \$0.99/\$7.9

Works on:

Android, iOS

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



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

Take Flight

prayer life

There's a bumper sticker that says, "Jesus is my co-pilot." Somehow that has never sat well with me. Life has never gone well when I'm the pilot but much, much better when I give the controls over to Him. Recently, I discovered *Your Prayer Pilot*, a prayer journal by James and Marla Keller that has given me additional clarity about the Lord's driving practices!

Beyond the regular prayer plans of praise, confession, surrender, and petition, which are all valid, James and Marla have added a new element: "Affirming His Goodness." "By thanking God for the gifts He has given, you further validate His power in your life. Furthermore, you record new and powerful beliefs into your subconscious mind that allow you to react out of a power base rather than a knee-jerk reaction.

Thank you for healing my mind so that I deserve to be _____. Fill in the blank with the character traits you most desire. A wealth of health, love, peace, joy, etc. These affirmations written over and over, day by day, will gel in your mind and become reality because they are true. You are worthy of God's will for you because God loves you and wants you to be happy." They go on to talk about an individual who, from a debilitated state, developed a strong sense of self-worth from writing out affirmations every day for only two weeks.

I have personally been blessed in this exercise by accepting the self-control that is mine in Jesus. Somehow this little statement

written daily reminds me, very personally, of His promise to give me the desires of my heart.

All the fruits of the Spirit are ours. In fact, the very character of Jesus is ours as we seek to dispel the things in our lives that have bound us to this earth and prohibit us from the victory the Lord so wishes to give each of us.

"The Lord redeems the soul of His servants. And none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate" (Ps. 34:22).

This is really just a claiming of the promises the Lord has for us in His Word, by making it very personal.

Lord, thank you for healing my mind so that I deserve to be unafraid. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Ps 46:1). Thank you Lord for healing my mind so that I deserve to be joyful. "I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy; for you have considered my trouble; you have known my soul in adversities" (Ps. 31:7). All the promises are there for whatever healing we need.

Jesus is a much better pilot than you or I will ever be. Let's give him the runway clearance so He can show off His wings! "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20, NKJV). ■

Sandra Nelson is the prayer coordinator for the Manitoba/Saskatchewan Conference.



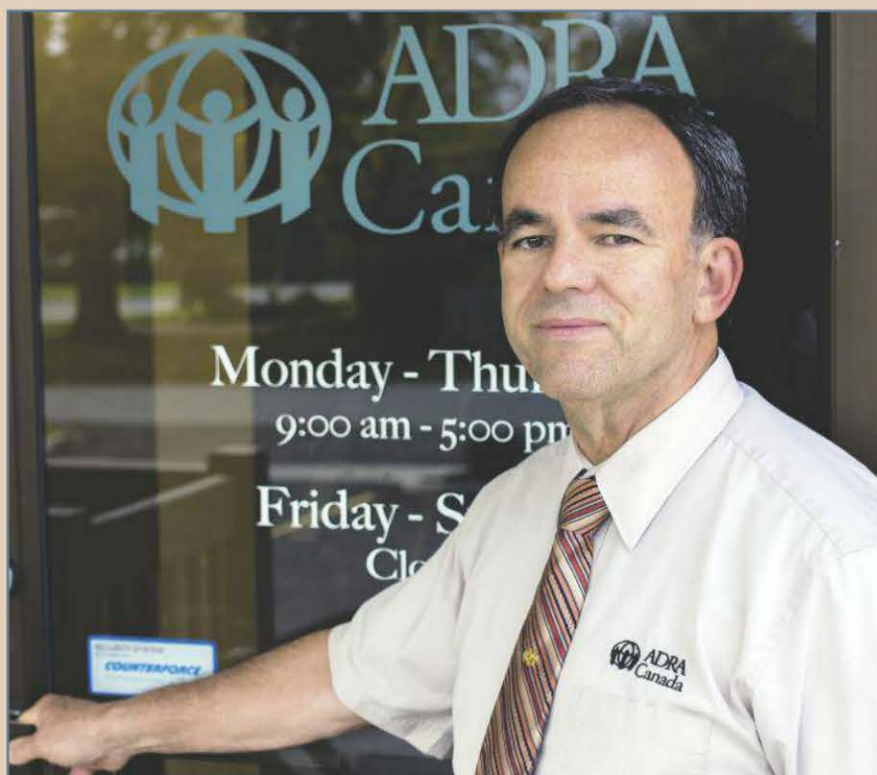
November 2014

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Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

One of the many things we can be very proud of as Adventists is the great work of ADRA Canada, which can also serve as a great conversation starter with our neighbours and co-workers. This month I interviewed James Astleford, the executive director of ADRA Canada, to take a peek into the inner workings of our humanitarian organization.



James Astleford

EDITOR: *I learned recently you are the first Canadian-born executive director of ADRA Canada. Tell us a bit about yourself.*

JAMES: I was born in Edmonton; this may be a bit of a surprise to those who fail to detect any Albertan in my accent, which sounds like something from elsewhere in the Commonwealth! My parents served as missionaries in East Africa, and I received my education in Kenya, the

United Kingdom, and the United States (MA and MSA degrees from Andrews University). My work experience includes business management in Australia, church pastoring in Alberta, and church leadership positions in Asia. I became involved with ADRA part-time in 1984 and full-time in 1991. I have been associate director for ADRA India, as well as executive director for ADRA Sri Lanka, ADRA Philippines, and ADRA South Sudan. Since 2003 I have been with ADRA Canada.

EDITOR: *The work in Alberta and many other places was started by a colporteur named Astleford. Any relation?*

JAMES: My father was a colporteur all his life. His father was also one before becoming a missionary and pastor. And my great-grandfather likewise was literature evangelist, starting shortly after the first Adventist colporteur, George King. Our family lore contains stories of an early Adventist Astleford driving a horse and buggy over the hill in Lacombe and declaring that an educational institution should be started there!

EDITOR: *How did you get into humanitarian work?*

JAMES: On October 31, 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh bodyguards. Following this, millions of Sikhs were displaced and nearly 3,000 killed. At the time I was working at the Northern Union in New Delhi. At the office we discussed how we could help, and as one whose mother tongue was English, I was nominated to write a proposal for the newly created Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Later I was responsible for starting ADRA Nepal, and soon ADRA was in my bloodstream!

EDITOR: *I recall that your staff in an ADRA office in Africa were held hostages at one time. Tell us a bit about that and if you have had similar experiences.*

JAMES: Over a dozen years ago, a number of our colleagues were attacked by local militia and our compound destroyed by bullets and fire. Although many escaped to the bush, seven were caught. They were transferred to various places of captivity, and I worked with diplomats and UN officials for their release. It took over two months before they were all home. Their ordeal was harrowing. I have never had to deal with anything so violent, although on one occasion I was held up by two gunmen toting AK-47s. After robbing us, they released us, but the final instructions were somewhat

confusing: "Drive, or I shoot!" and "Keep still, or I shoot!" (I chose to drive away.) I am grateful that I survived this and similar security mishaps.

EDITOR: *How can members get more involved with ADRA Canada?*

JAMES: Pray! (Sign up to be an ADRA Angel at www.adra.ca/PrayerAngel.) Become knowledgeable about our ministry. Consider a career in international development. Sign up to be a monthly supporter: www.adra.ca/donate/setup-monthly-gift

EDITOR: *I am intrigued about the ADRA Gift Catalogue. How did it begin?*

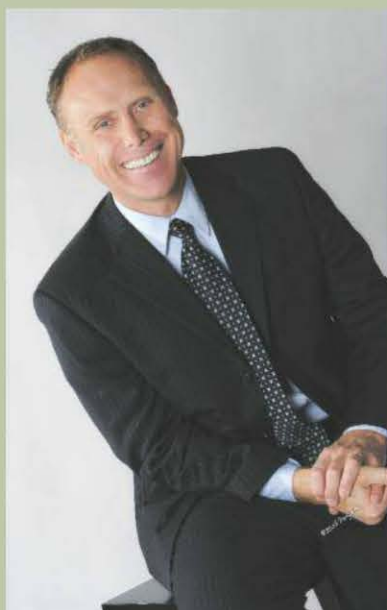
JAMES: Several years ago the first "Really Useful Gift Catalogue" was produced by ADRA International, and the next year we started producing our own. The idea is to help people visualize the kind of projects that ADRA Canada supports. By purchasing "gifts" in the catalogue, people support life and community changes. Many people use the gift catalogue at Christmas (and other occasions) to give gifts that really matter.

The gift catalogue is just one of many aids that members can use to help fundraise for ADRA Canada. We also produce calendars, videos, and educational materials. All are available from our office. (Visit www.adra.ca or call 1-888-274-2372.) We encourage people to share these with their friends, relatives, and colleagues. One delightful supporter always requests 13 calendars: one for herself and a dozen for her colleagues.

EDITOR: *Is there a favourite bible passage you can share with readers of the Messenger?*

JAMES: John 10:10 has always been a verse of hope for me. Jesus said that His purpose is "to give life in all its fullness" (TLB). This sounds like so much more than just a theological statement. In ADRA we sometimes talk about our projects delivering QOLI: Quality of Life Improvements. Jesus offers us, and through us to the whole world, not just improvements but abundant, full life. ■

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



barry's blog

"To say that all discrimination is wrong is a failure to appreciate the difference."

Why discrimination is not always wrong

Discrimination is not always wrong. Rather, discrimination is like fire. In some contexts it gives life; in other contexts it kills. To say that all discrimination is wrong is a failure to appreciate the difference. Our lives are full of discriminatory acts.

Perhaps a fundamental discriminatory act (or series of acts) we as parents commit is when we provide necessities for our own children but not for other, non-related children. We discriminate openly in favour of our children. Parents will pay for college or university tuition for their child rather than a neighbour's child. In fact, the law will punish parents for not providing for their own children, even though there are other children who are equally or in more need. So far, at least, we have accepted such discrimination as a norm despite the voices that condemn the family's discriminatory practises. The family, then, is the first of our institutions that openly discriminate, and we do not consider it wrong but an honourable duty to perform.

If we allowed random children to succeed in a human rights complaint demanding access to another family unit at an arm's length, we would destroy the family as an institution. The family's wealth, property, social ties, and influence would be lost. In order to exist,

the family must discriminate as to who is permitted in and receive the privileges it provides.

Religious communities are the second type of institution that has been given space to discriminate in our society. The ability of religious communities to discriminate as to who can become a member, whom they may hire, and who may receive specific religious services has long been part of our legal tradition. The political philosophers and politicians who debated the complexities of our Western democracies recognized that in order to have a free and democratic society, every individual must be free to congregate together with other likeminded individuals to pursue common goals. Religious communities were given particular latitude to establish institutions that exemplified their religious mission. Canada followed this familiar course adopted by such countries as the United States and Britain.

Room has been given in Canada for religious communities to establish not only churches but also schools (on all levels: elementary, secondary, and post-secondary), hospitals, nursing homes, food banks, clothing distribution centres, radio and TV stations, international development and relief agencies, and the like. Many religious communities sponsor a myriad of

endeavours, and these communities form the rich kaleidoscope that is Canada.

Religious enterprises (along with other non-profit charities, philanthropic, educational, fraternal, or social organizations) have been granted exemptions from human rights legislation to one degree or another across Canada. The exemption means that religious organizations may discriminate in their operation to the extent necessary for its religious purpose. For example, a church is permitted by law to discriminate against an unbeliever (or atheist) who applies for a pastoral position; a religious school may restrict employment to teachers who share its religious tenets.

Without the ability to discriminate, these religious institutions, like the family, would cease to function as intended. An employee or a volunteer who does not adhere to the religious teaching and practice will find it difficult, if not impossible, to wholeheartedly support the institution's purposes and goals. A dissonance develops between the employee/volunteer and the institution. The clientele who are served by that institution will readily pick up on that dissonance and be disheartened by the lack of congruity between the staff and the principles for which they are to stand. This is not a small matter but goes to the core of why the institution must have the space to live out its principles.

If we force religious organizations to take in, cater to, or employ non-adherents on the basis that there "must be no discrimination," then we must be prepared for that institution to cease to exist. It will cease to have value. In response, some suggest, "Better to let a discriminatory institution die than allow it to continue in its ways." However, that ignores the very good work the organization does. "Fine, another organization will fill the vacuum," some may say. Perhaps, but there is no guarantee; it may mean that its clientele are left without.

"Why can't the religious groups simply do their good works without their religious beliefs and practices? We do not want their religious stuff; we simply want their services."

It is important to understand the deep motivation of why religious communities (I am referring to Christian communities here) do what they do. First, consider the Christian worldview as exemplified in the life and example of Christ. His directive was to reach the world through the good works of healing the sick, alleviating the poor, feeding the hungry, etc., all within the context of living the spiritual commitment. Second, the religious

person, and by extension the religious community to which she belongs, does not bifurcate life into the religious and the secular. Rather, all of life emanates from the burning ember of religious conviction. Third, the beauty of religious organizations is that they are supported by those of like mind—together they are stronger in the mission to help than if they worked individually. The reality is the system works because there is harmony between those who financially support and those who carry out the mission. Dissonance will remove the comradeship and unity of purpose.

In speaking to a group of young clergy in 1945, C.S. Lewis made the following remarks:

It is your duty to fix the lines (of doctrine) clearly in your minds: and if you wish to go beyond them you must change your profession. This is your duty not specially as Christians or as priests but as honest men. There is a danger here of the clergy developing a special professional conscience which obscures the very plain moral issue. Men who have passed beyond these boundary lines in either direction are apt to protest that they have come by their unorthodox opinions honestly. In defense of those opinions they are prepared to suffer obloquy and to forfeit professional advancement. They thus come to feel like martyrs. But this simply misses the point which so gravely scandalizes the layman. We never doubted that the unorthodox opinions were honestly held: what we complain of is your continuing in your ministry after you have come to hold them. We always knew that a man who makes his living as a paid agent of the Conservative Party may honestly change his views and honestly become a Communist. What we deny is that he can honestly continue to be a Conservative agent and to receive money from one party while he supports the policy of the other.ⁱ

When we no longer allow religious organizations to discriminate who may work for them, they are destroyed from inside out. For some that may well be the goal. However, our society is best served when we allow a diversity of groups to flourish what my friend Iain Benson calls "associational diversity" a "deep diversity."ⁱⁱ "Discrimination" is not a bad word; it is like fire—it depends on the context. ■

Barry W. Bussey is vice-president of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. You can read his blog at www.lawandreligion.ca.

ⁱ Lewis, "Christian Apologetics," (An address to the Church of England Carmarthen Conference for Youth Leaders and Junior Clergy, Easter 1945), 64-76.

ⁱⁱ Iain T. Benson, "An Associational Framework for the Reconciliation of Competing Rights Claims Involving the Freedom of Religion," PhD Thesis, University of the Witwatersrand, September 12, 2013.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

The Excellence in Education award is one of the ways the SDACC Office of Education has chosen to recognize outstanding teachers and administrators in our school system. The award consists of a plaque and a check. The following recipients deserve our highest commendations.



Andon Boyce

ANDON BOYCE graduated with a B.Sc. from the University of Toronto in 2002 and has been teaching for 12 years. Currently, he teaches religion at Crawford Adventist Academy in Toronto, Ont. Andon is married to Paula Phillips-Boyce, and they have three children: Caleb, Isaias, and Hannah. His hobbies include creative writing, playwriting, acting, art, and music—and fatherhood!

Andon recalls a memorable teaching experience two years ago. In order to encourage senior students to make the right career choice, he shared his personal testimony of how God had impressed him when he was young that he should become a teacher, though he didn't recognize it until after university. A few weeks later, some students told him that his testimony helped one of their classmates recognize God's calling

in his life to teach as well. Later, the boy's father told him that despite the high cost of Christian education, knowing that his son was seeking God's will for his life was priceless. Andon found this experience to be truly humbling.

Andon chose to become a teacher and decided to teach in an Adventist school because he believes his steps were directed, confirmed, and refined through several experiences from university through the present, ranging from career placement testing to providential answers to prayer to daily classroom experiences. He says that the ongoing opportunity to inspire and empower students not only academically but also in their Christian walk at such a critical stage in their lives, is what keeps him in Adventist education.



J. Scott MacDonald

J. SCOTT MACDONALD graduated from McMaster University in 1994 with a BA (Hon) and from Brock University in 1996 with a B.Ed. He has been teaching for 17 years in schools in Alberta and Ontario. Currently, he is an English teacher at Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ont. Scott is married to Lori MacDonald, and they have two children: Eowynn and Eirik. His hobbies are taking road trips with his family, playing racing games, reading anything that is not in essay format, enjoying music and films, and finding various collectables.

Scott recalls a memorable experience while teaching at Ian Bazalgette Jr. High School. He was approached by some Grade 8 boys who wanted to form a junior boys' basketball team and asked

him to coach them. He accepted, letting them know that he was not a seasoned coach. Although they lost every game, he had a great time coaching them and ended the season with a great party. The good thing about that experience, he recalled, was the friendships that were formed with those young men, many of whom still keep in touch with him to this day.

Scott chose to become an English teacher rather than pursuing a career in medicine because it offered him the option of working with young people and literature. He opted to teach in an Adventist school after teaching public school for nine years because he is convicted that this is where God wants him to be at this time.

ANDREA (GRAY) SAYLER

graduated with a B.Ed. in 2009 from Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alta. She has been teaching for five years in Alberta schools. Currently, she is the teaching principal at Woodlands Adventist School. Andrea is married to Landon Sayler, and her hobbies are crafting, reading, travelling, and enjoying the great outdoors.

One of Andrea's memorable teaching experiences occurred while discussing the concept of heaven with her students. A Grade 1 student, captivated by the thought of heaven after hearing about it for the first time, introduced a new game at recess simply called "Heaven."

She knew she would have to wait until Jesus comes to see heaven, but she told her friends she wanted to pretend what it was like in the meantime. Andrea enjoyed playing the game with them.

Andrea chose teaching because she loves to interact with children to help them develop a better understanding of themselves, the significance of having a relationship with Jesus, and the importance of service to God and humanity. Andrea believes in the holistic approach of Adventist education with the home, the school, and the church working together to develop well-balanced citizens for now and for eternity.



Andrea (Gray) Sayler

KELLY BRIERE graduated with a B.Ed. degree in 1997 from Canadian University College and has been teaching for 16 years in Alberta and Ontario. She currently teaches Grades 4 to 6 at Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool (PACeS). Kelly is married to Russell Briere, and they have two children: Keaton and Rylea. Her hobbies include spending time with her family, boating, travelling, playing tennis, and shopping.

One of Kelly's most memorable teaching experiences occurred this year when she met face to face with a couple of her distance education students and their parents at Canada's Wonderland

amusement park. It was the occasion of their annual field trip, and she was excited to meet her students and their parents in person after working with them online.

Kelly said that her experience working at New Frenda Youth Camp helped her realize her love for teaching children. After working there for eight summers and seeing how young people got excited about learning and developing a relationship with Christ, she was motivated to become a teacher in the Adventist school system. Through PACeS, Kelly is able to make a difference in the lives of students all over Canada.



Lisa Kelly Briere

CHRIS DUPUIS graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1999 with a B.Ed. He has been teaching for 15 years and currently serves as the principal of Sandy Lake Academy in Nova Scotia. Chris is married to Dawn Dupuis, and his hobbies include exercising, playing the guitar, reading, and watching hockey.

Chris began his teaching career at North Okanagan Junior Academy in British Columbia. He recalls with delight the amazing canoeing and backpacking trips with students, exploring the mountains, and trying new things

during his years there. Another great experience for him was his involvement in planting a church near Sandy Lake Academy to help in the spiritual growth and development of his students.

Chris's desire to pursue teaching as a career came from working for several years with young people at different summer camps. He thoroughly enjoyed his time working with them and saw the teaching profession as a good fit for his personality and skill set. After teaching for 15 years in an Adventist school, Chris said that he would not trade it for anything.



Chris Dupuis

CONCLUSION: Ellen G. White, founder of our educational system, states: "Teachers do a high and noble work by cooperating with the divine purpose in imparting to young people a knowledge of God, and molding the character in harmony with His. In awakening a desire to reach God's ideal, they present an education that is as high as heaven and as broad as the universe. ... It is an education that secures to successful students a passport from the preparatory school of earth to the higher grade, the school above."¹

Let us continue to support and value our teachers. ■

¹Ellen G. White, *True Education: Adaptation of Education* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 2000), p. 13.



Photo: Afia Donkor

Almost vegan

The knock on the door announced the arrival of my parents. Eleven hours of travel from Maryland to Ontario meant two things: my parents were tired and hungry.

I dumped the contents of a plastic container into a pot, and my dad stared at the half-frozen greyish substance with suspicion. "Don't look yet!" I said. "Just wait."

In a short time the greyish substance transformed into a lovely, bubbling mushroom soup. I dished it out, handed it to my parents, and waited. Dad first. Up went his spoon, in went the soup, sky-high went his eyebrows, and broad was his smile. Mom next. She took a sip, then turned to me, a look of utter amazement on her face. The bowls were scraped clean, the recipe was requested, and with that, my parents realized, possibly for the first time, that their daughter could dabble in the kitchen. ■

Afia Donkor is a lawyer in Ontario, Canada.

¹ Recipe adapted from mushroom soup recipe by Wolfgang Puck.

² Recipe for cashew cream appeared in the July 2014 issue of *Messenger*.

Cream of Mushroom Soup¹

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound white mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 2 tablespoons minced shallots or onions
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups cashew cream²
- 1 ½ cups homemade vegetable stock or "chicken" stock using McKay's Chicken-Style Seasoning

INSTRUCTIONS

- Wash mushrooms well and chop very fine.
- Add lemon juice and mix.
- Sauté shallots (or onions) in oil; add mushrooms, thyme, and bay leaf; and sauté on medium to high heat, stirring frequently, until mushroom liquid is fully evaporated.
- Add salt, cream, and stock.
- Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer, and simmer 20 minutes.

WAR

On earth as it was in heaven

As I introduced myself, I was arrested by his powerful, vicelike, handshake. It was the surprising grip from an 88-year-old gentleman that compelled me to ask what he used to do in his earlier years. I then learned that he was a gunner with the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War. He and his pilot flew some 30 sorties over German-occupied Europe. I was humbled and privileged to have momentarily locked hands with a dramatic part of world history that day.

Many who served in combat were not finely tuned human specimens, as in the Navy Seals or Special Ops Forces. He could've been a doting father who cradled his newborn in his arms only a few times; a vibrant, promise-filled son who had not yet realized his potential; or a newlywed husband madly in love with his wife. Many were rural lads dragged from their quiet farms or urban boys pulled from their comfortable city dwellings. Filled with youthful energy, they were naive of the dangers that lay ahead.

Remembrance Day in Canada is a special time dedicated to honour those who've served and sacrificed their lives for their country—they deserve every bit of our utmost respect. But more colossal than both World Wars put together, is the *war on earth as it was in heaven*, a reality we must also respect. To paraphrase three legendary words from a famous American general, "Jesus shall return," and one day soon all wars will forever be put to rest.

*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

— R.L. Binyon

Jason Chang is a doctor at Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, Alta., and a member of the Edmonton South church.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky

*If you found a bottle with a note inside from God,
what would you hope it said?*

AT THE MAPLE RIDGE AND NANAIMO CHURCHES
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND THE COLLEGE
HEIGHTS CHURCH IN ALBERTA.

Sheila Hill: I love you and look forward to seeing you soon.

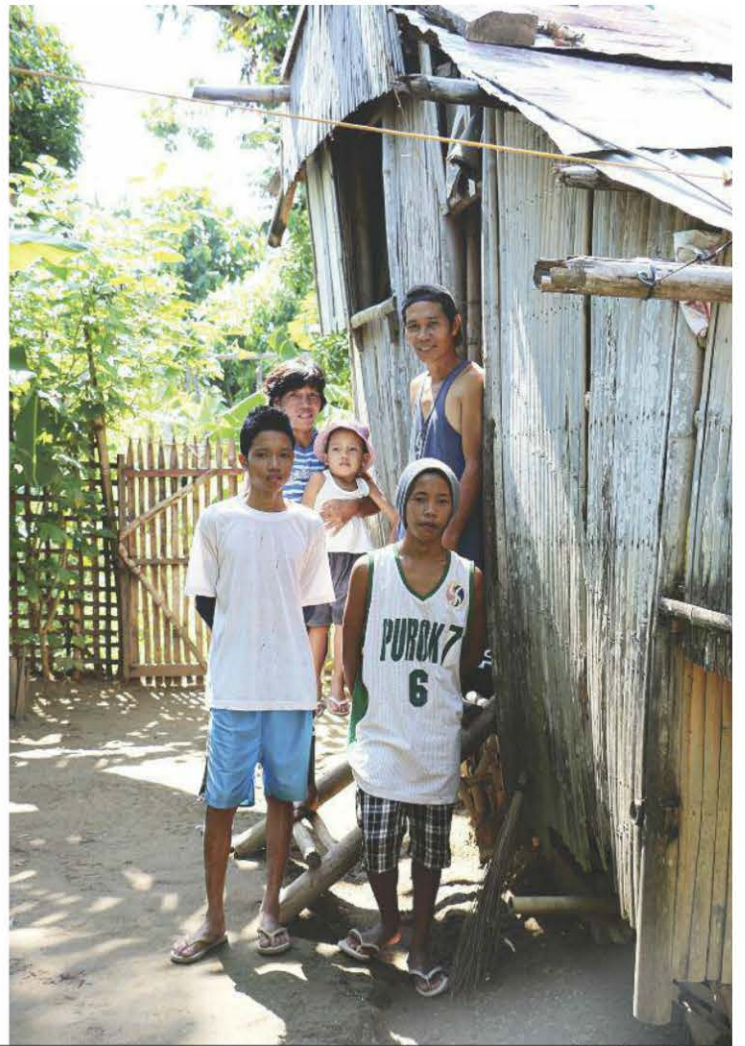
Cynthia Josiah: That all is well with me and Jesus.

Karen Hayde: I love you. Let me hold you. Let's get home together.

Kris Haynal: I am with you and your family 'til the end of the age.

In the Wake of the Storm

Typhoon Haiyan
and the people who
were touched by love



For days the warnings had come. A major storm was soon to make landfall over the islands of the Philippines. From the moment of its inception, weather experts had kept a close eye on the storm that had formed off the southeast coast of Pohnpei and was making its way steadily westward. Each day the storm intensified, growing from a tropical depression to a super-typhoon. Soon warnings were followed by calls to evacuate as authorities scrambled to deal with the impending emergency. But nothing could have prepared the people of the Philippines for the storm that was soon to land upon their shores.

Amid the roaring wind and the surging waves, one woman looked on, her tears expressing her horror, grief, and helplessness. She looked on as the violent storm tore her home apart before her eyes. She looked on as a flood swept through her village, leaving her stranded in the place she and her children had gone to seek shelter. She looked on, her tears expressing the collective horror experienced by the people of the Philippines when on Nov. 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan tore through their borders, leaving a path of unprecedented destruction.

Filipinos are no strangers to violent storms and typhoons. Estimates are that as many as 20 storms form in and around the Philippines each year, with six to nine making landfall. In 2013, three typhoons had already swept through the country before Typhoon Haiyan's arrival. So for many, the warnings and preparations excited no extraordinary alarm. This was just another storm—more rain, more wind, some disruptions, then back to life as usual. But this time, things were different. Haiyan brought turmoil and devastation people had not witnessed to that point. One of the strongest cyclones ever recorded, it destroyed homes and property, left nearly 2 million people homeless, and claimed the lives of over 6,000 Filipinos, marking it as the deadliest storm on record.

Those viewing the aftermath of Haiyan through images and news reports could comprehend the scope of the tragedy only dimly. But to 46-year-old Maria Cielo, the devastation was a reality she deeply understood. The loss and helplessness that came in the wake of the storm were her loss, her helplessness, her story.

Maria grew up in Mindanao, the largest island in the Philippines. When she met and married her husband, Joel, she moved with him to the island of Panay. There, they and their three children, Joanne, John Mark, and Joel Jr., settled into family life, Joel working as a carpenter

and Maria caring for the home. Then, in June 2008, Typhoon Frank hit the Philippines and destroyed their home. The family struggled to cope with the ruin and devastation left by the storm, but they found in their local Adventist church a source of help and support. Soon the family moved into the new bamboo and plywood home their church had built for them.

Another loss followed close after the June 2008 storm. In December of that year, Maria's husband, who had been suffering from glaucoma and cirrhosis of the liver, died at age 56. Now left alone to care for three children, she worried about how she would support her family. Eventually, she found work cleaning houses and working as a housekeeper for one of the families in her village.

For five years Maria and her children lived, grew, adjusted, and survived in their bamboo and plywood home, Maria cleaning houses and her children attending the local school. Then, in November 2013, their lives were once again turned upside down. Amid warnings and calls to evacuate, Maria and her children left their home to seek shelter at a neighbour's house. There, standing before a screen door, Maria watched, weeping uncontrollably, as the storm broke through her village and slowly tore apart the home the church had built for her family five years earlier. When the storm cleared and the three-day flood that followed subsided, Maria wandered through the streets of the village, looking for anything she could salvage. All that remained of her home was the concrete terrace. With this, Maria built a makeshift shelter, and for the next four months, she and her children called that terrace home.

Five minutes' walk from Maria and her family, George Corros, his wife, Melanie, and their three boys, Jomel, Kiz Joshua, and George Jr., lived in a bamboo home behind the local Seventh-day Adventist church.



Maria Cielo watched Typhoon Haiyan tear her home apart. She and her children live in a shelter on a concrete terrace—the only thing that remained after the storm.

For years they had been members of the Iglesia Christo church, travelling from their home to their church, until the cost of the trip finally compelled the family to stop attending.

George had worked as a public transport driver until his pneumonia and arthritis forced him to stop. His two older sons helped support the family by working in the rice fields, seasonal employment that provided the family with about \$488 per year. These earnings, though meagre, served to meet the family's needs. Then Haiyan struck, and George and his family became homeless, their house destroyed in the storm. Scrambling to find a place to stay, George and his family salvaged the roof of the local Catholic church, which had also been destroyed in the storm, and used it to build a makeshift shelter that continues to be the family home.

In the aftermath of catastrophic events like Haiyan, an important question hangs in the balance. When the coverage stops, when the cameras roll away, when we move on to other areas and redirect our focus on other things, what happens to those who cannot? How do the stories of the individuals left behind to live in the chaos and tragedy end? Answering this question is the mission of ADRA.

As a development and relief organization, ADRA exists to meet immediate and urgent needs in the wake of disasters. Following Haiyan, ADRA was one of the first organizations on the ground assisting victims and

distributing food, water, hygiene kits, and shelter kits to thousands of households. But ADRA also exists to address the long-term needs of disaster victims. For those in the Philippines, the needs did not end when the storm ended. Many like Maria and George and their families still struggled to find adequate shelter and rebuild their lives. So on March 24, 2014, ADRA Canada launched a project in the Philippines designed to help those still suffering in the wake of the storm.

ADRA Canada's Haiyan Early Recovery Project is designed to provide housing and livelihood assistance to vulnerable people, regardless of faith or belief. Elderly people, single parents, disabled individuals, people whose homes were totally destroyed or rendered uninhabitable and are unable to rebuild—these are ADRA Canada's focus. When the project is over, ADRA will have helped approximately 27,000 people build new houses, repair existing ones, and receive the supplies necessary to return to their livelihoods. And among those chosen to receive help were Maria and George and their families.

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35, NKJV). These words, spoken by our Saviour, declare through the ages that there is only one characteristic that will identify men and women as belonging to Him. That characteristic is love. In making this statement, Jesus revealed a fundamental truth: those who love belong to God, because God is the source of love. Not love that is



The Adventist church has helped many in need despite sustaining its own damage.



George and Melanie Carros, touched deeply by the church's assistance, joined the Adventist faith.

the stuff of fluff and emotion, but love that expresses itself in selfless action. That love is patient. It does not leave when the attention and the hype is over. Rather, it remains, provides, comforts, and upholds. That love is kind. It looks upon suffering with compassion that spurs it to action. That love does not seek its own. It lives to bless others and to lift others up. That love breathes hope. In the face of the most trying circumstances, it sees beyond the now to what will be, taking hold of God's promises and encouraging others to do the same. That love never fails. Though tested, rebuffed, surrounded by discouraging circumstances, and compelled to make painful sacrifices, it presses on, undaunted, seizing every opportunity to lift up the fallen, relieve the broken, and bring love and blessing to a hurting world.

That love was experienced by Maria and George even before ADRA came to offer help. Amid the example of other churches who provided aid only to those of their own congregation, amid the rejection they suffered from their own church that refused to help them because they had not been in regular attendance, George and his family witnessed the love of a group of people who opened their doors wide and offered help to everyone who needed it. From the Adventist church, George and his family received a dry place to sleep until the floods subsided and supplies to help them meet their pressing needs. The example of the church that showed concern for everyone touched George and Melanie so deeply

that on July 6, 2014, they were baptized and decided to join the Adventist faith. And in August 2014, ADRA selected them to receive a brand new home.

As for Maria, that love came in the form of the neighbour who sheltered her family during the storm. That neighbour, an Adventist village councillor, built Maria a one-room home to live in. Now, with ADRA's help, Maria is receiving food and personal supplies and will receive the materials she needs to build a kitchen and expand the home so that she and her children will have a decent place to stay.

Many will mark the anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan in homes built or repaired by ADRA. Those shelters will serve as lasting reminders of the compassion shown by people moved by love. In every belly filled, in every home built, in every tool shared, in every need met, ADRA leaves the stamp of God's love on this world. And it does this through you. Far from a faceless structure, ADRA works through the hands and hearts of people touched by the love of God and inspired to share that love with others. As you support, as you give, as you sacrifice, you are helping us show our world that it is love that defines us, love that moves us, and love that has only one source: the loving heart of God.

Story by Afia Donkor with field notes and photographs by Sharmilla Reid.

A family's journey of faith

"It doesn't matter what you wear or where you come from. It's how you live your life; it's your testimony. You can impact someone's life every day."



Left to right: Kim, Marcello, Tom and Dorcas Tosi

Dorcas Tosi has been a teacher at Kingsway College for just over one year now, and her daughter Kim is currently a student in Grade 10.

LYDIA: What does Christian education mean to you?

DORCAS: Christian education has always been a part of my life; it was like having another family besides my own family. My family was poor, but my mother was able to get scholarships for me and my brothers. We had a hard time at home because my father had a drinking problem, but even though he was not an Adventist, he was always supportive of us attending an Adventist school. I truly believe that the connection we had with the church and the school is what kept me and my brothers in the church, despite all the

troubles that were happening around us. It meant a lot to me and has made all the difference in my life.

L: What led you to Kingsway College?

D: We applied for our Canadian residency seven years ago, in 2007. When we applied, we actually chose Oshawa as the city in which we would like to live, because of the Adventist school. We eventually moved to Toronto two years ago, in September 2012, from England, where we had spent the previous year.

We don't like the big city, so when we moved to Toronto, we kept praying that God would open a door for us to live somewhere else and that God would find us a Christian school for our children. Eventually, I came to Kingsway College for an interview. But my husband said,

"How are we going to work this out? How can you work in Oshawa and send our kids to Kingsway when we live in Toronto?" (We wanted our kids to go to the school, but we didn't want them to live in the dorm. We wanted them at home with us.) And I said to my family, "God will make a way."

About a week or so later, Fabiane Campos (a Kingsway staff member) called us and asked if we would like to live on the Kingsway College campus. That was an answer to our prayers. I never thought that the Lord would lead us here to Kingsway the way He did.

L: What motivates you to come to work every day?

D: I absolutely love what I do. Teaching at Kingsway College is the best thing that ever happened to me. I love teaching, and I love talking and connecting with people. I never expected this to happen. Sometimes when you want something so much, it is difficult to believe that it will really happen.

L: Share your most memorable experience at Kingsway College.

D: My most memorable experience at Kingsway College was when I had a small class of ESL students; even when they left school they would call me to pray for them. One student called me, saying, "Ms. Tosi, God just saved my life." And when I asked what had happened, he said, "I had a car accident and I could have died, but I knew that you have always been praying for me, and I wanted to thank you because your prayers just saved my life."

It's more than teaching; it's connecting with people. It doesn't go away when we or the students leave the school. It carries on, maybe even until eternity—you never know.

Psalm 4:8 is Dorcas's favourite Bible passage. It reads:

"I will lie down and sleep in peace for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." ■

Lydia Sola is the communication assistant at Kingsway College.



Aspire

Biennial Youth Summit teaching practical ways to be the "Goodness of God in service to others."

As a veteran youth director, I am keen on how young people connect at an event. When I arrived at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ont., I was impressed for two reasons. First, we were on a secular campus holding religious meetings. Second, young people from all over Canada were there to aspire to be servants of God. The energy was infectious. Young people expressed appreciation that their Seventh-day Adventist Church was providing worship, training, outreach to the community, and an opportunity to meet fellow Adventists from across the country.

The general meetings were interactive. A living room was set up on stage for interviewing leaders from across Canada. In one of the interviews, Mansfield Edwards, president of the Ontario Conference, stated, "This is a new generation of youth whom we need to reach, but we must reach them where they are at ... and lead them to where God wants them to be! There is potential for them to change the world in meaningful ways."

Kumar Dixit, pastor of the Oakridge church, in Vancouver, B.C., and our general session speaker, based his presentations on the life and story of Jesus. His focus was to challenge us to rediscover Jesus. Pastor Kumar encouraged the audience to take what they have learned back to their local churches and make a God-sized impact. After each presentation, he provided an opportunity for the audience

to ask questions relating to the message.

The messages challenged us to be "stretcher-bearers," based on the story in Mark 2:1-5: "Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven'" (NIV).

Dixit asked the audience some practical questions:

"How far are we willing to go to win friends and influence people to the throne of God?"

"Are there young people in our communities who are bold and courageous, willing to do anything it takes to introduce the spiritually poor and dying to Jesus?"

"Are there churches that are open to change and welcoming new people who want to live transformed lives in Christ?"

After each meeting and during the seminars, everyone had the opportunity to connect. These questions were discussed and testimonies shared. Young adults used these moments to scope out ideas, break away from routine answers, and reinforce their convictions.

But this conference was not meant to challenge only hearts and ears. It provided the participants with an opportunity to be the feet, hands, and heart of God in service to others. On Friday and Sabbath afternoon, delegates were encouraged to

minge in communities throughout Hamilton and on the Six Nations reserve. People were invited to a concert in the park. Even passersby were welcomed with friendly waves, smiles, and conversations. As individuals and groups connected through meaningful interaction, they shared prayers with one another. Young adults seized the moment, taking the occasion to turn leisure into capturing the essence of the gospel.

Lyle Notice, associate youth director for the Alberta Conference, described his community service afternoon by saying, "It was like the story of the two men in the Luke 24 who walked along the Emmaus road. Our hearts burned within us as Christ journeyed with us."

The Biennial Youth Summits have been hosted in conferences across the country teaching practical ways to be the "Goodness of God in service to others." Young adults go home realizing that they have the opportunity to witness life transformation no matter where they are.

Young adults today are full of energy. They are striving to grasp a real gospel experience, whether on their school campus, in their workplace, or in their local church. As we correlate everyday experiences with how Christ can change lives, I believe it is the young adults who are ready to tackle relevant ways to share Jesus in our changing world. ■

Brian Wahl is youth director for the British Columbia Conference.

Parkview Profiles

"Being a PAA student means I'll stay more connected to God, because worship is part of my everyday life and relationships."



Meagan Domaschuk

For Meagan Domaschuk, enrolling at Parkview Adventist Academy was always part of her plan. Both of her parents attended high school on the Hilltop, and she was raised to view Christian education as an important family value.

The youngest of three siblings, Meagan, says, "Mom and Dad wanted a Christian education for all of us because that's what they believe in." After attending her older brother and sister's graduations from PAA and successfully completing her first year of high school, the Grade 11 student now shares, "I'm starting to grow into it because I can see how it makes sense. It makes sense to be here at PAA because of the relationships I've built with other students and teachers, but mostly because they teach spiritual things. You wouldn't get that at public school or anywhere else."

Like many students at PAA, Meagan is very committed to her extracurricular interests. She entered a local Lacombe's Got Talent show and won Judge's Choice for 2013 while singing to her own guitar accompaniment. "Music is something very important to me, because my testimony can be shared through my talents." She also volunteers through Pathfinders and raises awareness for diabetes, which she has lived with all her life. In her Grade 9 year, Meagan won the Parkview Adventist Academy Jr. High Science Fair with her "Self-Exploration" project, which involved a controlled experiment on herself and her disease.

From her experience, Meagan knows that she can't learn when her blood sugar is low or when she is distracted, but at PAA, "The teachers understand and let me do what I need to do. With that kind of support, I don't think anything can really stop me in life!"

The notable difference for her, and so many other students on campus, is the commitment of PAA's teachers and staff. Meagan says, "There aren't just great classes and spirituality on campus; PAA is a family. A family here, with your classmates and teachers, is a little bit stronger than real family sometimes, because you

choose to get close to people who used to be strangers rather than just being related to someone and having to like them. Being a PAA student means I'll stay more connected to God, because worship is part of my everyday life and relationships."

This year school began with each student being assigned to a particular staff member, who will pray with and for the students until their graduation. On the first day of every academic week, these teacher-led small groups join together to share breakfast, worship, and catch up on everyone's lives. In this space, Meagan has built strong friendships with other PAA students who challenge her to open up to God: Having a special worship time and partner "really makes me thankful for the little things," says Meagan, "like what a beautiful place we live in and being able to sing."

Meagan took some time recently to evaluate her priorities and figure out exactly what God was calling her to do. Between music and performing arts, horses and schoolwork, Meagan had to decide where her time would be spent. The beauty of coming to PAA is that she didn't have to cut anything out: "If I was at a public school, life would be so different." The high school programs offered by PAA include drama training, praise bands, and student music clubs, as well as hands-on learning experiences for all students.

Attending a Christian school has increased Meagan's skill, confidence, and also led her to pursue personal Bible study and prayer. The influence of Christian education through approaches to academics, programming, and the caring staff at PAA cannot be downplayed. Because of her experiences as a student here, Meagan has chosen to live her life and use her many creative talents to serve the Creator: "God is the missing puzzle piece to my happiness," she says, "and here at PAA I can do all of the things I enjoy with Him." ■

Katelyn Ruiz is the director of public relations at Parkview Adventist Academy.

Following God's Lead

One Family's Joyful Discovery of the Sabbath and Adventist Education



In 2012, Camalaneshan (Joshua) Sinnanainar found his way to the West Island Adventist Church. A few weeks later, his daughter accompanied him. Then another daughter came. Joy and curiosity blossomed in my heart. I wondered if there were other family members still at home. Soon their story unfolded. Mr. Sinnanainar and his family belonged to a Sunday denomination, and he served as a lay preacher.

However, when a radio broadcaster friend introduced the Sabbath to Joshua, he decided to search the Scriptures for himself. What he discovered was an inconvenient truth. Accepting God's word meant he would have to redirect his faith. It meant ties with his close church family would have to be adjusted.

This decision was extremely difficult for Joshua's wife, Vithyia, because her beloved brother was their pastor. But the truth of God's Sabbath rested heavily on

her heart. Modelling Peter and the apostles (Acts 5:29), Vithyia also chose to honour the authority of God. It was a happy day when she and their last child, Samuel, took their stand along with the rest of the family.

I am passionate about Adventist education. The Lord has used this ministry to transform my life. I desire other youth to experience the same character building that I was blessed with. Therefore, upon meeting Samuel, I envisioned him a successful student at Greaves Adventist Academy. So did another church member and his wife, who told me that they would love to see Samuel in God's school. (One of Samuel's older sisters had already completed high school, and the other was close to graduating.)

Empowered, I presented Greaves to the Sinnanainar family. Their faces lit up as if I had offered them a million dollars! "Is there a Seventh-day Adventist school here on the West Island?" Joshua asked.

I told them that Greaves was located in Montreal about 25 kilometers away. Travel would be by train and bus plus a brief walk to the school. Samuel entered Greaves the following academic year.

Recently, at his baptism, Pastor Hopeton J. Cousins commended this young man for showing such clear signs of promise in terms of his devotion to spiritual growth, his commitment to his studies, and his involvement in church and community work.

Joshua later asked my opinion on where his son should study after he graduates from Greaves in 2015. He mentioned that he and his wife had chosen their son's name intentionally with the hope that he would serve the Lord as the biblical Samuel had done. Interestingly, they chose the name without knowing the gender of the child they were expecting!

Knowing that this young man has an interest in both science and the pastoral ministry and that finance could be a hurdle, I suggested Andrews University or Canadian University College for a double major. He would then return to Quebec to continue his studies. Joshua agreed that there would be financial constraints. "But," he said thoughtfully, "after exposing our son to Adventist education, it's not good for him to go back into the secular system."

This former member of the Pentecostal Church had sounded a multiple alarm. His words caused me to reflect again on the importance of a biblical worldview and the foundation it provides our children in an increasingly secular world. This family recognized the difference that Adventist education had made and were not willing to compromise.

Last fall, Vithyia telephoned me. She wanted my opinion of CUC for Natasha, who was completing college. I told her that it would be a positive learning environment. Ten weeks later, this young woman braved one of Alberta's terrible snowstorms to begin her journey at CUC. Praise God for the many ways He continues to lead precious souls to Him and for the part that Adventist education can play in this journey. ■

T. Z. Cousins is the principal of Greaves Adventist Academy: Montreal and Sartigan campuses.

Myrtle's Choice

We are all here, sharing in the hope of salvation because someone who came before us made a choice.

"DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH TODAY'S YOUTH?"

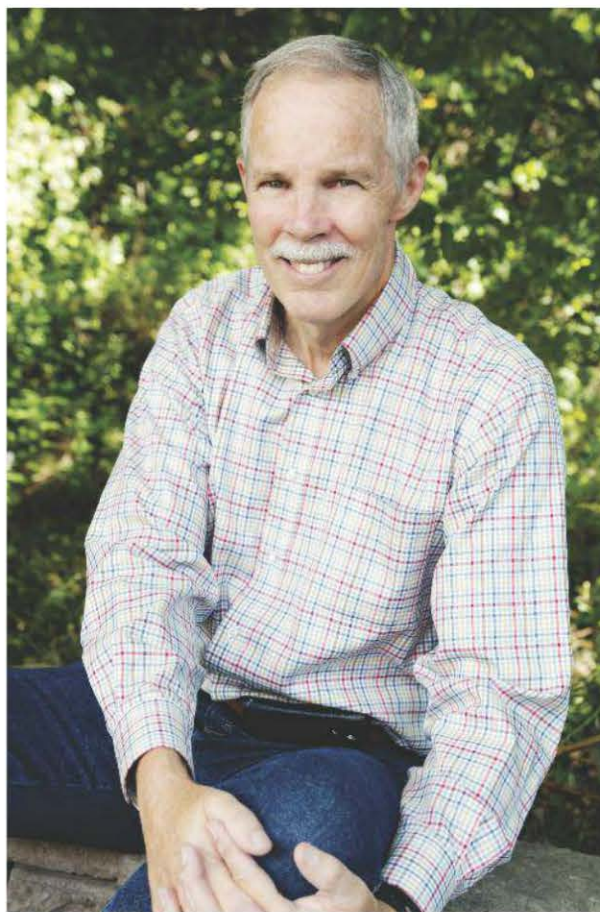
That question, uttered by a matronly grey-haired woman carrying a valise filled with books, arrested my father's attention. Looking at the stranger at the door, he said, "Yes. They have no rules."

"Exactly!" said the stranger. And with that simple exchange, the course of my father's life, and the life of his family, began to change forever.

It was the mid-1950s, and my father, a Second World War Air Force veteran, worked as a lieutenant on the Beverly Hills police force. One day he developed a tooth infection and went to see a dentist, who gave him a shot of penicillin. Reacting to the medication, my father became very sick and went to see a doctor. The doctor, concerned about the infection, gave him a second dose of penicillin, and that dose sent my father to the hospital nearly dead. My father went through a long period of recovery at home before returning to the police force, and it was while resting at home one afternoon that he answered a knock at the door and was introduced to Myrtle Hausler, the grey-haired colporteur with the valise. Pulling out a 10-volume set of Bible stories for children, Myrtle showed them to my father, and he bought the books for my brother and me.

Myrtle returned to our home several times with more books, and eventually, she asked my father if he would like to have Bible studies. He was interested, so in the evenings, an Adventist physician in Los Angeles named Dr. James came to our home and gave our family Bible studies. Several weeks later, we were baptized together as a family.

My father had a promising career in the police force and was being considered for the position of captain and possibly chief. But after baptism our family began to observe the Sabbath and my father scheduled himself off on Saturdays. After receiving a number of complaints, the chief of police told him he would have to make himself available on Saturdays, adding, "As you



Kurt Cao

become a senior officer, you need to become more politically engaged and attend events that are usually held on Saturdays. In fact, there is an event this Saturday with the mayor." Then, looking seriously at my father he said, "You're one of the best officers we have, and I see a bright future for you. But if you are not at this event on Saturday, I want your resignation on Monday."

That Sabbath, our family went to church together, and on Monday my father submitted his resignation. He worked for a time as a colporteur, wanting to share in the work that had changed his own life. He then attended La Sierra University and went on to become chief of security at the university.

In the mid-1950s, one woman chose to risk failure and rejection to share the truth she had come to love. Because she did, God used her to bring hope and a new life to our family. Now, it is my turn. It is our turn. We are all here, sharing in the hope of salvation because someone who came before us made a choice. Someone decided to risk failure and rejection to share the love of Jesus, and their choice gave us a chance at life. Now we have a choice. We have the opportunity to be that "someone" to others. If we will choose to share, if we will choose to give, God will use us to bring hope and new life to the world. ■

Kurt Cao, a psychotherapist and former Messenger columnist, shared his story with Lifestyle Canada Education Service.

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

A New Adventist Asks

QUESTION: My church has more discussions on Christian behaviour than about Christ. In these discussions almost everything is examined but not necessarily from a biblical perspective. I came to the conclusion that some sins are worse than others. Nobody talks about hypocrisy, gossip, or selfishness, but everybody condemns adultery, alcohol, and even the breaking of an unwritten church dress code. Does the Bible support the notion that there are degrees of sin?

MANY PRESENT the notion of varying degrees of sin as if it were part of the church's official beliefs and teachings. This understanding of sin is common in some religious communities and has resulted in a widespread belief that one's level of suffering in hell is directly related to the gravity of sins committed. We don't believe in everlasting hell or the necessity of penance for forgiveness of sins. We proclaim the promise of God that evil will someday cease to exist, but we are generally reluctant to introduce a hierarchy of consequences because we find no mention of this idea in God's Word.

ALL SINS SEPARATE HUMANS FROM GOD

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you" (Isa. 59:2). Ellen White confirmed that hypocrisy and selfishness are unacceptable when she observed, "The drunkard is despised and is told that his sin will exclude him from heaven; while pride, selfishness, and covetousness too often go unrebuked. But these are sins that are especially offensive to God; for they are contrary to the benevolence of His character, to that unselfish love which is the very atmosphere of the unfallen universe."¹ Even though

new member

we see, from God's perspective, that there may be varying degrees in the gravity of human behaviour (see John 19:11), there is nothing else to add or subtract from the ultimate consequence of sin, which is separation from God. Big or small, sins separate us from God's presence, which is sufficiently awful in itself and ultimately leads to loss of eternal life.

WITH RESPECT TO RESPONSIBILITY, ALL ARE EQUAL AND WORTHY OF CONDEMNATION

"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10). A "small mistake" and "big depravity" both produce the same consequence. We are sinners, even if we commit something seemingly insignificant in our eyes but nonetheless in opposition to God's will. By our actions we are manifestly classified as transgressors and have to fear the day when God will bring all things into judgment. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

HOPE FOR ALL SINNERS IN JESUS CHRIST

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). The wonderful news of salvation is that all sinners have the opportunity to see their lives transformed in the image of Jesus Christ. This is the gift of God. Independent of the seriousness of our sin, even of its sometimes catastrophic consequences, the gift of God is for those who accept His grace. Its power will transform our hearts. As Randy Alcorn affirmed, "Any concept of grace that makes us feel more comfortable sinning is not biblical grace. God's grace never encourages us to live in sin; on the contrary, it empowers us to say no to sin and yes to truth."²

CONSEQUENCES OF VARYING DEGREES

If we keep in mind the notion of sin separating us from God's presence, we need to go further and affirm that there are obvious differences between all consequences of human acts. Stealing a mobile phone will likely not have the same results as committing adultery. Destroying a family through inappropriate sexual behavior will create incalculable collateral damage that will affect a significant number of lives. This is why human institutions create laws, procedures, and policies to protect individuals, families, organizations, and society. The church is in the same situation—not determining eternal consequences but encouraging obedience to God's Word and admonishing other behaviours according to biblical guidelines.

My advice in your situation? In the words of Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Help your church members through your example. Focus on Jesus. Shine His light. Share His grace. Love as He loved. Thus you will contribute immensely to the unity of the church and receive the abundance of God's blessings while dwelling in the presence of Jesus. This is the best way to influence behavioural transformation within your church. ■

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

¹ *Steps to Christ*, 30.

² *The Grace and Truth Paradox: Responding With Christlike Balance* (Colorado Springs: Multnomah Books, 2003), 82.



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Alberta



Bill Santos

LESSONS FOR LIFE



Jayden Bromfield

Beauty and relevance, clarity and holy boldness—through the power of Holy Spirit—came together to create a banquet table of blessings when seven churches in the Calgary area united in prayer and purpose. The Calgary Central Spanish, Cornerstone, Garden Road, Maranatha Spanish, M.E.T.R.O. Filipino, and Parkdale churches, along with the Calgary Sudanese company, invited former It Is Written speaker/director Bill Santos to present a series entitled "Lessons for Life" at the Genesis Centre from May 16-31, 2014.

Miracles and marvellous stories emerged. Language was one of the challenges event planners had to overcome in putting together this event. Some translators provided their services, and God took care of the rest. One gentleman testified that he heard the lecture in his own language every night—only possible through the Holy Spirit.

"For nine years I've wandered from church to church searching for the truth. Now it's clear to me, as well as to my Jehovah's Witness wife," stated one attendee. "We have decided to be baptized!" What a wonderful testimony!

Romeo was only five years old when Bill Santos gave him a Bible at a past series in Calgary. He kept the little Bible close to his heart for 10 years. One evening during the "Lessons of Life" series, he took his Bible to Pastor Santos and asked him to autograph it. But that's not all. Romeo, now 15 years old, felt impressed during the presentations to ask Santos to baptize him. The ancient truths Santos presented guided Romeo home. What a divine appointment indeed!

The song "Ancient Words" by Michael W. Smith was the theme song for the series. The song and words remained in the participants' hearts throughout the following days. "These 'ancient words' were the invisible cord that bound all of us to the heart of Christ," said one.

Each night the hall was packed, with only standing room available on the weekends. The evening children's program complemented the adult meetings, affording parents the opportunity to focus on the presentations. Pastor Santos and local pastors baptized 25 persons. "We have 80 further interests," said Ishmael Ali, pastor of the Calgary Garden Road Adventist Church. "We are collaborating with a Bible worker and will continue to pursue hearts and minds for Jesus." A prayer chain continues to keep pulse on the 25 new members.

All the organizers unanimously agreed that team effort was the way to do public evangelism. No one pastor, no one church, bore the weight of conducting a series. All worked together for the glory of God! No one had to be begged to participate, no one was assigned duties. Each church group and each individual willingly and eagerly joined in the effort.

A second series is in the planning stage for October 18-30, 2014. The Calgary Korean Company and Calgary Southside churches will join the original seven churches.

When asked if the membership would participate again, the answer is a hearty, "Yes, when do we start?" It is proof positive that when God's people unite in prayer and purpose, God can do great and wondrous things for His glory and His kingdom! ■

—Linda Steinke, field journalist,
Alberta Conference

—Cynthia Campbell, Prayer Ministries
leader, Calgary Garden Road Church

The Art of Love

After 18 hours of driving from Central Alberta, we finally made our way into Yellowknife and immediately smelled something burning in the air. At first I thought it was smoke from the engine of our vehicle, but David Benjamin pointed out that it was from the forest fires that were burning in the vicinity.

As we pulled into the quiet, dark, and rainy parking lot of the Yellowknife Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Brad Dahr greeted us with a smile, even though it was after 1 a.m.

David Benjamin, Jessica Francis, Allan Perez, Fernanda Perez, Felipe Solheiro, Michelle Solheiro, and I were elated to finally find a place to lie down. All too soon we awoke to a beautiful brisk morning in the Northwest Territories. After worship we prayed for God to use us to spread Christ's love. Pastor Allan Perez, the youth pastor of Red Willow Community Church, challenged us to be the light of the world and salt of the earth.

Our first project was to clean a yard for transitional housing. The STORM Co. crew sporting fashionable logo T-shirts sprung into action. As people in the community saw us, they wondered what we were doing. Shortly thereafter, half of the crew left to help out at the SPCA with sorting recyclables, while the rest stayed behind to finish landscaping the abandoned yard.

At lunchtime we walked the busy streets of downtown Yellowknife and came across some interesting personalities. One particularly memorable resident was Maria. She was friendly and full of life. Even though she was not in the healthiest condition, she had a smile that lit up the Yellowknife skyline. I asked if it was OK for us to take a picture and record an interview. Maria obliged, and as David recorded with his camera, we listened intently to Maria speak with tears in her eyes. She shared her personal story of how she lived on the streets, begging and panhandling. Her story was so touching that we asked if we could do anything for her, to which Maria replied, "Please just pray for me." We joined hands and prayed for Maria and then invited her to



Pastor Allen Perez and Felipe Solheiro working as part of the STORM Co. team in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

eat with us. Unfortunately, she informed us that she was not permitted into the establishment we were dining at. I invited her in and allowed her to order her food. She was not used to having options, so it took her some time to choose. After her sandwich was made, she gave us a hug and greeted us goodbye.

After we ate, our next mission was to clean up the backyard of a local resident. When we arrived, it was quite a sight. The backyard was not kept up to shape, and weeds were everywhere. It appeared that there had been a dog that dug up the yard and had fun while doing it, too. Quickly we went to work, all hands on deck. We maneuvered through the backyard with love in our hearts, knowing that Jesus would have worked hard with love in His heart. As we were finished up the yard and were about to pack up our gardening supplies, a young girl walked by and began to speak with Pastor Brad. Later that day he explained that she wanted to volunteer with us for the rest of the week. We were amazed that as we allowed God to use us to share Christ's love in the community, community members wanted to help alongside us.

Not only did the STORM Co. crew turn out to be talented landscapers, we also discovered our ability to paint, as our next mission was to put a fresh coat of paint on the walls of local gym in Yellowknife: BreakAway Fitness. We also help to paint a room in the YWCA

transitional housing. It was nice to serve artistically through the painting.

One of the last missions for the STORM Co. crew was to put on a free car wash at one of the local gas stations. Pastor Brad mentioned that there are only two car washes in Yellowknife and they are usually packed. We quickly crafted a poster. I ran across the road and started to wave our red poster, and we immediately had our first customer. When he pulled in with his muddy grey pickup, he asked if the car wash was free. He was shocked and said, "Nothing in life is free!" We had to convince him that we were doing this because of the love of God in our hearts. Within one hour we had cleaned and washed a number of trucks and vans.

Our week in Yellowknife was well spent in service to others. There is nothing better than being Jesus' hands and feet, and sharing the love of Jesus through adventures in service. The power that the love of Christ has to transform lives is amazing. We learned that love is an art and that we can share it in countless ways. As Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words." That week we preached the gospel of love through Jesus—no words necessary. ■

—Lyle M. Notice,
Associate Youth Director

British Columbia

Key to My Heart Father-Daughter Banquet

One hundred and twenty-four girls and their dads had a spectacular time of commitment and celebration of their relationship on April 27, 2014. It was so touching to see dads crying while reading their blessings on their daughters. The girls were princesses in their gorgeous ball gowns, giving silver keys to their dads to be passed to their future husbands on their wedding day.

Two years earlier, I read James Dobson's book *Bringing Up Girls: Practical Advice and Encouragement for Those Shaping the Next Generation of Women*, in which the author mentions a special celebration when a girl comes of age. God impressed me with a strong desire to organize a similar event when my daughter would turn 13. I prayed for almost a year, but I needed one more person to help me spearhead this event. When I started planning, I sent an email to my friends asking if anyone would be interested in being the co-organizer. My friend Margi Bouchard responded within half an hour, saying that she'd been praying for a year and wanting to organize something like this for her daughter.

Margi and I started meeting every week, praying and planning. God miraculously sent us an amazing speaker for the event: Tia MacDougall. Tia's specialty is working with teenaged girls and is the only Christian speaker who regularly conducts seminars at Langley School District, Mowat School in Abbotsford, etc. Tia and her husband didn't only speak at the banquet but volunteered to conduct preparatory sessions for the families.

The next miracle occurred when Margi found an absolutely gorgeous venue with crystal chandeliers, a swirling staircase for pictures, amazing surrounding views through the windows, and beautifully prepared food at Langley Golf Course. The problem was that it came at a cost of \$40 per plate. We wanted to make this event affordable for anyone who wanted to attend, so we started praying for sponsors. Aldergrove Seventh-day Adventist Church



Fathers wrote and read blessings on their daughters.

sponsored all our advertising efforts, and we received a \$6,000 donation from a non-Adventist dad who had been wanting to take his daughter to an event like this!

After a couple months of searching for a musician, I was told that Russ Rosen would be a perfect fit for the event but that we may not be able to afford what he charges. At our next meeting I shared the musician's name with Margi, who squealed, "Russ Rosen was the best man at my wedding! I haven't seen him for 20 years!" The rest fell into place fast. Russ offered to play for the banquet practically for free!

The miracle that touched my heart the most happened just a week before the event. A man named Steve phoned me pleading for tickets. He had recently become a Christian and wanted to make a new start in his relationship with his daughter, whom he used to treat badly. We had no tickets left, so with a heavy heart I had to turn him down, but we agreed to pray about his situation. The next day a family phoned Margi, apologizing that because of an emergency they

had to leave the country and needed to return their tickets. It was another reassurance for Steve that God does answer prayers! His daughter was a beaming princess at the banquet.

God sent us helpers who had a heart for girls. This banquet would never have been possible without the help of these wonderful and dedicated people. Many local businesses came on board and donated door prizes. And, of course, Jesus made it a reality—all the pieces fit like a puzzle!

For many dads and daughters this banquet was a time to re-establish their commitments to each other. For many it was a point at which the dads had to admit that their daughters had grown up and needed to be treated as such. For many it was a bonding time. For many it was a time to celebrate their daughter's coming of age. But for everyone it was a beautiful time they could look back on, and the girls can now say, "My dad taught me how I should be treated on a date and how truly special I am in my Father's eyes." ■

—Lana Kapiniak,
Aldergrove Seventh-day
Adventist Church

See more at: <http://goo.gl/pt0VHK>

Ontario

Health and Cultural Expo



On Sept. 14, 2014, the Metro North Central Church District launched its first Adventist Health and Cultural expo at Mel Lastman Square in Toronto.

Many of the churches in the area came together under the banner of “Serving the Community with Love.” Together they provided a multitude of activities, including vegetarian cooking demonstrations, food sampling, chair massages, blood pressure clinics, a health/age clinic, literature on healthful living, face painting, two bouncy castles, all free to the community. There were other items available at a very reasonable price, like veggie burgers from the barbecue. Pastors Godsoe, Greave, Anderson, Baker, Agol, Morris, Reid, Smith Hong, Niagy, along with their congregations, were instrumental in the success of the event. Federal politicians MP Chungston Leung and MP Mark Adler, civic leaders, as well as Dennis Marshall (SDACC vice president) and Mansfield Edwards (Ontario Conference president) gave opening remarks.

Under the direction of Pastor Edwin Martin as well as area coordinators, the Ontario Conference Pathfinder Drum and Drill team carried out precision routines during the course of the day. Volunteers staffed an information booth set up to explain the mission and ministry of the Pathfinder and Adventurer Club. Pastor Martin shared that some no longer attending church reflected on their experiences of being members of the club.

Churches of the Metro North Central District brought their musical and cultural talents together in a smorgasbord of experiences for the ears and eyes, presented at the amphitheatre and continuing during the course of the day. Singers continually stepped forward giving glory to God. Other groups presented regaled in cultural attire to the delight of the audiences. Folks

also experienced Korean, Filipino, and Eastern European Cultural dance and music.

Students from both Crawford Adventist Academy and Kingsway College were there to represent their schools as well. Crawford Adventist Academy youth shared through their musical selections, while the Kingsway Aerials presented acrobatic demonstrations. Both were greatly appreciated by the large crowd that packed the amphitheatre. Both of our institutions, through their engagement with the crowds, emphasized the importance of Christian education.

The sounds of the Caribbean were one of the cultural tastes folks experienced during the day. The Barrie Steel Orchestra was a crowd pleaser as they played during transitions between stage presenters. Fifteen musicians kept the atmosphere energized. In true “Let’s Move” spirit, Maria McClean and her team led the crowd in exercise

routines to promote keeping active and staying fit. Everyone was keeping in step through this fun-filled event.

We are grateful to Paul Quinlan and his team with the City of Toronto, whose staff took care to ensure the event was a success, even reporting later that the Health and Cultural Expo was a “smooth event with no issues.”

It was both amazing and inspiring to witness so many of our area Seventh-day Adventist churches and organizations coming together for one purpose: to connect with our community and reflect the love of Christ. This act is the very embodiment of REACH. In that six-hour period, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., and in the prior preparation, all five letters of the REACH acronym were demonstrated: Revival and transformation, Education for discipleship, Alignment within the church, Community outreach and evangelism, and Healthy Leadership.

Many of the supporting members from the participating congregations were extremely excited for the results they saw and can rest assured that the Health and Cultural Expo will be an even greater success on the second Sunday of September in 2015. Prayerfully, pencil that date into your calendars now. Ultimately, we give God the praise for bringing everyone together for His glory and honour.

Finally, we give the ultimate glory to God, reflecting on the words found Ellen G. White’s *The Ministry of Healing*: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”¹ ■

—David Baker

¹ *The Ministry of Healing*, Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, p. 143.

Anti-Drug March



Scarborough Pathfinders march to promote “No violence” and “Drugs off the Street” in their neighbourhood.

On the Sabbath of Sept. 20, 2014, the Scarborough Adventist Church and a few of its sister churches (e.g., Shiloh and Philadelphia) took part in the annual

anti-drug and anti-violence march, led by the Pathfinders. Many members turned out to participate and show their support. The local police department

showed their partnership by escorting the march in their cars and on their bikes to help control traffic. It was a fascinating to see the Pathfinders marching in sync and to hear the pulsing beat of their drum corps. People on the road stopped to watch, cars stopped to honk, and people stood by their doors and windows to clap and cheer on the solid, faithful ensemble marching through the vulnerable streets of Scarborough’s East End. It was definitely a phenomenal event to promote “No violence” and “Drugs off the street,” as well as witnessing to the community about the good news of Jesus being the solution. ■

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

Scarborough Community Day

On Sunday, Sept. 8, at 4350 Lawrence Avenue East, the Scarborough church had its very first Community Day to highlight their second full year in their new church building.

The Scarborough church prepared for the event ahead of time by handing out flyers, which resulted in an incredible turnout. Not only was the day blessed with wonderful weather; local dignitary MPP Mitzie Hunter of Scarborough/Guildwood was present to show her support!

Many of our church departments had tables set up to provide information, tours were given of the church, and delicious refreshments were served. Families in the community received a food bag with groceries, signifying Scarborough’s warmth and hospitality.

Community visitors were quite impressed by our Pathfinders drum core and drills, as well as an energizing aerobics session.

Scarborough’s Community Day event is only the beginning in making promising things happen in the East End. With prayer and God’s guidance, the members are committed in continuing their mission as a “hospital” for the needs of their neighbours. ■

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



>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of Sept. 30, 2014, there were 437 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,316,389. There were 79 loans with a value of \$22,250,255.

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

Quebec

Eben Eden 67th Annual Meeting

God answered our prayers, and we were blessed with good weather for the annual Camp Eben Eden Reunion Meeting held in Fulford, Que., on Aug. 2, 2014. For many years this has been the Eastern Township English churches' camp meeting, but this year the Granby and Sherbrooke French churches were invited to meet with us; therefore, the services were bilingual. Daniele Starenkyj from the South Stukely church led out in the Sabbath school. Eric Hermans from the Granby church had the French Sabbath school class, and Mitchum Burnett, conference ministerial intern, had the English class. Victor Dingman from the South Stukely church welcomed everyone to the worship service.

Our speaker was Patrick Dupuis, pastor of Abercorn, Granby, and Sherbrooke churches. His sermon was taken from John 5: 1-9. Immediately following the service, everyone (at least 118 attendees) met in front of the auditorium for a group picture. After the meal, we all made our way down to the river for the baptism of Sister Julie St-Arnaud, which was performed by Patrick Dupuis. The Granby church was blessed to have a new member. This is always a highlight every year of our day together. The rest of the afternoon was spent in fellowship and enjoying nature. We had people who came from Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Alberta, Victoriaville church, and various churches in Montreal. Betty Fessenden Barnaby and Esther Gladden Knutson were present. They had attended the first year of camp in 1947 and were tent-mates. ■

—Esther Gladden Knutson



Photo credit: Jean Makrous

Patrick Dupuis, pastor of the Abercorn, Granby, and Sherbrooke churches, baptizing new member, Julie St-Arnaud.

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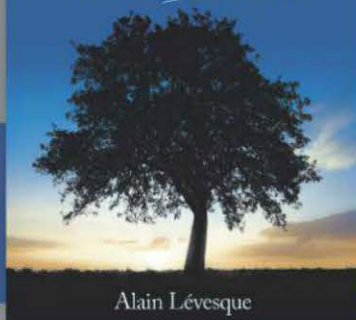
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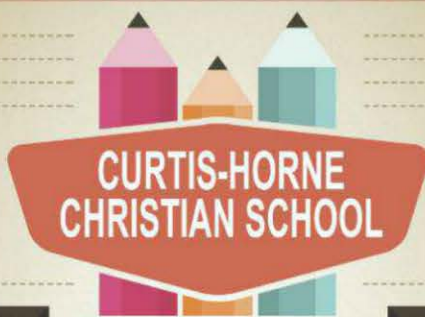
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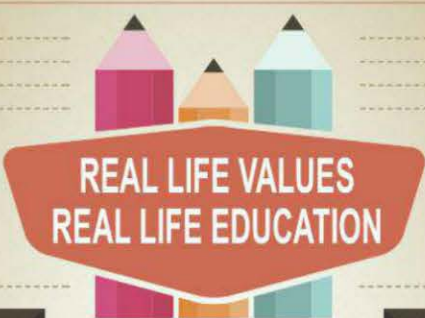


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- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
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- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements'.

■ New Members

ONTARIO

Keegan Mann was baptized at Camp Frenda, Ont., on July 26, 2014, by Kevin Magdamo. Keegan is now a member of the College Park church.

Luca Phillips was baptized at Camp Frenda, Ont., on July 26, 2014, by Kevin Magdamo. Luca is now a member of the College Park church.

Zara Phillips was baptized at Camp Frenda, Ont., on July 26, 2014, by Kevin Magdamo. Zara is now a member of the College Park church.

Coulter Sukumaran was baptized at Camp Frenda, Ont., on July 26, 2014, by Kevin Magdamo. Coulter is now a member of the College Park church.

■ Births

Shannan Lynn Blabey was born on Nov. 16, 2013, to Charlee (née Kirkby) and Eric Blabey of Seeleys Bay, Ont. Little sister to Ally.

Isla Fay Kirkby was born on May 9, 2014, to Adrianna (née Bickham)

and Michael Kirkby of Bowmanville, Ont.

■ Anniversaries

Leo and Bernice Saylor of Lacombe, Alta., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 14, 2014. They were first married in Fox Valley, Sask.



The Sayers have three children: Lorne (Pat) Saylor, Marilyn (Dale) Sparks, and Lyndon (Lynne) Saylor. They have seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

■ Birthdays

Robert Nathaniel Kennedy celebrated his 100th birthday on Aug. 11, 2014, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, with his nine surviving children, their



families, nephews, nieces, and a host of family and friends. After serving the church for 78 years, including 28 years as an elder at the Toronto West church, he returned to his native Jamaica, where he serves as an honorary elder at the Asia Adventist church. Robert has 10 children, 27 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Michael Dobroskay was born on Mar. 12, 1921 in Alticane, Sask., and died on Aug. 7, 2014 in Saskatoon,

Sask. Michael was devoted to Christ and the work of the church, holding numerous church positions throughout the years. He was also involved in the church choir, men's quartet, local church school, and Sunnyside nursing home. He is predeceased by his parents, Stephen and Helen Dobrovolsky. Surviving: wife, Barbara; sons, Arnold (Karen) of Saskatoon, and Desmond (Cindy) of Kelowna, B.C.; daughter, Shirley (James) Vaughn of Albuquerque, New Mexico; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Cecil Finney was born on May 10, 1923 in Sydney Mines, N.S., and died on Jul. 13, 2014 in Halifax, N.S. Cecil's contribution to the church is seen in the ongoing stream of his offspring: children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, some of which are already helpful members of the Adventist church. Cecil is predeceased by his wife, Eliza Edena (née Jessome) Finney; and parents, James and Sara (née Cross) Finney. Surviving: sons, Daniel (Bernadette) of Long Island, N.S., Cecil Jr. (Angie) of Long Island, Stephen (Carolyn) of Long Island; daughters, Janet Finney of Millville, N.S., Joan (Frank) Soper, Saralene (John) MacLean of Lower Sackville, N.S., Mary (Kenneth) Jackson of Long Island, and Susan (Brian) Gear of Alder Point, N.S.; 27 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

Mary (née Reynolds) Hanson was born on May 7, 1925 in Hainesville, N.B., and died on Jul. 27, 2014 in Fredericton, N.B. Mary and her husband held Sabbath school in their home, which resulted in the building of the Adventist church in Zealand, N.B. at which time she helped nail shingles on its roof. She was a faithful member of her church and served in many offices over the years. Mary also served as a Private in the Canadian Armed Forces during WWII. She is predeceased by her son, Joseph Reynolds; daughter, Kathryn Morgan; parents, James and Mossie Reynolds; brothers, Benjamin and Howard; sisters, Annie Houghton and Martha Reynolds. Surviving: husband, Harold; sons, Allen (Brenda) Reynolds of Oshawa, Ont., and Charles (Bonnie) Hanson of Greenhill Lake, N.B.; daughter, Ann McGiverty of Fredericton, N.B.; brother, Andrew Reynolds of Hainesville; sister, Sadie (Ralph) Burr of Fredericton; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Franklin Knutson was born on Sep. 6, 1925 in Waterville, Que., and died on July 22, 2014 in Corbeil, Ont. Frank was a pastor from 1952-1967, and after receiving his PhD worked as a college professor from 1969-1985.

He loved his Lord and his church, helped fund several mission trips, and assisted students with their finances. Frank is predeceased by his parents, John and May (née Newberry) Knutson. Surviving: wife, Anita (née Moores); sons, Eric (Denise) of Sacramento, Calif., and Warren (Stephanie) of Redbridge, Ont.; daughters, Karen (Don) Chamberlain of Ooltewah, Tenn., Marjorie Ermsher of Penn Valley, Calif., and Heather (Darrell) Petersen of Beaumont, Calif.; brother Norman (Jean) Knutson; sister, Margaret (Gerry) Bryant; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

William (Bill) Kotanko was born on Aug. 29, 1929 in Warwick, Alta., and died on Feb. 25, 2014 in Simcoe, Ont. Bill served the Lord and church in Simcoe for approximately 60 years. He sang in a quartet live for the Voice of Hope radio broadcast in Brantford with his brothers, Michael and Lawrence, and Victor Fedusenko. He was a deacon and chorister. With his strong voice he especially liked to sing "We're Marching to Zion." Bill and Anna both enjoyed being greeters for the annual campmeeting in Simcoe. Surviving: wife, Anna Marie Kotanko; son, Robert (Kimberly) Kotanko of London, Ont.; daughters, Linda Crossley of North Vancouver, B.C., Sandra Kotanko of Toronto, Ont., Karen Kotanko of Mississauga, Ont., and Nicole Henry of Richmond Hill, Ont.; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

■ Tribute



Leon Charles Ingraham, long-time resident of Clarkson Valley for 52 years, was born on May 1, 1937, in Lacombe, Alta., and passed away tragically near Valleyview on July 3, 2014, at the age of 77.

Moving to the Peace Country in 1962 and then to Clarkson Valley in 1963, Leon served as vice-principal and principal, as well as a classroom instructor, until retirement in 1993. He enjoyed his students and loved

teaching, farming, and cattle.

Leon was the loving husband of Evelyn (née Kisser) for 53 years 11 months; loving father to Chip (Jodie) of Grande Prairie, and Curt (Robin) of Upland, Calif.; proud grandfather to Ryan, Scott and Arthur, Frances and Evania; great-grandfather to Evanjeleen, twins Charlie and Sophia, and Lyla.

Leon leaves to mourn sister Jean of Eckville, brother-in-law Bob Delaney of Spruce Grove, mother-in-law Linda Kisser of Drayton Valley, brother-in-law Ordan Kisser, Derald (Teresa) Kisser, Dallas (Donna) Kisser, all of Drayton Valley, and many nieces and nephews and their families.

Leon served a partial term on the Alberta Conference.

Funeral services and a celebration of life were held in Grande Prairie on July 11. Leon was laid to rest at the Glenn Leslie Cemetery near Bezanon.

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Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Silver

Spring, Md., is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant II. Responsibilities include review reconciliations, wire transfer requests, grant loans/advances, prepare reports to government agencies. Record questioned cost, review GIK documentation, and compile budgets for cost centres. For more information, go to www.adra.org. (1/15)

Union College seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-8 education

and eligible for Nebraska certification to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise student teachers. Doctorate strongly preferred. Effective summer 2015. Email letter of interest and C.V. to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewhite@ucollege.edu. (11/14)

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Adventist University of Health Sciences, in Orlando, Fla., is seeking full-time faculty members for its developing Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The ideal candidate will have an advanced level doctorate or DPT with clinical specialty certification, expertise in assigned teaching areas, effective teaching and student evaluation skills, a scholarly agenda, a record of professional and community service, and eligibility for PT licensure in Florida. For more information, email DPTinfo@adu.edu, visit www.adu.edu/pt, or go to www.floridahospitalcareers.com and search job number: 182527. (11/14)

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Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International in Silver Spring, Md.,

is seeking a full-time Senior Program Finance Manager. Responsibilities include providing day-to-day support to implementing field offices on financial management processes, compliance, policies and adherence to donor regulations. Field experience preferred. For more information, go to www.adra.org. (1/15)

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International in Silver Spring, Md.,

is seeking a full-time Staff Auditor, CPA required. Responsibilities include preparation of reports, evaluate internal control systems, procedures, and best practices, applications of GAAP, GAAS, and donor compliance rules and regulations. For more information, go to www.adra.org. (1/15)

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Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Sudan,

in Sudan, is seeking a full-time Finance Director. Responsibilities include preparation of all financial reports, process disbursement of funds, review of financial statements, bank and journal vouchers, project budgets, and maintenance of accounting records. For more information, go to www.adra.org.

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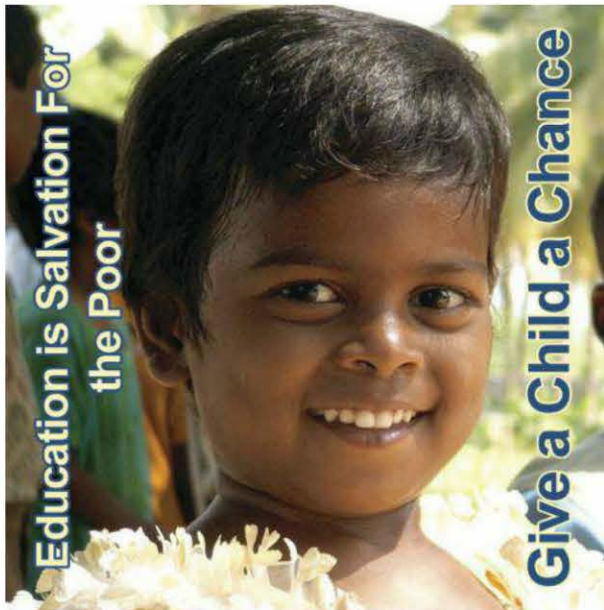
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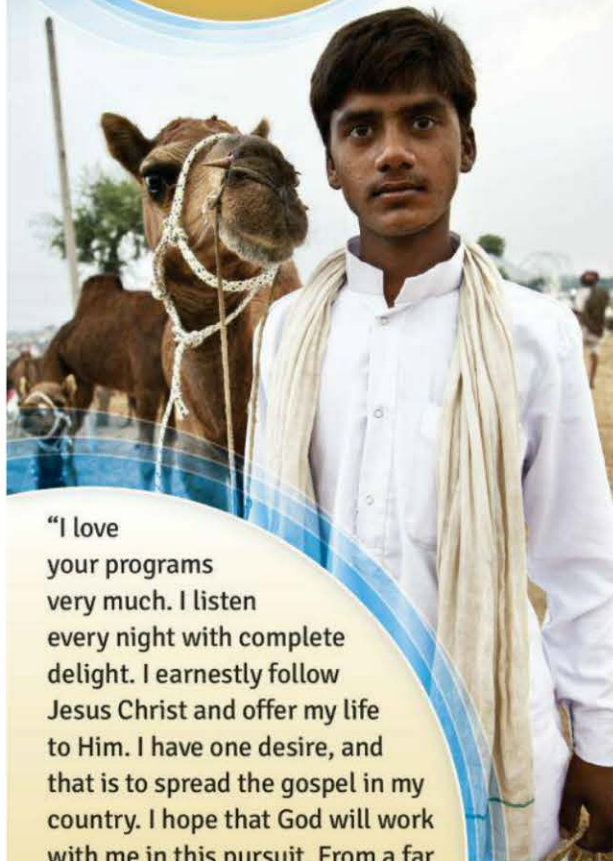
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from the editor

Imagine the Possibilities

When I was the manager of the Adventist Book Centre in Southern California I had the privilege of helping plan some extraordinary Christmas concerts. The guests of honour were celebrities, many of whom were household names. However, these parties were not about glitz and glam. The entertainers were 60 children who, in their short lives, had suffered abuse, often from their own parents, and were given court-ordered police protection. Most of us can recall our families attending school Christmas concerts, but these kids had no one. That is when these actors and musicians stood in the place of moms and dads, brothers and sisters. While we were choosing the vegetarian food for the affair, I received a phone call that I will remember forever. One of the celebrities said their family had decided that they wanted to give to these children rather than give gifts to another. It turns out they were not the only ones. I found that willingness to share very moving.

Accompanying this month's issue is the ADRA gift catalogue, a practical way to give something to someone who will never pay you back. That is the best kind of gift, just as Jesus gave us the gift of salvation. I am going to post the link to www.adra.ca/giftcatalogue on my Facebook page and send personal emails to both my Adventist and non-Adventist friends. This is something I encourage you, dear reader, to do as well.

Even if you have chosen not to be a faith family, everyone believes in something. You can select an annual gift from this catalogue and help someone in the developing world. This is an easy opportunity for you and your family to start an ongoing legacy of compassion. What a great lesson to teach our children and friends.

ADRA Canada's mission is clearly one we can all rally behind. The gift catalogue presents an opportunity to start conversations with those who know little about this outstanding organization. Imagine being able to say, "Our family provides garden systems to help families in developing countries become self-sustaining," or "We buy latrines, fertilizer, and trees." Imagine if the children's Sabbath school in every church raised money so the kids could proudly say, "Our Sabbath School provides a livelihood to help families around the world." Thirteenth Sabbath used to be a big deal for our kids; this can fill that gap, as children can tell the church what they raised money for.

Can you imagine if every member shared this catalogue in his or her workplace? Can you imagine if retirement home residents convinced other residents to become sponsors? So many non-faith-based people want to help others without necessarily having "religion" attached. You can give them this opportunity. This is really a new generation of successful ingathering methods.

Can you imagine the possibilities? ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

FIFTY YEARS AGO, in November 1964, the world was a different place. The Viet Cong had assaulted the Bien Hoa air base in Saigon. Canadian jazz musician Diana Krall was born. A loaf of bread cost 21 cents. The BC Lions earned their very first CFL Grey Cup victory.

This month we take a look back to the state of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as reflected in the November 4, 1964, issue of the *Canadian Union Messenger*.



Alberta held its first Pathfinder Fair in the Peace River country with four clubs participating: Peoria, Fairview, Grande Prairie, and Dawson Creek, B.C. Pictured above is the winning float in the parade, decorated by the Fairview club.



58 years after the work began in that city, the Regina church was dedicated, debt-free.



Mr. and Mrs. John Blake

John Blake, newly graduated from Canadian Union College, joined the Maritime Conference as a pastor and began a long career of service.



Recently acquired Kitchener Church.



First church service in Kitchener Seventh-day Adventist Church building, October 10, 1964. Left to right: Ed Manson, local elder, Kitchener; Elder L. L. Bock, president, Ontario-Quebec Conference; Elder J. M. Howard, Sr., Pastor; David Hiebert, local elder, Wellesley.

The Kitchener church held their first service in their newly acquired church building after much prayer and sacrifice.



Members and staff of the Lay Instructors' Training School look forward to a bright future in soul-winning after the training and inspiration of the Hope school.



Step by step Elder V. W. Schoen built up the Divine Blueprint circle to show "What Israel Ought to Do." The steps are: 1. Prepare the territory. 2. Visit. 3. Give Bible Studies. 4. Lay Evangelism. 5. Establish Branch Sabbath Schools. 6. Bible Schools. 7. Baptisms. 8. Train the new members to do the same type of soul-saving work.

The British Columbia Conference held lay training, which proved to be tremendously inspiring for those in attendance.



Photo: CDC/Athalia Christie

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