

canadian adventist *Messenger*

december 2014

Parker Street
Food & Furniture Bank

More than just a Food Bank

PLUS Pastor Bill's Close Call (p. 11)
Week of Evangelism (p. 20)
Avoiding the Sins of Sodom (p. 46)

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“I’ve wondered many times what pictures wise men carried through their life after they’d seen the star and the infant Jesus. What an incredible experience that would have been!”



Pictures

ALL OF US CARRY MANY PICTURES WITH US. They accumulate over time. Most of them aren’t in a wallet or an album. They’re in our minds: a collection of things we’ve seen or experienced throughout life.

There’s the picture of the new girl at Union College named Becky who is now my wife. It’s one of my most important pictures. I treasure the first sight of each of our children. I can still see the man who was murdered 10 metres from me in the public library 40 years ago. And I’ll never forget the beautiful pink peonies of my childhood. All of these pictures are secure with me, locked in my mind forever.

What about the pictures other folks carry? I’ve wondered many times what pictures wise men carried through life after they’d seen the star and the infant Jesus. What an incredible experience that would have been!

Or what about the experience of the shepherds the evening they saw and heard angels? The picture was so compelling that the shepherds said, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened” (Luke 2:15, ESV). Once there, they collected another picture.

Now think with me of Christ’s final moments on Calvary. As we stand beside a Roman centurion on that fateful day, we hear him say, “Truly this was the Son of God!” (Matt. 27:54, ESV). It had been a rough afternoon for the centurion, when you read the narrative. I’ve wondered what snapshot stayed with him through life as he reflected on what he had seen and experienced.

We’ve come now to the year-end holidays. Historically, this has been known as the Christmas season. Through the centuries before us, the thoughts of many focused on the birth of Christ. Today, Christ has largely been removed from Christmas. Even the traditional Christmas carols are heard less frequently on radio throughout this season. Sadly, many around us don’t have a picture of Jesus within their grasp. How sad.

And that leads me to wonder in this special season, what picture do I have of Jesus? Have I really encountered Him? Which is my favourite picture of Christ? And am I willing to share it with those around me? ■

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

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Exalt the City

"By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked" (Proverbs 11:11, NKJV).

"**W**hen it goes well for good people, the whole town cheers" (MSG). So says the wise man in Proverbs 11:10. Does the general public really get excited when someone does well? Or do they instead get jealous? But read the second half of the verse: "When it goes badly for bad people, the town celebrates." Our dramas have us on tenterhooks to see what happens to the protagonists, and we are pleased when the "goodies" win and the "baddies" get their "just desserts." Our sense of justice is served when prison doors decisively clang on the enemies, and our hero/heroine gets the happy ending.

This got me wondering about the effect that good people have, and the next verse brings a remarkable statement—and a promise: "By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked" (Prov. 11:11, NKJV).

How do the upright exalt a city? First, there is personal engagement. A colleague recently was helping in her neighbourhood. A car passed but a few minutes later returned. The driver handed her a bottle of water. "I saw you when I drove by, and it looked like you were doing something worthwhile. Guessing you were thirsty, I drove to the store and bought this water for you. Goodbye!" She drove off leaving my friend gratefully quenching her thirst. I imagine the driver must have had that smile of satisfaction one gets when you genuinely help someone. That city was exalted that day—by the personal actions of my friend, and by the unknown passerby who provided water, cheer, and a smile.

The second level is that of our circle, and I can't help but think of the local church and its outreach missions. The investment in the youth in Sabbath schools, Pathfinders, and other groups, the opportunities for worship and fellowship, the various community projects; these all exalt the city.

Thirdly, the city that we can exalt is a global one. Members of the Seventh-day Adventist family have many opportunities to reach out to a wider world. From our earliest days we have collected "mission offerings" in Sabbath school, and as our church encircles the globe, some of our tithes and offerings reach its furthest corners. You can support our global health/hospital ministry and our education system. A donation to Adventist World Radio or It Is Written will bring Adventist messages of hope to communities that may have never heard of Jesus Christ! And financial support of the worldwide ministry of ADRA, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, has an impact on millions of people, portraying the love of God in most practical ways. Millions? Yes, last year over 21 million people were provided support by ADRA. That's a huge number of people who were exalted!

Do you overthrow your city or community, or do you exalt it, build it up? There is no end to the ways we can tear one another down with bad thoughts, evil speaking, and malicious acts. We can even overthrow our city just by doing nothing. (Remember the priest and Levite in the Good Samaritan story.) But acting positively will bring a blessing. Make a quick inventory of all the things you do to "exalt your city." Is it enough, or could you do more? Are you exalting your city at the neighbourhood, church, and world levels?

Proverbs 11:11 again:

"The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill" (TLB).

James Astleford is executive director of ADRA Canada.



teen talk

Q: What do you do if you see a ghost?

A: Oh dear! I hope you haven't actually seen any ghosts and that you are asking just in case (perhaps you just watched a scary movie?). Ghosts are serious stuff. Let me put things in perspective for you. First of all, ghosts are not dead people who show up in our world. Dead people are, well, dead! Ghosts are demons. Yup, you read that well. Demons are the angels who followed Lucifer when he rebelled against God in heaven. Satan and his angels know that they are going to be destroyed, so their only goal on earth is to bring down as many humans as possible with them.

With this in mind, you'll want to flee from ghosts and any supernatural paraphernalia. Do not seek to contact spirits—they are demons! Do not start conversations with them, and if they do, do not answer! Jesus is the only one who can handle them, so if you see one, ask Him to chase them away.

If you are dabbling in supernatural phenomena, stop it immediately and talk with a pastor or elder, or an adult you trust.

BTW, this is the reason I don't watch supernatural movies like Annabelle or Harry Potter. That stuff is real!

Think about it, will ya? ■



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

Creation Corner for Kids

*If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath ...
then you will find your joy in the Lord.—Isa. 58:13, 14*

Snow Geese

The sound of snow geese calling to one another as they fly overhead causes me to look up. Their white bodies and black wing tips stand out against the clear blue autumn sky. Adult birds guide and encourage their young over the course of the long migration, calling to one another, keeping their families together. Some of these bird families will travel around 4,000 kilometres to their wintering grounds.

Storms, hunters, animal predators, and poisoning from eating lead pellets from shotguns are some of the hazards snow geese face during migration. The geese do have some safe havens, though. Some lakes and marshes have been set aside as wildlife refuges. The geese come to these peaceful areas to rest at night.

Think about it.

Snow geese face many troubles and trials in their travels. The rest they get in wildlife refuges is important to their survival. We face many troubles and trials in our daily lives too. Sabbath, that weekly refuge in time, is absolutely necessary for our spiritual survival. Have you learned what it means to rest in Jesus each Sabbath, gaining strength to face the difficulties that lie ahead?

Do it!

Prayerfully study Isaiah 58:13, taking it word by word. Also read Exodus 20:10, 11. If Sabbath is less than a delight for you, make a plan and do something about it. Need some ideas? There are many good books stuffed with Sabbath activity ideas. And here's a site to get you started: sabbathideas.org. To learn more about snow geese, 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.

CUC Service Day



Picking up garbage on the highway.



Fixing up the running trails around Lacombe.

"We can really be a light on a hill for others to see!"

IT'S A THURSDAY AFTERNOON, just a few weeks since the start of the school year, and classrooms are empty. Instead, students are in front of the university church waiting: waiting for instructions, waiting for the opportunity to serve.

Service Day takes place at the start of the new semester and coincides with the Week In Spiritual Emphasis (WISE). For an afternoon, classes are cancelled and students are presented with the chance to participate in over 20 service projects in the City of Lacombe, their local community. Service Day is a student-run project with the guidance of the chaplain's office; it is CUC's chance to give back.

Jessica Hall, a fourth-year religious studies major and summer student chaplain, acted as the summer Service Day coordinator. She was encouraged by her interaction with the community and their enthusiasm in having students helping. "Everyone I talked to was very excited about the prospects of working with the university to complete the service projects. They were eager to make connections and hope to partner with us more in the future. As students, we tend to stay on campus and we don't realize what is going on in the community around us. Service Day, however, gives us a peek into the world and the impact we can have on it. On the flip side, our community has shown overwhelming gratitude for what we accomplished on Service Day. We need to blow people away with God's love more often," says Jessica.

As the school year began, Jessica assumed the duties of Off-Campus Ministries director and passed off the Service Day project to Kaitlin Grovet, a fourth-year business administration major and new Service Day Coordinator. The two worked together to coordinate over 160 students, faculty, and staff covering 20 projects throughout the City of Lacombe. Clad in their blue T-shirts, volunteers worked projects all over the city.

From highway garbage cleanup, to garbage bin painting, and from city parks weeding to weeding at seniors' homes, the blue hue of volunteers was seen all over Lacombe.

For Kaitlin, the students' willingness to help touched her. As Service Day arrived, there was one project that had not been filled. She made the call to her contact at the unfilled project to let them know that she had run out of volunteers. After hearing the distress in her project contact's voice, Kaitlin decided to make one final call to students. It was just a few hours before the Service Day began, but she received enough new volunteers to complete the project. "Nearly every student who participated in Service Day told me how much fun they had and how useful they felt. The response from our community was awesome. Those who were directly served by our students were all extraordinarily grateful for the time we gave to them!" stated Kaitlin.

Adam Diebert, CUC chaplain, has been impressed by the organization of the two student leaders. "I could not have asked for a better pair of student leaders. ...

Kaitlin and Jessica handled everything from coordinating with the city, coordinating with the various groups, cafeteria meals, T-shirt design, and much more! They consulted with me, but they did a lot. They were very proactive and responsible," says Diebert.

CUC Service Day serves two purposes: to give students an opportunity to put their faith in action and to build ties with our community. For Kaitlin it's simple: we should just do what Jesus did. She says, "Jesus took the time to go out into His community and spread God's love through acts of service. Why should we be any different? Seeking out our community is important as a Christian university. We can really be a light on a hill for others to see! By putting on events such as Service Day, we can share Christ's love to Lacombe through basic acts of service. People see that and respect it." ■

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

Chan Shun Science Centre Reopening

Faculty, staff, and students gathered in front of the Chan Shun Science Centre Friday afternoon, Oct. 24, to celebrate the official reopening of the facility that was damaged by an explosion, small fire, and water damage on Oct. 8, 2013. "Even though we have been using this building since the start of this school year, it is right and fitting that we have set aside this special time to gather and officially reopen this important space," said Mark Haynal, CUC president, during his remarks.

Haynal said the occasion of reopening the science centre brought to mind two important truths and asked students to remember them each time they entered the Chan Shun Science Centre. First, even though what happened to the building a year ago was devastating and disruptive, by patiently working together through the difficult situation the building we now have is better than the one we had before the incident. "Each of you will go through great challenges at some point in your life," said Haynal, "but if you and your community tackle them with courage and determination, you will come through those challenges a better person."

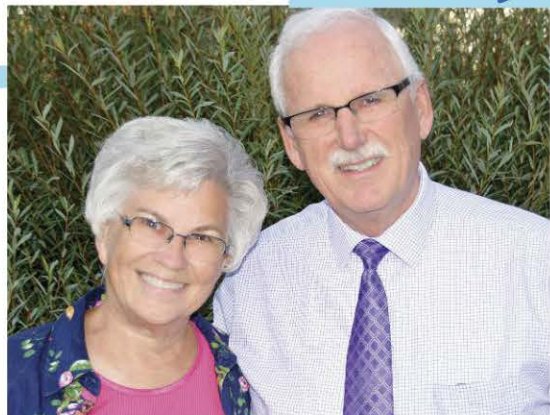
"Our science centre is also celebrating its 20th birthday this year," said Haynal. "For 20 years this building has been a place where students prepared themselves for lives of service in medicine, dentistry, and other healing professions," said Haynal. "Every time you enter this building, I ask that you commit yourself to a life of doing good, a life of being of service to others."



Ribbon cutting with Dr. Mark Haynal, CUC president; Dr. Bruce Buttler, dean Division of Science, and Nisha Johnny, Student Association president.

Dr. Bruce Buttler, dean of the Division of Science, thanked the students for their patience and adaptability during the time they did not have access to the science centre. Student Association president, Nisha Johnny, thanked the faculty and administration, on behalf of the students, for restoring the science centre and making it even better than it was prior to the explosion. ■

Where Are They Now



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

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

Messenger: *Where were you born? And tell me about your childhood.*

Don Corkum: I was born in Bridgewater, N.S. My parents were Clement and Harriet Corkum. We lived near Bridgewater in a little community called Pleasantville. They lived there all their lives, and that is where I lived for the first 15 years of my life. I have one brother, Glendon, usually called Glen.

M: *How did you come to the decision to choose the ministry as your profession?*

Don: We grew up with no Adventist church in our community; however, I always had the desire to work for God. Early on in my teenage years, my first pastor, Harold Friesen, had a great influence on my life and involved me in ministry. I believe my convictions developed at this time. We also developed new churches during this time, and planting churches became a great desire in my life—and continues to be to this day.

M: *Where did you go to school, and what degrees did you earn?*

Don: I went to public school until Grade 11, since there was no church school in our area. I attended Kingsway College (then Oshawa Missionary College), completing my high school. Then I attended Atlantic Union College where

I received a BA in Religion. I later attended Andrews University for my Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

M: *Where did you serve the church and in what capacity?*

Don: I served as a pastor and evangelist in the Maritimes for 10 years; pastor and church planter in the Alberta Conference, where I had the privilege of planting two churches—Sherwood Park and Lacombe Community; I then served in the Alberta Conference office for 10 years, the last eight as conference president; following this I served as the conference president of the Wisconsin Conference for 14 years.

M: *What did you enjoy most about your years of service?*

Don: My greatest joy was to see lives transformed through a relationship with Christ. I also have a passion for leadership, helping people and assisting organizations to become effective and making a difference in their ministry. As I mentioned previously, I love seeing new churches planted and growing.

M: *How has Phyllis been involved in your ministry?*

Don: Phyllis has a similar passion as mine: seeing God's power make a difference in the lives of people and churches. In every

assignment we worked together—and this brought us a lot of joy. I believe this gave a model of teamwork in ministry. Phyllis, however, had her own employment career in church work, mostly in the area of finance.

M: *Now that you are retired, what do you do to occupy your time?*

Don: I have a philosophy that we don't retire from God's call. I am currently church planting coordinator for the Alberta Conference (part-time) and prayer coordinator for the SDACC (volunteer). I also serve in other ministries: spiritual coordinator for Seniors in Action for God With Excellence (SAGE) Alberta, and board chair for Adventist World Aviation (AWA) Canada.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

Don: Phyllis and I have three children. Brian and his wife, Stacy, have two children, Cohen and Sage, and live in Calgary; Rhonda and her husband, Carlos, live in Massachusetts and have two children, Nicholas and Giana; and Sherri lives in Toronto.

M: *Where do you live now?*

Don: We live in Calgary and attend the Mountainview church with our son and his family. ■

Pastor Bill's Close Call



After escaping his near death accident, Pastor Bill had a lot to smile about.

One bright day in February of this year, retired Alberta Conference president William (Bill) Olson crossed the yard of his country home in North Central Alberta to care for his horses. Thoughts of his last will and testament were far from his mind.

Intent on putting out hay for his horses, Pastor Bill started up his rear-wheel-drive tractor, picked up a large round hay bale in the tractor's front-end loader, and quickly discovered he was losing traction in the snow. He lifted the heavy loader up a little higher to put more weight on the spinning back wheels. Then he backed up a bit. When he drove forward, the tractor lurched and sent the big hay bale crashing down, right on top of him!

On impact, the hay bale pinned Pastor Bill to the tractor seat, crushing his pelvic area and bending him backward out over the seat. No one was near enough to hear if he called out. Only heaven could help him, and he knew it.

As he was digging away the hay around him and praying for help, Pastor Bill remembered "The Tractor Fender Will" story he had recently read in the Messenger.¹ Knowing he couldn't reach the tractor's fender, he thought, *Even if I don't make it, my will is made and I'm ready to go.* Thankfully, God spared his life by enabling him to slowly squirm off the tractor.

While still receiving medical care, Pastor Bill tells this story with a smile and always reminds his listeners to be sure their will is made.

Written by Carolyn Osmond, retired treasurer/VP for finance at the Alberta Conference.

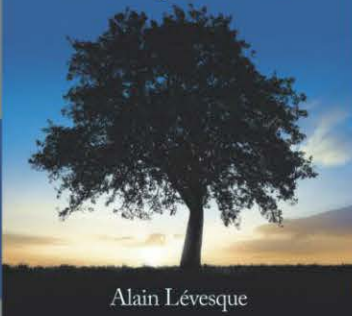
This story, and most of the articles and stories that have appeared in this section since 2012, were written by Carolyn Osmond for the Planned Giving and Trust Services Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Carolyn as she lays down her pen and gets serious about being retired. Thank you, Carolyn, for your dedication and hard work.

¹ "The Tractor Fender Will," The Canadian Adventist Messenger, February 2014, 11.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA EDITION

GEORGE'S TREE

The story of a *well* planned gift



Alain Lévesque

GEORGE'S TREE will teach you how to benefit from Canadian tax deductible policies when you make your current charitable donations, as well as charitable bequests in your Will. A financial specialist in Planned Giving, author Alain Lévesque uses an easy-to-read story format to demystify many preconceived notions. This special edition includes examples for Planned Gifts to Canadian Adventist charitable organizations.

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"I love what Eric [Rajah] does and how he believes in young people ..."

B.C. elementary students give in a big way to African Schoolchildren

A Vancouver area school is cementing itself as a fundraising champion for African children. Sunshine Hills Elementary, a Kindergarten to Grade 7 school in North Delta, has raised \$120,000 within five years. It donated \$45,000 towards schools and water wells in Sierra Leone, through the Free the Children international charity. In the last three years, it has given \$75,000 to A Better World Canada, a volunteer-run organization created in 1990 and governed by Lacombe's College Heights Adventist Church, for projects in Sudan and Kenya.

Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World, calls Sunshine Hill's efforts to raise \$120,000 in five years "inspiring." He says it has been the largest school contributor to his organization. "It's not just about the big sum they've raised, but that these elementary school students understand the global need," he added.

Teacher Joan Stephens, who oversees the We Team of about 40 Grade 7 students each year, first learned about A Better World through Gail Misek. The retired Sunshine Hills teacher is involved with the Central Alberta-based international development aid organization.

Stephens liked what she heard from Misek and later experienced first-hand. Rajah regularly updated the children as to their project, including giving photos through its progress and completion. "All the money these children bring in from their piggy banks goes directly to whatever we're raising money for," said Stephens.

Stephens also liked that A Better World was helping in Sudan, a country where her aunt had set up nursing schools several decades ago. "It was a bit of a personal thing for me, but there's also such dire need there," said Stephens.

Stephens allows the We Team to choose the project and be involved in the decision making throughout. It's important to empower these young leaders, she said. "They're only 12 or 13 years old, so I have so much respect for them," Stephens added. "Each year, we raise about \$25,000 and it still astounds me."

The first \$25,000 was used to build a medical clinic in Kosti, a city located in southeast Sudan. The following donation supported the construction of a school at St. Ann Baby and Children's Home southeast of Nakuru in western Kenya. The latest cash injection helped with the building of a school in Kosti and included dollars from A Better World and CrossRoads Church in Red Deer.

The vast majority of Sunshine Hill's money is raised through a walk-a-thon held at the school. Smaller events are also held.



Teacher Joan Stephens (far left) and Sunshine Hills Elementary's We Team, including Kira Szewczyk (third girl on left) were on hand to present a \$20,000 cheque to A Better World Canada co-founder Eric Rajah.

Kira Szewczyk, part of last year's We Team, said that fundraising wasn't tough in the community, because people were willing to help with the overseas cause. She initially got involved because she and her friends thought it would be "pretty cool" to help children in Africa.

"It turned out to be really fun," said Szewczyk. "We got to be on committees and help fundraise a lot of money for things like clean water."

She looks forward to joining a similar club at the high school she's now attending. "I want to encourage other children to join and help other children," said Szewczyk.

Sunshine Hill's partnership with A Better World is expected to continue.

"I love what Eric [Rajah] does and how he believes in young people and that they're the ones who are going to make the difference," Stephens said.

Rajah shows photos of the Sunshine Hill schoolchildren to the African children, and in doing so, they know the project came through a lot of effort.

He credited the school staff, particularly Stephens, for training these children to care about others around the world. "Getting them started and getting them to be sensitive to world needs is an important part of learning," Rajah said. ■

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

Change or Die^{, Part 2}

Attracting and Engaging Millennials

Last month Pastor Kumar Dixit raised some critical questions that local church leadership should be asking when reaching young adults. In this month's article, Dixit highlights three principles that attract and engage young people in the local congregation.

In recent years there has been a preponderance of research declaring why young people are *leaving* the church. While this material has been valuable, minimal information has been published on what *attracts* and keeps young people *engaged* in the church.

Last summer my research team developed a study to determine whether there are successful factors in reaching young people in the local church.¹ Here are three principles we discovered were relevant to retention rates.

RELATIONSHIPS ARE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO MILLENNIALS.

The way Millennials socialize and work professionally is vastly different than previous generations. For example, Boomers created the office cubicle in an effort to maintain privacy and work in isolation. Millennials, in contrast, are significantly more collaborative and community oriented than their older counterparts. Of all the respondents in our study, only 11 percent of young adults said they attend church alone. The whopping majority attended church with a family member, friend, or significant other. Millennials prefer church and spirituality to be a shared experience.

APPLYING THE BIBLE TO PRACTICAL LIFE IS VITAL.

On Sabbath, Millennials are not looking for a theological exposition. Rather, they are trying to find meaning in this complex life, asking how to apply Bible truths to ordinary living. When presented with the statement "Through church, I've learned how the Bible applies to my field or career interests," 73 percent of them agreed or strongly agreed. While there is a thirst for practical spiritual application, it is important to note that Millennials are also biblically illiterate. When asked, "How often do

you read your Bible?" only 40 percent of the respondents in our study said, "Occasionally."²

YOUNG ADULTS WANT TO BE MENTORED.

Generational divides unintentionally segregate many churches. Some older people feel they do not understand "youth culture" and are not welcome or wanted in the lives of the young. This is quite contrary to what the latest research has discovered. *The National Study of Youth and Religion*, a major research project, revealed factors contributing to a young person retaining their religious tradition into adulthood.³ Author Drew Dyck says, "The number one predictive factor as to whether or not a young Christian will retain his or her faith is whether that person has a meaningful relationship with an older Christian."⁴ If a young believer does not have a relationship with an older Christian, he or she will be easily lost.

What is your church doing to stop the hemorrhaging of young people? Have you intentionally put a plan in place to retain those who are still attending? What are you willing to change so your church does not die? ■

Kumar Dixit is the senior 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.

¹ The research project was sponsored by a grant from the North American Division and the British Columbia Conference. The full study, called *Attracting and Engaging Millennials in Local Church Communities: A Qualitative Study of the Trends Among Young People at Oakridge Adventist Church and British Columbia Conference*, will be published in January 2015.

² See Kyle Stiemsmas, "The Decline of the Bible," *Converge Magazine*, <http://tinyurl.com/lk9zfep>.

³ University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN), <http://youthandreligion.nd.edu/>.

⁴ Drew Dyck, "Millennials Need a Bigger God, Not a Hipster Pastor," *Aspen Group*, July 3, 2014, <http://aspengroup.com/blog/millennials-need-a-bigger-god-not-a-hipster-pastor>.



The Source



Words by God —Psalm 121:7, 8, NIV

If you turned off all the lights in your room, I'm guessing it would look pretty dim. The lamp would still be there ready for the power to come through it, but until you flipped the switch, you would be in darkness. What good is a lamp if it is not plugged into the electricity? Yes, the lamp is still and will always be a lamp waiting to be turned on, but unless it's connected to the power source, it cannot be used for its original purpose—to provide light to the house.

I believe we are like that lamp. God made us to be His light to the world around us and in our own homes. The Bible compares us to lights that cut through the darkness. That light does not come from ourselves, but it comes directly from the source: God. If it is His light we are shining, how can we do this on our own merit? We can't. On our own we are like the lamp that was disconnected from the source—still with incredible capability to shine but without any power until we allow God to flip the switch in our hearts. Psalm 18:28 says, "You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light" (NIV). It is God who shines and breaks through the darkness, and He chooses to use us as His light bearers to spread His love everywhere the light touches. We were once darkened lamps awaiting the life-giving energy to surge through our wires and produce the light we were created to be.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:14-16, NIV).

Jesus says this about you because He knows what an impression you make on the lives around you. You were meant to shine like stars in the night proclaiming His love by being a living example of who He is. People see His realness through the realness of His children. God has put His love and power in our hearts so that all who see it may glorify the Father. Don't hide your light; it's beautiful to see. ■

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 "We Are" by Kari Jobe
on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/Q9DC1>





review

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

app review

App: Voice of Prophecy

In Brief: Voice of Prophecy just released their new app for your phone and tablet. With weekly blog and radio broadcasts available, along with regular social media posts, it is a good place to stay current with issues and how they relate to our lives. The app is nicely laid out and easy to navigate; however, you have to be patient because the interface can be slow and tends to lag as you use it. One other annoyance is that when listening to a radio broadcast, it stops playing when your screen times out, so you have to keep the device awake to listen to the radio broadcasts.

Wow Factor: New content added weekly.

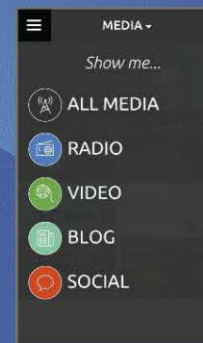
Meh Factor: Interface is slow and lags at times.

Developed for: Voice of Prophecy

Price: Free

Works on: Android, iOS, Windows Mobile

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



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

prayer life

Locking Eyes with God

In your fears and pain, lock eyes with God.

There was terror in his eyes. They had to hold him down. His mom couldn't take it. When she returned home, she told Dad, "Next year you are going to be the one to take Minner to get his inoculation."

The next year came. Father and son drove together to the medical centre. Little Minner recognized it immediately and begin to scream. Dad parked the car as he wondered how to handle his six-year old boy.

From the driver's seat Dad told his terrified son, "Look into my eyes."

Minner locked his teary eyes with his dad's.

"Do you know I love you?"

"Yes," said Minner choking back the tears.

"Do you trust me?"

"Yes."

"Minner, when that needle comes out I want you look into my eyes. OK?"

"OK," Minner stammered.

They got out of the car and walked into the medical centre hand-in-hand. They sat down and waited. Soon it was Minner's turn to get the needle. He bravely took his dad's hand and slowly walked into the nurse's room.

The nurse pulled out the needle and then flicked it. The boy stared at the awful instrument of torture and trembled. His bottom lip quivered. His eyes teared up. Dad moved into the line of sight, and father and son locked eyes.

The needle went in. The boy winced but kept his eyes on his dad. Minner drew strength from his dad's presence, his dad's love, his dad's eyes.

He didn't know, but Dad winced too.

In your fears and pain, lock eyes with God. See God looking at you with intense love. Draw strength from Him.

That is prayer. ■

Ern Brake is assistant to the president for REACH in the British Columbia Conference.

>> For inspiration read 1 Peter 5:6, 7.



December 2014

15

Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

I met Charisma for the first time when I was delivering a Christmas package to her on behalf of her parents-in-law, Donna and Charles Hodgins, on a trip from British Columbia to Ontario . Now that I work in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) office, I realize why her in-laws speak so highly of her, as do her co-workers. Charisma is a name familiar to all retired Canadian denominational workers. Now is your chance to get to know her even better.



Charisma and Allan Hodgins with their children Andrew and Keira

EDITOR: *Tell us about your family.*

CHARISMA: It seems as if it was just yesterday that Allan and I got married, but we celebrated our 20th anniversary this past spring. Allan was a PE and acrobatic teacher when we got married, but because of health challenges with his knees, he had to make a career change. He went back to school and is now an advanced care paramedic here in Durham Region. He also keeps up his teaching skills by teaching in the paramedic program at Durham College.

God has blessed us with two children, Andrew and Keira. Andrew is 15 and in Grade 10 at Kingsway College.

He enjoys being a member of the Aerials (school acrobatic team), the Outdoor and Downhill Skiing Clubs and Pathfinder Bible Experience. Keira is 11 and in Grade 6 at College Park Elementary School. She enjoys singing/choir, Pathfinders, camping, and horses. As a family, we enjoy most water sports, and spending time together with our friends at their cottage as well as camping around the province. I think that our favourite camping destination is Cyprus Lake in Bruce Peninsula National Park.

EDITOR: *What are your hobbies?*

CHARISMA: Our friends might say renovating, as we've spent the last 11 years slowly restoring our century home, but my favourite pastime is reading. A few years ago, I caught up with the electronic age and switched to ebooks, and now I always have a book with me. I also took up knitting when the church was encouraging members to knit scarves to hand out at the Olympics in Vancouver. I have done several projects since finishing the scarves.

EDITOR: *Do you come from an Adventist background?*

CHARISMA: I grew up in an Adventist home, but my parents' families have not always been Adventist. My mother's family lived in an Adventist neighbourhood in a town with an Adventist boarding academy. The neighbour girl invited my mother to attend Sabbath school and Pathfinders with her while parents of one of the children my grandmother babysat showed my grandparents a doctrinal slide series in their home. As a result of those experiences, my grandmother and mother decided to join the church when my mother was about 11. My father's parents and aunt joined the church through the work of colporteurs and some friends of his aunt's.

EDITOR: *Was there a defining point in your life when you decided to become a Christian, or was it more of a lifelong commitment?*

CHARISMA: I cannot say there was one specific moment that has defined my Christian experience, as I have always had a strong belief in God and the Adventist beliefs. I grew up knowing that I wanted to follow Jesus and have continued with that conviction throughout my adult life.

EDITOR: *What effect did going to an Adventist school have on you? Is there one teacher who stands out for you?*

CHARISMA: I am thankful for the Christ-centred education I received in elementary and high school. I received an excellent academic base that prepared me for college and life while nurturing spiritual growth in and out of the classroom. I am grateful for my teachers providing unique challenges and learning experiences that helped me grow and mature into the person I am today. Each one has a special place in my heart!

EDITOR: *Where have you worked for the denomination? What were your functions, and what do you do now?*

CHARISMA: I started working for the church in June 1996 at the national office of Christian Record Services, Canada. I mainly worked in the office dealing with field

reports, donations, payroll, and accounting, but sometimes I would also attend and do staff training for the Blind Camps. In September 2001, I transferred to the SDACC Retirement Office to do the retiree payroll and other office work. Since then, my job has evolved. Currently, I am serving in the position of Retirement Specialist/Quality Assurance. I have transitioned from mainly payroll responsibilities into the processing of benefits for retirees and employees and providing support for the church entities that participate in the church's retirement plan.

EDITOR: *What is one thing about your career here that you enjoy the most?*

CHARISMA: I am most grateful to be able to come to work in an office that starts each day worshipping together and where each person cares about those around them and is here to serve others. In our department, we serve those who are out in the field fulfilling the mission of the church. I enjoy being able to assist the church's employees/retirees with questions they have about their benefits.

EDITOR: *Do you have any other church responsibilities?*

CHARISMA: I believe that God gives us specific talents that we are to use to support our local church and the furthering of His work. Since I play the piano, I have chosen to use that talent in the Cradle Roll division at our church. When Keira started Pathfinders last fall, I also joined the club as the Pathfinder secretary. I believe that Pathfinders is an awesome ministry for children in and out of the church. In a world where children no longer seem protected from the evil around them, we are responsible for providing a safe place in which they can grow, explore, and question the world around them while being grounded in the love of Jesus.

EDITOR: *Is there a favourite Bible text you would like to share that you find particularly meaningful?*

CHARISMA: Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (NIV). By nature, I am a planner, but it seems that more often than not, my plans get changed or don't happen at all. I find comfort in the Lord being a planner as well. That the plans He has made are better than I could ever make. They are plans that end with us living with Him forever. ■

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



barry's blog

"Constitutional interpretation of religious freedom is to be neither frozen nor an unruly living tree."

Religious Freedom: A Frozen Concept or a Living Tree?

The Supreme Court of Canada describes our constitution as a "living tree which, by way of progressive interpretation, accommodates and addresses the realities of modern life."¹ The terms of our Constitution are not "frozen," said the Court, but must be adaptable. Not surprisingly, many argue, therefore, that the word "marriage" in our 1867 Constitution need not remain "frozen" to the old definition of involving one man and one woman but should be subject to change to reflect new realities.

In October 2014 the lawyers in British Columbia voted against Trinity Western University (TWU) Law School.² I submit that the purpose of the vote was to essentially revisit the Supreme Court of Canada's 2001 definition of religious freedom, which had to this point allowed TWU to uphold its own code of conduct on sexual relations for the students to follow.³ In the 2001 case, the Court recognized the purpose of diversity amongst institutions of higher learning, saying,

TWU is not for everybody; it is designed to address the needs of people who share a number of religious convictions. That said, the admissions policy of TWU alone is not in itself sufficient to establish discrimination as it is understood in our s. 15 jurisprudence. It is important to note that this is a private institution

that is exempted, in part, from the British Columbia human rights legislation and to which the Charter does not apply. To state that the voluntary adoption of a code of conduct based on a person's own religious beliefs, in a private institution, is sufficient to engage s. 15 would be inconsistent with freedom of conscience and religion, which co-exist with the right to equality.⁴

It would appear that the lawyers in British Columbia are of the view that 13 years is long enough for that definition of religious freedom to remain "frozen." As Bob Dylan sang, "Times are a-changin'."

Across this nation the legal community stridently demands that the law on religious freedom change. Though "religious freedom" is a constitutional term, these lawyers claim that its definition must be like a living tree and accommodate "the realities of modern life." No longer can it be said, as in the 2001 case referenced above, that "TWU is not for everybody" —now this kind of statement is called discrimination. They demand an interpretation that forces religious communities to be non-exclusionary.

We now find ourselves at a unique crossroads. On the one hand, we have a Supreme Court of Canada Constitutional definition of "religious freedom" that has allowed TWU to operate in keeping with its religious

scruples—being referred to as a “frozen” concept. On the other hand, we have a demand from an increasing number of lawyers who are openly challenging the Supreme Court and demanding that its definitions change, using the metaphor of the living tree.

It should be pointed out that these metaphors are problematic. First, they are constructed with a bias. The term *frozen* has a negative connotation. No one rarely agrees that frozen is a good thing (unless we are talking about ice cream); it conjures up thoughts like – *dead, cold, miserable, not warm*. It is like Narnia: “always winter, never Christmas.” However, the term *living tree* is positive; it suggests a growing organism that gives us beauty and shade in the spring and summer. Though both are terms used by the Court, they nevertheless carry a bias: “frozen” is wrong; “living tree” is right.

Second, it is simply wrong to use the “living tree” metaphor to justify any constitutional interpretation without restriction. Just as in a literal sense we cut back our trees that grow too close to electrical wires, so we would not want the logic of a “living tree” to allow unruly constitutional interpretation. For example, if Canada were to go to war with Syria, would we agree that such “modern realities” justified a constitutional interpretation that put all Syrians living in Canada and their descendants in internment camps? Surely, that would be going too far.

When we look into the origin of the “living tree” metaphor, we discover that it comes from Lord Sankey’s comments in a 1930 decision of the British House of Lords. Sankey described our Constitution as “a living tree capable of growth and expansion within its natural limits.”¹ In other words, the metaphor is not endless—it must be “within its natural limits.” I suggest that the current thought in the legal community that would require the Supreme Court of Canada to overturn its 2001 decision would not be in keeping within the natural limits of religious freedom. The “living tree” that would deny autonomy to religious community in determining its own identity needs its “branches” trimmed; it has reached too far—not in keeping with Canada’s historical, legal, and cultural history.

The 2001 Supreme Court of Canada decision forms

part of Canada’s long and vibrant history of religious freedom. The 1760 British Crown granted religious freedom to the Roman Catholic population of Quebec and was affirmed in the formation of Upper and Lower Canada in the mid-1800s, and its influence was felt in the *Constitution Act 1867*² where the rights of Roman Catholic and Protestant schools were protected.

In 1872 Canada promised the Mennonites that if they were to settle the West, they would be guaranteed religious freedom, including the right not to bear arms in times of war.³ When war came during the 20th century, Canada was true to its promises and did not conscript the young men in the Mennonite community. On June 18, 1940, Prime Minister Mackenzie King rose in the House of Commons and declared: “I wish solemnly to assure the House and the country that the government has no desire and no intention to disturb the existing rights of exemption from the bearing of arms which are enjoyed by the members of certain religious groups in Canada, as for instance the Mennonites. We are determined to respect these rights to the full.”⁴ In other words, Canada’s history shows that when it came to the promise of religious freedom, it was “promise made, promise kept.”

When the country went through the “marriage debate” 10 years ago, our Parliament promised in the Act⁵ redefining marriage as “any two persons” that not only will religious groups be entitled to hold and declare religious beliefs on marriage, but that it would not be against the public interest to hold and express diverse views on marriage. Those promises had a long pedigree: it was what Canada has always stood for—religious communities being able to rely on the solid word of the state’s protection against intrusive force of conformity to the majority’s opinion.

Constitutional interpretation of religious freedom is to be neither frozen nor an unruly living tree. Instead, it is embedded within a historical, legal, and cultural framework that respects difference. ■

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

¹ Reference re Same-Sex Marriage [2004] 3 S.C.R. 698, at para. 22.

² The Law Society of British Columbia, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=3995&t=Referendum-results-%E2%80%93BC-Lawyers-say-TWU-should-not-be-an-approved-school-of-law>.

³ Trinity Western University v. College of Teachers, [2001] 1 S.C.R. 772.

⁴ Trinity Western University v. College of Teachers, at para. 25.

⁵ Edwards v. Attorney General of Canada [1930] A.C. 124 at p. 136.

⁶ Constitution Act, 1867, 30 & 31 Victoria, c. 3 (U.K.).

⁷ In 1872, an Order in Council provided the Mennonites in Russia the following promise: “The Hon. The Minister of Agriculture to whom the above Despatch & enclosures were referred, reports that it is expedient to give the German Menonites (sic) in Russia the fullest assurances of absolute immunity from Military Service, if they settle in Canada”. Order-in-Council Number 1872-1043 B. Approved Date: 1872/09/25. Reference: RG2, Privy Council Office, Series A-1-a, Volume 300, Reel C-3301.

⁸ Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, June 18, 1940, House of Commons Debates, 18th Parliament, 6th Session: Vol. 1, p. 904.

⁹ Civil Marriage Act, S.C. 2005, c. 33 at preamble, ss. 3, 3.1.



At the end of the baptismal ceremony, Pastor Costa prayed for the people who responded to his invitation to step forward, and by raising their hands, expressed their desire to become part of God's people for the these last days. Most of them are already studying the Bible and plan to be baptized in a near future.

Pastor Robert Costa, director/speaker of the international TV with both members and candidates for baptism. According to

Week of Evangelism Brings New Hispanic Members to the Ontario Conference

The territory would like to double its number of Hispanic congregations in the near future

FOR ONLY ONE INSTANT, as Ursula Morales was descending to the baptismal pool waters, her smile slowly froze and faded away, as if apprehending the sobriety of the ceremony. But as soon as she rose from the waters, a newborn in Christ, her grin returned, though this time broader and wider. Morales was the oldest of almost 30 people baptized as part of a moving spiritual celebration on October 25, 2014, the finishing touch to a week of revival and evangelism hosted by the Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist churches in Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area.

The featured speaker for the October 18-25 series was Robert Costa, speaker and director of *Está Escrito* (the Spanish version of the It is Written international TV program), and ministerial associate director for Evangelism of the Seventh-day Adventist world church. Themed "Living Our Hope," the meetings sought not only to present God's message for

our time but also to revive Hispanic Seventh-day Adventists and motivate them for outreach and evangelism as they follow, in Costa's words, "Jesus' method of meeting people's needs and then inviting them to follow Him."

Every night over 400 people met at the Toronto Kingsview Seventh-day Adventist Church, while many others followed a live streaming of the meetings online. On the Hispanic Campmeeting and closing program day of October 25, over 600 members, friends, and visitors filled a nearby venue for a full day of worship, Bible study, and fellowship. The baptismal ceremony was at the heart of this special Sabbath of celebrations.

The administration of the Ontario Conference was a staunch supporter of the initiative at every step of the way, acknowledged Efrain Sanchez Navarro, pastor of the Central Spanish Adventist Church and the Hope Spanish Adventist Company and co-organizer of the event.

"They worked at our side, supplementing our budget, working to find the best possible venue, and praying fervently for the success of this campaign," said Sanchez.

At the beginning of the closing Sabbath program, Ulysses Guarín, treasurer of the Ontario Conference, thanked the pastors and members of the Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist churches in Ontario for their zeal and commitment in advancing the Lord's work.

"Through your efforts, the work among the Hispanic community has grown, and by the grace of God, it will continue to grow," said Guarín, originally from the Philippines, reading a message in well-pronounced Spanish to the delight of the audience. While we can rejoice that there has been much progress, let us be mindful that there is still much work to be done."

Jakov Bibulovic, the Ontario Conference Church Growth, Church Planting, and Evangelism director, also made clear that



ministry *Está Escrito* (the Spanish version of *It Is Written*), shares a laugh many, Costa was able to speak about serious topics in the most enjoyable way.



Ursula Morales (centre) is re-baptized 50 years after the first time she had become a member of the Adventist Church. Just seconds before being born to a new life in Christ, she smiles as she is surrounded by Pastors Efrain Sanchez Navarro and Daniel Sanchez Sepulveda, and two other candidates.

these achievements are just the first step of a hopefully new era for the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church among Hispanics in Ontario.

"Currently we have 10 Seventh-day Adventist congregations in Ontario," informed Bibulovic. "We need to double that number in the near future, and by God's grace and power, we will."

A key to the success of the week was undoubtedly Costa's candid and enjoyable style of delivery. "Elder Costa coats the deepest truths of the Bible in a deceptively simple and down-to-earth language," reflected Daniel Sanchez Sepulveda, pastor of three Seventh-day Adventist congregations in Toronto and another co-organizer of the initiative. "People were hooked by his examples and illustrations based on everyday life, only to soon find out he was talking about the most serious of topics."

For example, when introducing the possibility of knowing the characteristics of the true church according to the Bible, Costa referred to a quite common human activity, namely, stopping at a pharmacy to purchase a medicine for a specific ailment. "When the pharmacist asks you for the prescription, you do not reply, 'Nevermind. Give me *something*. Any medicine will do!'" quipped Costa, to the laughter of the audience. "You want

only the specific medicine, the one that can help you to regain your health!" And immediately after, he reached the punch line: "Sometimes I wonder why we are so picky in the case of a temporary health condition but so sloppy when dealing with an issue that may potentially affect us for eternity."

"No doubt, Costa moved people to accept he was not talking his own thoughts, but presenting the truth that is in God's Holy Word," concluded Sanchez.

Back to Ursula Morales. She says she had been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first time 50 years ago. "Along the way, however, it became clear to me that I had failed my Jesus," she candidly explained. "I decided to attend the Living Our Hope series, and I am glad I did, because during this last week I felt God was calling me, and I finally made my decision to come back and renew my vows with the Lord through re-baptism."

On the other side of the age spectrum, three young sisters—Alejandra, Alba, and Nancy Lanuza—were among the young who also surrendered their tender hearts to the Lord through baptism.

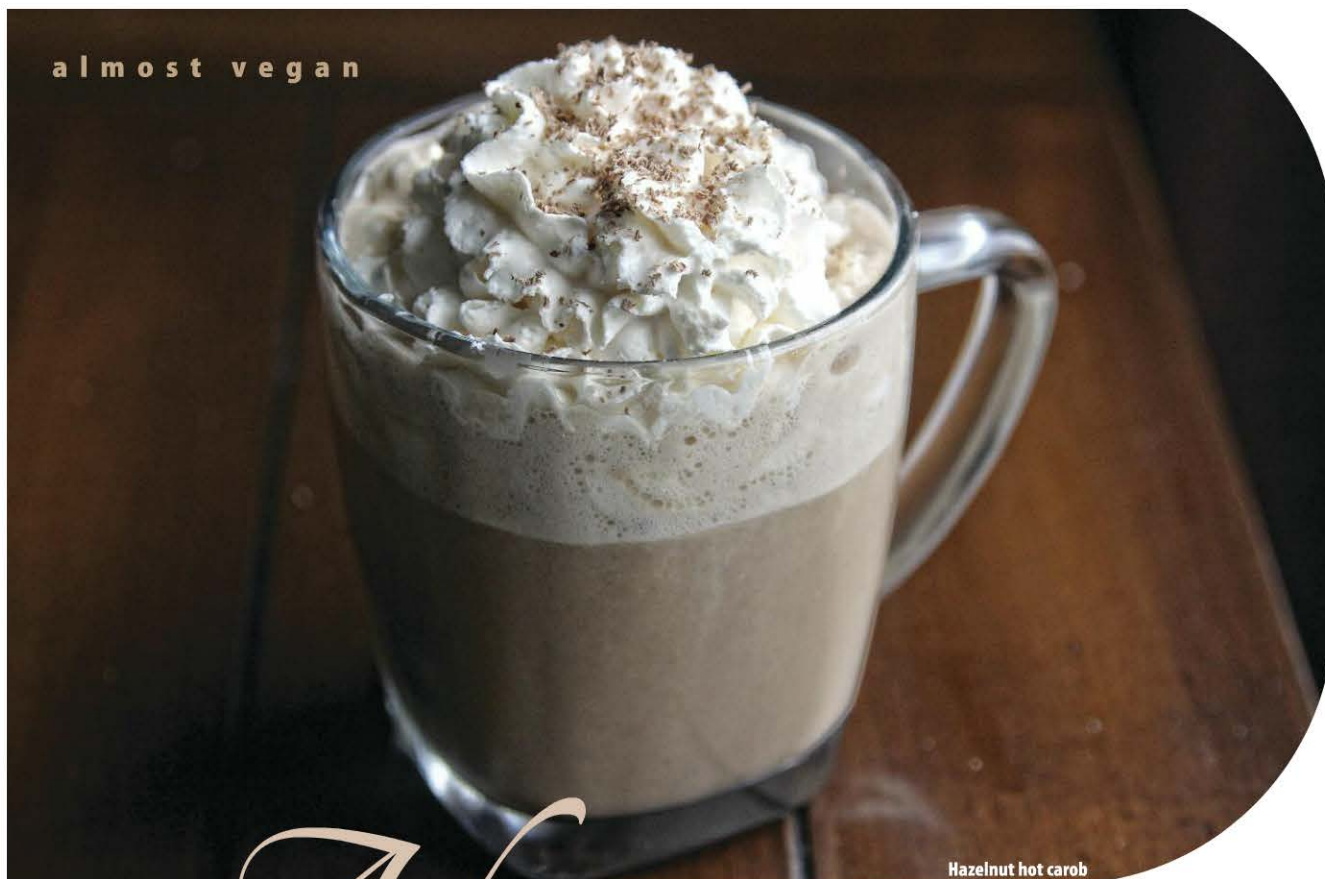
"I feel so happy," said with a broad grin Adan Lanuza, father of the 10-year-old twins and their 9-year-old sister. "Even at their young age, my girls know what they

are doing. Since they were babies, we have been studying the Bible every evening at home when I come back from work. And they had been requesting baptism for at least three years. This year and after this special week, we figured we could not tell them to wait any longer."

Besides the members accepted into the fellowship of the Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism, dozens of others have decided to start or keep studying the Bible to make that public personal commitment in the near future.

Currently, Hispanic Seventh-day Adventists make up only 5 percent of the 31,500 members in the territory of the Ontario Conference. This figure, however, includes members of Hispanic origin currently attending non-Spanish-speaking congregations. In the province of Ontario, there are approximately half a million Hispanics among a population of over 13 million. Most of them live in Toronto and the Greater25 Toronto Area, but there are also significant Hispanic communities in the cities of Ottawa-Gatineau, Hamilton, St. Catharines-Niagara, and Windsor, among others. ■

Marcos Paseggi is pastor of the Ottawa Spanish and Nepean churches



Hazelnut hot carob

Photo: Afia Donkor

Almost vegan

Cornflakes, microwave ovens, and the pacemaker; accidental discoveries have given birth to many marvelous inventions loved and prized the world over. So imagine my delight when almost two years ago, I stumbled upon an accidental discovery of my own! Having watched a chef make homemade chocolate truffles with heavy cream and chocolate chips, I thought surely there must be a way to do the same with cashew cream and carob chips. Entering my kitchen, I mixed, stirred, and ended up with a gooey concoction too thick to be used as syrup and too soft to be formed into truffles. That concoction sat ignored in my refrigerator for some time until one day, looking at it, I thought, “What would happen if I added a couple spoonfuls of this stuff to cashew milk?” With that, my hot carob and hazelnut hot carob recipes were born. ■

Afia Donkor is a lawyer in Ontario, Canada.

>> *Note: Once hot carob/hazelnut hot carob is heated through, remove immediately from stove to prevent it from getting too thick. If you wish to make more than one serving, increase each ingredient by the measurement units given. For instance, to make four servings of hot carob, add four one-quarter cups of cashew cream, as opposed to one whole cup of cashew cream—it makes a difference!*

Hot Carob/ Hazelnut Hot Carob

HOT CAROB INGREDIENTS

1/4 cup cashew cream
2 tablespoons carob chips
1 dash of salt (1/8 teaspoon)
3/4 cups + 2 tablespoons water

HAZELNUT HOT CAROB INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons cashew cream
1 tablespoon hazelnut butter
1 tablespoon carob chips
1 teaspoon sugar
1 dash of salt (1/8 teaspoon)
3/4 cups + 2 tablespoons water

INSTRUCTIONS

- Place cashew cream, hazelnut butter (if using), carob chips, sugar (if using), and salt in a small saucepan.
- Gently heat on stove, whisking constantly until carob chips are melted and you have a thick sauce.
- Whisk in water, heat through, and serve. Makes one serving.



It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.

So here's the deal. I've got this prayer list in hand. Many names on it. Maybe a dozen or maybe a hundred. I regularly pray through the list, though, because there are so many. Sometimes it's more a reading of the names than it is a conscious focusing on specifics. I sense Jesus is asking me to select one (for now) for whom I will intensify my intercession. He will help me choose the person He has in mind,

and together He and I will concentrate our earnest pleas on behalf of that one (since He—and the Holy Spirit—are both interceding on this individual's behalf already (see Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:26).)

Rather than just read over the name, I will take some additional time, at least one minute, and be specific with my requests. I'm not going to pray with a stopwatch, understand; this isn't about

the clock. It's about identifying a specific person and co-interceding for that person with the Saviour. It's about deepening my investment in those whom God lays on my heart. It's about remembering that God has chosen to do some things He does not do unless I pray.¹

Because this is an invitation to my church family across North America, I believe others will join me. If only half of us do, every 14 weeks or so we will bring a million hours of intercession before the throne. I suspect God is not keeping time here either, but it blesses me to know that with one simple adjustment in our prayer schedule you and I can be part of a movement with eternal consequences. I hope you find that as motivating as I do. (Watch for resources at: www.PrayOneMillion.org.)

Don Jacobsen is involved with the 2015 North American Division Prayer Ministries initiative Pray One Million. For more information, visit www.PrayOneMillion.org or email 1donj@earthlink.net.

¹ See Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 525.2

on the road



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky

If you could create the perfect day for yourself, what would it be?

AT MOUNT ROYAL CHURCH IN SASKATCHEWAN, ALDERGROVE CHURCH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, ST. CATHERINES CHURCH IN ONTARIO, AND MOUNT SINAI CHURCH IN QUEBEC.

Suyanmi Ravindran: No work and a day in Toronto with unlimited funds.

Aimee Pockett: Spending the day out in the middle of nowhere with the sun shining down on a gorgeous lake and waterfall, reading a great romance novel all day long, with all my favourite foods already prepared and ready to be eaten.

Darry Auguste: I like to contemplate God's creation on the Sabbath day.

Brendan Zapotichny: My perfect day would involve food from all around the world while photographing my adventures. At the end of the day, I would love to just be in nature and sing praises to God with a group of people.

Brittany Doucette: To be driving through the mountains on a summer day exploring places I have never been before, then jet off to Europe.



More Than J



PARKER STREET FOOD & FURNITURE

ust a



BANK

Back in 1983 a small group of volunteers under the leadership of Mel Boutilier began providing food out of the basement of the Parker Street Seventh-day Adventist Church in Halifax, N.S. At that time they were known as the Dorcas Society, and they served a few people in the neighbourhood who lacked resources.

But each week the number of people needing their help grew. From a small handful, to a few dozen, and then several dozen, they would often gather outside in the driveway of the church, even in the worst imaginable weather, waiting for the doors to open so they could receive some help.

As the charity's work grew, it took over the garage next to the church and expanded the operation to a food bank reaching out to even more people in the neighbourhood. Within a few short years, the Parker Street Food Bank volunteer team realized it was at a crossroads. The needs of the nearby community were still growing; more space, more food, and additional resources were required.

The team was fortunate to find an empty warehouse-style building for sale not far from the church, which was to become their new home. To acquire it, they had to quickly raise money, negotiate the purchase, and prepare the building for use. Some of the members of the board today are the same people who held a first meeting in that darkened for-sale warehouse. Some made their own personal, and generous contributions, and they set about to fundraise as well through weekly collections taken at the church.

All of the efforts of many individuals led to a successful conclusion. In 1999, as a result of tremendous support from members and donors, the doors of the new Parker Street Food Bank opened.

What started out as a group of Christians running a food bank based on the church's neighbours' needs and Adventist principles continues to this day. And today hundreds of people come through Parker Street's doors each week seeking help. At last count 1,979 people were receiving supplemental and emergency groceries each month.

In addition to the food bank, Parker Street has grown to include a furniture bank, a skills development centre, as well as two retail value stores. Further help is offered to families and individuals at the beginning of the school year and at Christmas time, and an emergency fund is available to assist when clients are in dire financial need.

BY STEPHANIE MACWHIRTER

Food Bank



Above: Christmas food boxes ready to distribute.
Right: Volunteers serving clients.



THE FURNITURE BANK

When it became obvious to us that the needs of those seeking assistance, particularly women and children fleeing abusive situations, went beyond food, we established the Furniture Bank in 1995 to provide furniture and household items. When furniture donations come in that need just a little bit of tender loving care, volunteers and staff refinish the wood, and, if required, we have the capability to reupholster antique items that come through our door from time to time.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

We are strong advocates of providing steps to self-sufficiency. Abiding by the old adage “Give a man a fish and he eats for a day; teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime,” the Parker Street Skills Development Centre came into being in 2001. In the past 13 years, training has been provided in a variety of areas such as flooring installation, automotive parts clerk, building supply customer service associate, siding, windows and door installation carpenter’s assistant, and computer courses. Participants taking part in these training courses must be unemployed and face employability barriers because of lack of education or other skills. The Skills Development Centre has helped many people build new lives by offering them the skills needed to become part of the workforce and ultimately depend less and less on the various other services we provide, such as the food bank or the emergency fund.

EMERGENCY FUND

Our Emergency Fund provides financial assistance for urgent requirements. We have kept the light on in houses that were

days or even hours away from having their power turned off. We provide oil to heat homes in the dead of winter, have been instrumental in securing medical equipment, and have paid for prescriptions for those desperately in need. We have even helped pay rent for those facing eviction. Many of the people who depend on us are suffering short-term difficulties because of loss of employment, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances. We help them get through these situations until they are able to recover and become independent again.

GREAT THINGS IN STORE

In a continuing effort to support our many community-based activities, we have two retail outlets called Great Things in Store. These stores offer a wide range of merchandise that has been donated. Items include clothing, antiques, small household appliances, and furniture. Our objective is to offer a wide range of products in the moderate price range, good quality at prices people can afford. All proceeds from sales go back toward funding our operations at Parker Street, and items sold in our stores do not impact the furniture bank inventory.

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Toward the end of summer, we gear up for our School Supplies Program. This past September we assisted over 694 neighbourhood children with backpacks filled with school supplies to help them start the year off with confidence. Through the help of partnerships with various businesses, local radio stations, and individuals, we collect and then distribute to elementary-school-aged children all the way up to university students who need that extra bit of help.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

At Christmas time, with the tireless efforts of countless volunteers and donors, we provide a brightly wrapped box with all the ingredients for a traditional turkey dinner, including potatoes, carrots, turnip, onions, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, oranges, apples, bananas, sugar, margarine, baked goods, bread, canned milk, candy, and of course, a turkey. Just as in the early food bank days, the Christmas hamper program also began out of the basement of the Parker Street Adventist Church. Back then we collected food from local grocery stores that had bins set up for food donations, and we provided around 400 hampers. Most came to the church to pick up their Christmas box, but hampers were also delivered to shut-ins.

Last year, we were able to make the holiday season brighter for 1,199 families. The program takes months of planning and many staff and volunteer hours. We start taking registrations in mid-September, but the real action begins about two weeks before Christmas, when volunteers assemble and wrap the 1,200 donated boxes with wrapping paper. Next volunteers from the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO) and the Halifax International Airport Authority (HIAA) move in and take over our food bank for four days. BIO has been running the show almost since the beginning over 20 years ago, and because of their ongoing support it's a well-oiled machine for those four days.

Starting on the Monday of the week, clients will receive their hampers. There are 25 to 30 extra volunteers in house every day. On Day 1, they organize an assembly line of boxes and measure food items such as sugar and other bulk ingredients. On Day 2, they begin to fill the hampers with all the ingredients according to family size. On Day 3, ten vans arrive in our parking lot to be loaded with the boxes that will be delivered to shut-ins. Last year approximately 300 boxes were delivered to disabled and elderly persons. Finally, on Day 4, approximately 900 individuals arrive to pick up their hamper. On this day we call in more help from the community, such as members of the police force and athletics students from local universities. Two police officers keep things organized and calm, and the students use their brawn to help carry these rather heavy boxes out to waiting taxis or cars for the recipients.

As clients make their way out of the building, they stop at our "toyland" to pick out a few gifts for their children. These gifts are donated by individual community members, businesses, other religious denominations, and university and high school students who have held food and toy drives. One local woman recently brought in three banana boxes full of Barbie dolls and other dolls that she had collected over the past several months. She cleaned them up and dressed each one in new outfits. In addition, we also coordinate gifts for over 25 sponsor families. These families are referred to Parker Street from various social services agencies, and each family is matched up with an individual, business, or family wanting to provide the beautiful Christmas experience our clients deserve.

With the exception of the skills training programs, which are government funded, we depend heavily on contributions of food and money from members of the community and from

corporate sponsors who recognize the effect their donations have on those in need.

PARKER STREET STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

FAMILIES ASSISTED BETWEEN OCTOBER 2012 AND SEPTEMBER 2013:

FOOD BANK

Food Bank Visits	22,255
Persons Benefitted	31,971
Total Grocery Bags	171,441
Estimated Value	\$3,428,820

FURNITURE BANK

Furniture Items	5,061
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SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Backpacks	694
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CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Dinners Provided	1,199
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EMERGENCY FUND	\$90,000
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QUOTATIONS FROM CLIENTS

"Parker Street Food Bank is a necessary service that helps fill the gaps for those of us living in poverty. I am lucky in that I have amazing family and friends that helped rally around us during a difficult time. But even with that support, without Parker Street, there would have been times when we simply had nothing to eat."

"I really appreciate that Parker Street Food Bank offers so much fresh, nutritious food."

"Staff and volunteers are respectful and non-judgmental."

"When I lost my job in the spring, we were forced to choose between paying our rent or buying food. Thankfully, I knew about Parker Street Food Bank."

Stephanie MacWhirter is the Development and Communication manager at Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank and Skills Development Centre.

A room full of donated mattresses at the furniture bank.





Angels in the Classroom

"PRAYER IS THE KEY IN THE HAND OF FAITH ..."



I SAW HER RISE and move toward me as I made my way from the podium to the back of the hall. I kept walking, believing that she must need something or someone else. I didn't get very far before she gently stopped me. After meeting Karen Landry, I'm glad I didn't get very far.

Karen Landry is the principal teacher at Rosthern Christian School, a small school in Saskatchewan. With 18 students in Grades 1 through 8 and ages 6 to 14, she certainly has her hands full! But after talking with me at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Campmeeting, Karen decided to take on even more. She decided to bring Angels to her classroom.

"I really appreciated the presentation at Whitesands Campmeeting that introduced me to the ADRA Angels ministry," says Karen. "I felt impressed that this would be a good ministry for our little school. We aren't always in a position to contribute great amounts of money to ADRA, but nothing can stop us from offering great amounts of prayer."

Believing in the power and absolute necessity of prayer, ADRA Canada has launched its Prayer Angels ministry. This ministry is an opportunity for those who sign up to receive monthly praises and prayer requests from ADRA Canada and our field projects.

When Karen receives the monthly email of praises and requests, she copies them down into the Angels prayer journal. After discussing each one with her students, they pass the journal around and each student prays over one item.

"I believe the students understand the value of their prayer contributions on behalf of ADRA. During our worship discussions they express their concerns for the people who are threatened by poverty, war, and disease. It helps them to better appreciate the relative peace and prosperity in which they live," explains Karen. "I think praying for the ADRA requests gives opportunity for students to expand their knowledge of world events and to learn about issues beyond their own little world and to

feel compassion for others. It contributes to a focus on others instead of self."

"There is power in prayer, and I'm sure that there is a blessing for us as we focus on the needs of others and not just on our own needs," Karen asserts.

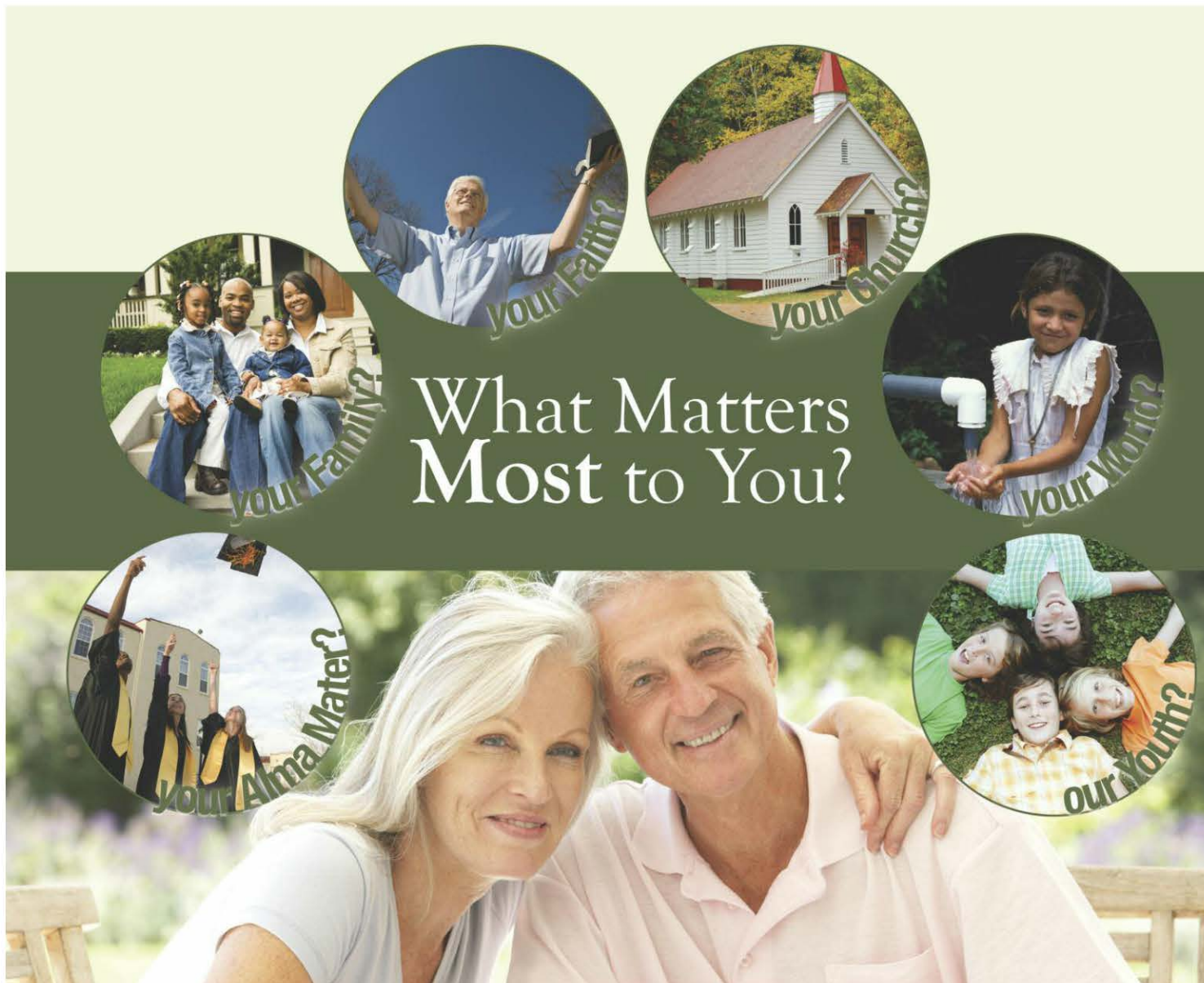
Karen has her students memorize a statement about prayer from *Steps to Christ*: "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse where are treasured the boundless resources of omnipotence."¹

Since beginning the Prayer Angels ministry, ADRA Canada has seen answers to prayer. We are bolstered by the knowledge that we have prayers like those of the Rosthern Christian School clearing the way before us as we move forward with our work. May God's blessings be on us and on all those who pray for us. ■

¹ 94, 95.

Prayer **angels** ADRA-Canada

TO SIGN UP to
be an Angel, visit
[www.adra.ca/
PrayerAngel](http://www.adra.ca/PrayerAngel)
to receive monthly
emails of praises
and prayer requests.
If you prefer a print
edition, call the
ADRA Canada office
at 1/888-274-
ADRA (2372).



What Matters Most to You?

"Those who loved you and were helped by you, will remember you...."

Charles Spurgeon

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email legal@adventist.ca or call 905-433-0011, ext. 2078



Christian Education offers more than academics



Larry Dooks

LARRY WAS BORN INTO A FAMILY THAT WAS COMMITTED TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. From Grade 1 through university, he attended Adventist schools. As parents, he and his wife, Lori, continue this commitment to Christian education by supporting their two children, Trevor and Alicia, who are currently studying in Adventist schools on two different continents. Trevor is pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting Track) degree at Canadian University College in Alberta. Alicia is currently studying at Adventist University of France, in Collonges, through the Adventist Colleges Abroad program.

Larry Dooks is currently the A.E. King Memorial Physical Fitness complex manager at Kingsway College (KC). His many duties include booking usage of the facility to the public and managing memberships to the full workout facility, which includes weights and aerobic machines, as well as racquetball and squash courts. Larry also supervises the students and adult workers who manage the front desk and clean the facility on a daily basis. The King Fitness Complex (KFC) is a hub of activity each day for school staff and students. It is a place where students, faculty, staff, and people

from the community can come to engage in fitness activities. Physical development, along with academic, spiritual, and social, are the four areas of primary focus at Kingsway College. God made the human body to move and be active, and it is an important part of the education offered at Kingsway College.

Larry enjoys helping students and gym members who want to pursue a healthier lifestyle through increased activity. He feels that working at KC is not just a job but a way to do something meaningful that will benefit others. He believes that the health message is a unique gift given to the Adventist Church and that many people can be reached with the gospel through this very important message.

His greatest joy as an employee of Kingsway College has been the friendships that he has made over the years. He finds it very rewarding to be able to interact with the students and help them have an enjoyable and memorable time while they are attending the school. He refers to friendships and relationships as something you can take with you, both during this life and in heaven.

Within his own family, he has seen the benefits of Christian education,

especially in his own children. They both attended College Park Elementary School and Kingsway College, and he strongly feels that the opportunities his children had while attending these schools was invaluable. They participated in everything from mission trips to an American native reserve in Arizona and to the Dominican Republic, to travelling and performing with the Kingsway College Aerials. He is convinced that these types of opportunities enriched their lives and prepared them for a life of service.

Larry supports the idea that the greatest strength of a school like Kingsway College is the people who work there and give of their time, money, and energy, and are dedicated to selfless service for the benefit of others. Larry has studied, worked, played, and worshipped within the Adventist school system. As he looks back on his journey, he sees Adventist education as a way for young people to connect and build friendships with others of similar faith, and most importantly, with Jesus Christ. ■

Rémy Guenin is director of Enrolment Services and Development at Kingsway College.

WALK THE MISSIONARY WAY

CHURCHES OF REVELATION TOUR

TOUR OF **GREECE AND TURKEY**
WITH STOPS AT EACH OF
THE SEVEN CHURCHES:
**EPHESUS, SMYRNA,
PERGAMON, THYATIRA,
SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA,
AND LAODICEA**

JUNE 10-22, 2015

HOSTED BY



Stan Jensen
Editor, Canadian
Adventist
Messenger



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director,
It is Written
Canada



Tour includes: Round trip airfare; guided sightseeing tour in deluxe air-conditioned bus; hotel accommodation including service charges; breakfast and dinner daily; admission fees to sites on the itinerary; all internal flights and transfers; information kit and final documents; 50 Seat Limit — Rate per person: 3390 CAD+taxes, Toronto departure. For other departures and questions contact Stan Jensen: jensen.stan@adventist.ca; 905-433-0011.

Parkview Profiles

"I realized it was a really good school to come to, not only for the academics but also for the people. Here at PAA, it's a family."



Chad Motley

Chad Motley is a welcome addition to the Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) family, though he had to disrupt his own family life to join the PAA campus one. Committed to providing the best for their children, the Motleys made the tough decision of dividing responsibilities: Dad stayed behind on the farm to work, and Mom left Beiseker, Alta., to take their children to school. Despite the challenges that come with this kind of sacrifice, "I wouldn't trade it for anything," Chad shares, and his experience as a student at PAA has changed his life.

Homeschooled until Grade 8, Chad was happy to have more social contacts when he joined Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool (PACeS) for Grade 9. While he had wonderful teachers there, he found that his first year of high school was missing something in the day-to-day interactions.

A friend from Alberta Campmeeting encouraged him to enrol at PAA, and in the fall of 2013, Chad chose to start his Grade 11 year in Lacombe. "I realized it was a really good school to come to, not only for the academics but also for the people. Here at PAA, it's a family. After two weeks of school, you realize that everyone knows everyone, but it doesn't take long to see that you're part of that everyone."

The opportunities for being involved with other students on campus gave Chad the connection he was missing. He says, "I was a very shy person, but since coming to PAA, I've discovered how to be more outgoing and people oriented."

As he approaches graduation this year, Chad is finding ways to be connected to the rest of the student body. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the PAA Panthers, though he has no interest in playing himself: "I can't do volleyball, but I understand the mechanics and am so proud of our teams this year." His encouragement goes a long way toward rallying support for the school.

The same energy Chad brings to games also helps him in his new role as one of the worship leaders on campus. "Music is my one of my passions, and I love to be part of praise." Working with music ministry has added a variety of experiences to the academic and social environment at PAA, and Chad believes, "The more experiences a person has, the more amazing life can be. PAA helps you achieve that."

In helping students grow personally, academically, and spiritually, PAA staff strive to present a program that is both challenging and supportive. "I really love all of my teachers," Chad says, "because they have all impacted me in different ways. I see how they love what they do and love God and that's what I want to be like." Chad aims to continue his education on the Hilltop and enrol in CUC's Education program after he graduates with his friends.

At PAA, Chad's social connections have inspired him to take on leadership roles, and also try his best as he commits to being a dedicated student. He believes, "People are more than what they do. At PAA, I've learned how to stop looking at myself through my eyes and to see myself through God's eyes. That's how I can really see my potential."

The demands of a Grade 12 work load in addition to figuring out what comes next can be a little overwhelming, especially when one considers how much the Motleys have given up so Chad can graduate from PAA. It is an investment of both time and money, but to Chad and his family, the cost is greatly outweighed by the benefits. "It's absolutely worth it," he says. "As long as I do my part, it works. All it takes is remembering that life is really exciting at PAA, and this is something I want to do." ■

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

Achieving Excellence in Adventist Education

Sandy Lake Academy (SLA) has a great track record of students who emerge well-prepared to go on to attain post-secondary education. In fact, 85 percent of our high school graduates attend university, where they not only survive but also are very successful! Morgan Morash, of Halifax, N.S., is a prime example.

Morgan graduated from Sandy Lake Academy in 2013 as the class valedictorian. He was also nominated for the prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarship. Canadian Schulich Leader Scholarships are undergraduate scholarships for students intending to enrol in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) areas of study. Morgan was noted for his outstanding community leadership and academic excellence.

"It meant a great deal to me to be nominated for the Schulich Leader Scholarship! It looks great on my resumé and is a tremendous accolade!" states Morgan. Majoring in mechanical engineering, Morgan has successfully completed his first year of university, with a GPA of 4.16. Upon graduating from Dalhousie University, he would like to work on hydrofoiling sailboats or in the aerospace industry.

Morgan began attending Sandy Lake Academy in Grade 6. Reflecting on his experience prior to attending SLA, he says, "I was just an average student before I came to SLA. My grades may have been in the 80s [percentage] in public school. When I started attending SLA, my grades soared. I immediately got 99 percent in math." Morgan attributes his greatly improved grades to the small class sizes, allowing for more interaction with his teachers. He explains, "In this

atmosphere, teachers can help you in the way you need help, and they can challenge you in appropriate ways. I also found the environment calming, which helped me focus and greatly reduced my stress level."

When asked what was most meaningful to him about attending SLA, Morgan responded, "The Christian atmosphere is so important. The teachers take better care of you. You're not just a student; you are one of God's children." Morgan also felt that Mr. Scott, the science teacher, taught advanced subject matter, which made him well-prepared when he entered university.

Morgan enjoyed all the opportunities offered at SLA. Because SLA is a smaller school, there are opportunities for students to play major roles, not only in music solos, but also in narration and public speaking, of which Morgan took full advantage. Singing in the choir and participating in the choir trips were highlights of his years at SLA. He also relished gym class. "It was a great workout and I was able to excel at sports," Morgan enthuses. His athletic interests extended beyond school hours; he participated in organized hockey at AA and AAA levels and also competed in sailing at a very competitive level—a passion he continues to ardently pursue.

With small class sizes at Sandy Lake Academy, students have the opportunity to provide peer tutoring. In his Grade 12 year, Morgan willingly assisted students who were struggling with their class material, particularly in chemistry and physics. He could frequently be observed helping students during class, at noon hour, or after school. He epitomized SLA's motto, Service Above Self. Morgan says, "I found those classes pretty intuitive,



Sandy Lake Academy graduate, Morgan Morash.

and I wanted to help others understand as well. As an added benefit, assisting others helped me develop a stronger grasp of the subject!"

Morgan is extremely intelligent, but his greatest asset is his exceptional work ethic. He works diligently, continually trying to improve upon his best. He explains, "I like succeeding. I like doing the best I can. And I don't like being beaten. This probably stems from competition with my brothers and in sports." He seeks to emulate his grandfather, John Buchanan, who was the 20th premier of Nova Scotia. He shares, "My grandfather earned degrees in engineering and law. And then he became the premier of Nova Scotia. I definitely strive to be like him, career wise. I also try to emulate my dad, Scott Morash. He does incredible things for others. He is very selfless!"

Morgan confides, "I was scared to enter university, but it was silly to worry. I was definitely well equipped to enter university. At Sandy Lake Academy, I learned that if you do your part to prepare, you will succeed. Do your part and God will do the rest!"

Sandy Lake Academy is proud of Morgan's scholastic achievements. And we are confident that with the Lord's guidance, Morgan will be successful in everything he undertakes. ■

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



Throw it Away

"I have been smoking for many, many years, and I want to give it up for myself, and for my family."

A student literature evangelist approached a home, knocked on the door, and waited. After a little while, a man came to the door. "Hello, my name is Danny," the student said, "and I am with Canada Youth Challenge." Danny gave his presentation, and at the end the man said, "Not interested." Danny then presented the man with the book *History and Hope*, and again came the curt response, "Not interested." So Danny thanked the man for his time, gave him a GLOW¹ tract, and went on his way.

Danny had not gone very far when he heard the man call out and beckon him to return. When Danny came, the man appeared almost speechless. In his hand was the tract Danny had given him, "Breaking Addictions." Right then, Danny sensed that God's presence was in their midst in a very special way. Something was happening. Somehow God was working. And though he didn't yet know what was taking place, Danny wanted to give God praise.

The man went inside for a moment, returned with some money, and gave it to Danny. He then said, "Young man, I can't understand what is happening to me. Ten minutes before you came, I was praying to God, asking Him to help me with my addiction. You see, I have been smoking for many, many years, and I want to give it up, for myself, and for my family. Then you came and gave me this tract, and when I read a little of it, I had to call you back." With that, the man handed Danny his pack of cigarettes and said, "Please, throw it away."

Danny presented the man again with the book *History and Hope*, and this time, the man accepted it. As he left, the man's pack of cigarettes still in his hand, Danny prayed to God, asking Him to give the man the deliverance for which he was so desperately seeking.

All over this world people are on their knees, crying to God for deliverance. Deliverance from hurt, pain, depression, addictions —deliverance from the misery that comes from sin. To each cry, God bends a listening and compassionate ear, and to each request, He longs to send out an answer. But He answers through us. We are His messengers of mercy here on this earth. We are His answer to many a hurting individual. Romans 10: 13-15 says, "For, 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'" But immediately, Paul identifies the problem, and the solution: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Who is a preacher? Anyone who is a good-news bringer. And that is what we are. Everyone whose heart has been touched by the love of Jesus is called to share that love with others. The feet that are directed to paths of service and ministry are beautiful in God's eyes. So He calls us to go, share, and be His answer to a hurting world. ■

Lifestyle Canada Education Service (LCES) is a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada. (LifestyleCanada.org)

Please note: Items in the "News" section may originate from various sources. The Canadian Adventist Messenger will give credit, via a byline, to authors of material submitted directly to us for first printing. Stories without a byline may have been written by Messenger staff, reprinted from other publications or supplied to us by a general press release.

Alberta

Youth in Edmonton Gather Downtown to #REACH1 For Christ



On Oct. 11, 2014, Thanksgiving weekend, close to 100 youth gathered downtown in front of the Hope Mission, waiting for the Alberta Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) trailer to arrive.

As they were waiting, they were greeted by pastors Robbie Dorelus from West Edmonton, Ron Yabut from Edmonton Filipino, Allan Perez from Red Willow, and Oscar Halverson from Edmonton South Side Church, who brought their youth groups with them.

The youth were excited, waiting in anticipation, not knowing what to expect but hoping for an exciting adventure. They had all gathered downtown in one of the roughest parts of Edmonton because the Alberta Conference Youth Department/Community Services had organized an outreach event called, "#REACH1." The idea was that this Thanksgiving, since God had blessed them, it was now time to bless others by reaching one person for Christ.

As the red trailer pulled up to the Hope Mission, the multitudes of youth oozed with excitement. People were organized

into groups of six and were given an envelope with outreach tasks that they had to complete. They also were each given a brown bag containing food and water to distribute to homeless individuals. Thanks to Pastor Yabut and his church members, the youth had over 300 sandwiches to give out to those who were homeless and hungry.

At one point there was a group of youth who met someone in need of a blanket. We quickly grabbed an emergency blanket from the ACS trailer and rushed over to the woman in need. Jessica Bautista, from Edmonton, handed the blanket to the lady and embraced her with a warm hug. After that all the youth give the lady a big hug and recited John 3:16.

Not too long after, a man walked up to the trailer and said that there was a lady who was in need of some serious help. Dorelus and Perez quickly sprang into action. As they crossed the busy Edmonton street, they approached a lady who looked weak and frail. Her face was filled with tears. She was not feeling well and needed some encouragement. Then

what happened next took my breath away. In the middle of the dirty sidewalk, both pastors bent down and joined the desperate and disheartened lady. They sat with her and spent time with her as Jesus would. They reached out and met someone in need. After praying with the lady they were off to help another person in need.

It was a sight to see, so many youth engaging in meaningful conversation with homeless persons, spending quality time with the downtrodden of society. I saw many signs and posters made by the youth that said, "Smile—Jesus Loves You!"

As we ended our #REACH1 outreach event, we came together for a group picture. What a joy to see all these volunteers who left their comfortable Sabbath dinners, donning bright yellow shirts glowing with the spirit of Christ's love. That day it was good to know that almost 100 youth reached at least one person for Jesus in downtown Edmonton. ■

—Lyle M. Notice,
Associate Youth Director

First Camp Meeting of Western Canadian Russian-Speaking Adventists



Camp meeting speakers Larry Hall and Pavlo Polenchuk.



Over 160 people attended the inaugural campmeeting of Russian-speaking Adventists.

On Sept. 12-14, 2014, the first campmeeting of Russian-speaking groups from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, titled “Hidden Treasure,” took place on the grounds of Foothills Camp, Alta. A few dedicated volunteers put this wonderful spiritual event together for the purpose of achieving a higher Christian experience and to grow in the knowledge of God. The goal was to obtain spiritual renewal, Christian fellowship, and the opportunity to worship in Russian language, the knowledge of which unites Adventist members from various countries of the former Soviet Union.

As September’s heavy snowstorms wreaked havoc on Alberta, only a few days before campmeeting, some attendees were concerned that bad weather would create poor road conditions and put a damper on the gathering. Prayers were answered, and by the time attendees arrived at Camp Foothills on Friday afternoon, the weather improved and all were blessed.

During Friday evening vespers, attendees were able to partake in a song service, listen to special music service, and take in the first sermon of Pastor

Arthur Stele, “Where is Your God,” based on the Bible book of Esther. Following vespers, many stayed around to mingle, reunite with friends and family, and to make new friends. Ladies from the cafeteria provided some tea and hot chocolate to make this fellowship even more enjoyable.

Saturday started with an early morning prayer meeting, followed by a beautiful special music program, and Sabbath school. Pastor Larry Hall welcomed attendees and expressed support for this campmeeting on behalf of the Alberta Conference. His attendance was met with a very positive response and appreciation. Arthur Stele gave a sermon entitled, “Who is Your God?” based on the book of Psalms. Over 60 children and youth were treated to various programs prepared by Canadian University (CUC) students that included songs, skits, crafts, and horseback riding.

After a scrumptious lunch of borscht, baked potatoes with fixings, and salad, prepared by talented cafeteria staff who went an extra mile to prepare dishes that were familiar and dear to this ethnic group, attendees were treated to a seminar by Galina Stele on Christian family issues, “You And Your Family,” which focused

on family relationships.

During Sabbath vespers, attendees were treated to another sermon by Arthur Stele, “What Type of God Is Your God?” based on John 5:1-9. Sabbath vespers was followed by a business meeting, at which attendees voted to create a Russian-Speaking Adventist Association of Western Canada and elected an association board: Pavlo Polenchuk, president; Olga Tokareva, treasurer; and Miroslava Antoniuk, secretary. The evening concluded with a campfire, where everyone had an opportunity to socialize.

Sunday morning’s early prayer meeting was followed by a delightful pancake breakfast and tearful goodbyes, as campmeeting came to a close.

Over 160 people attended the inaugural campmeeting of Russian-speaking Adventists. This campmeeting provided a reprieve from busy lives, offered an opportunity to refocus on what is important, listen to God’s Word, build relationships, grow spiritually, and overall it was a great success. ■

— Miroslava Antoniuk,
Russian-speaking
Adventist Association
of Western Canada

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of Oct. 31, 2014, there were 438 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,264,125. There were 80 loans with a value of \$22,196,312.

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

British Columbia

Aldergrove Church's 11th Annual Charity Golf Classic a success!



L. to R.: Sven Tornlov, Wayne Culmore, Lloyd Robinson, and Bill Gerber.



Tina Cooke, photographer for the event, holds up a sign crediting her husband's company, Plus Coastline Transmission, as sponsor for one of the Hole-in-One competitions.

On Monday, Sept. 15, 80 golfers took to the beautiful links of the Redwoods Golf Course in Langley to raise money for the Acts of Kindness (AOK) ministries of the Aldergrove Adventist Church. Each year this event brings in the resources necessary to fund all of the AOK activities for the following year. It makes it possible for ministries such as the Breakfast Club, Single Mom's Oil Change, Kids to Camp, Minivan Giveaway, and Extreme Home Repair to serve.

The day included different contests, such as a putting contest and a new "break the window" contest. There were two "hole-in-one" contests. One prize was a brand-new Mini Cooper car, and the other was a \$20,000 prize: \$10,000 for AOK and \$10,000 for the golfer. (Unfortunately, no one got a lucky shot.) For the second year in a row, there was a "helicopter ball drop" contest where numbered balls were dropped from a helicopter and the closest ball to the hole won the prize, which was a 30-minute helicopter ride as well as a remote-controlled drone.

The day ended with a wonderful banquet meal, the giving of prizes, and a presentation of what AOK is and the difference it makes in our community. After the final appeal was given, the total for the day came in at \$40,000! We are so grateful for a God who faithfully provides so we can keep doing Acts of Kindness every year!

Check out aokaldergrove.org for more information about Acts of Kindness Ministries. ■

—Mike Dauncey,
Associate Pastor,
Aldergrove Seventh-day
Adventist Church

See more at: <http://goo.gl/GGIq1o>

Peace Christian School Graduates First Grade 12 Class

Much has changed in the past six years that I've spent at Peace Christian School (PCS) in Chetwynd. I remember my first year's Grade 7 social studies class. They were, to say the least, an eclectic group, full of life and personality.

A lot has changed in the years between then and now. Some have moved on, and others have joined; however, the one constant with this group has been growth. The 2013/2014 school year started with an air of excitement as we contemplated the first Grade 12 class in the history of PCS!

For many it was the culmination of years of preparation and hard work to make reality from a dream. As the staff reflected on the journey, there was a bittersweet feeling.

The six young men who made up PCS's very first graduating class epitomized the high standards we promote at PCS: strong leaders, role models, and team players involved in school, both in and out of the classroom.

We celebrated the accomplishments of these six young men, but we also were going to have to say goodbye to some of our strongest leaders, athletes, students, and personalities.

As we prepared for the graduation ceremonies, I remember the statement that Principal Darren Shankel made last September: "I am going to enjoy every moment I have with this class." And that's how the year has gone.

As a staff, we have enjoyed the time with



Standing l. to r.: Tobias Kurjata, Taishon Llewellyn, and Brandon King.
Sitting l. to r.: Joe Hale, Nathan Sawchuk, and Riley Shankel.

them, whether it was football, volleyball, or soccer tournaments, watching them lead out in church, their participation in various drama and choir productions throughout the year, or just watching them interact with the elementary students.

Through it all we have truly enjoyed every moment with them!

Even though graduation itself was one

more moment to celebrate—and even though it was the very first one in the history of Peace Christian School—that fact was overshadowed by the six extraordinary young graduates: Brandon, Joe, Nathan, Riley, Taishon, and Tobias. ■

—Alastair Atherton, Teacher,
Peace Christian School

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

Maritimes

North Sydney 100th Anniversary Event

A bold-print headline on Page 4 of the *Cape Breton Post* (readership 50,000 plus) stated, "Seventh-day Adventists mark anniversary." Accompanying this headline was a half-page article that included two photos, one showing the church exterior, the other one showing two members decorating the interior for the homecoming event. Pictured in the background of the

photo showing the interior is the front wall of the sanctuary, which displayed the decorative phrase, "One hundred years of serving Christ."

Beverly Reid, with her corps of workers, took unusual care in organizing every aspect of the event, right down to the very last detail.

Friday evening, Aug. 8 from 6 to 7 p.m.

was a meet-and-greet occasion. In the social gathering room downstairs was a snack table, and on the walls could be seen a massive number of old and new photos depicting, in a historical way, the long history of the church in North Sydney.

At 7 p.m., a song service, including special songs, took place and was followed by congratulation remarks by Eddie Orrell,

the MLA representative for the area. In his closing remarks a letter of similar focus, bearing the Nova Scotia flag, was presented to the church in which he stated in diplomatic design, "It gives me great pleasure to extend congratulations to you on the occasion of your 100th anniversary. You have reached a significant milestone, and I'm sure you shared many fond memories with church members and friends as you look back over the past 100 years. I wish you an even brighter future." That same evening a sermon was preached by our Maritime Conference president, John Fournier.

On Sabbath morning, in place of the usual Sabbath school study, a historical review of the church's past was related by several persons, one of which mentioned the very first baptism in the area by the Adventist church in September 1914.

As an outreach program of the North Sydney fellowship in 1959, George Vandeman held an evangelistic series that year. (Sydney is not to be confused with North Sydney; the two are separate places many kilometres apart). Following that event, W.A. Nelson, who was then the president of the Canadian Union of Seventh-day Adventists, organized the Sydney Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Just prior to the worship service on Sabbath, the mayor of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Cecil Clarke,



L.to R.: Dave Crook, David Streifling, Gerry Karst, John Lyons, Lloyd Steeves and Dan Wilson.

expressed his regards. (The mayor's territory takes in the city of Sydney and all surrounding towns: Glace Bay, New Waterford, Louisbourg, North Sydney, Sydney Mines, etc.)

The Sabbath sermon was preached by Pastor Gerry Karst, a one-time pastor in North Sydney, and now retired from the General Conference. His wife, the former Verna Moores, was also in attendance. She was originally raised in North Sydney, but both met when they were employed by the Branson Hospital in Toronto.

The Sabbath evening preaching service featured Dan Wilson, who was once the pastor here and later in Halifax. He is now serving in the Alberta Conference.

Music set the tone for all events with specials used throughout. Sabbath afternoon featured a group called Magnify.

The Sunday morning event was one that all could relate to: breakfast, with a good turnout.

There were both men and women of the church who did a fantastic job in fulfilling the many facets of the homecoming event, which required much cooperation in pulling together as a team. Many thanks to Beverly Reid for heading up the 100th anniversary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cape Breton. ■

Ontario

Official Opening of Crawford Academy East Campus's New School Building

"Thank you for saving the neighbourhood," say neighbours.

The opening of Crawford Adventist Academy East Campus has saved the neighbourhood, Pat and Gil Afrane told over 150 dignitaries and guests on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2014.

The Afranes, neighbours to the school at 1765 Meadowview Avenue, Pickering, were speaking during the grand opening ceremony in the gymnasium of the building.

They related how the former Roman Catholic school building was becoming derelict and was being vandalised. Now that a faith-based school had moved in, they were thankful that the neighbourhood had been saved.

Earlier in the ceremony, the City of Pickering mayor, David Ryan, expressed his enthusiasm for the opening of the school.

"I am happy to know the school continues to provide faith-based education to the community, following that of the Catholics," he said.

Councillor Kevin Ash (Ward 1), former chair of the Durham District Catholic Board, echoed Mayor Ryan's sentiments about faith-based education.

Ontario Conference president,



Mansfield Edwards, told visiting dignitaries and guests that the “school does not stand alone.” He spoke of the vast worldwide educational system, the health emphasis of the Adventist Church, and the related health benefits of being an Adventist.

Edwards also took time to pay tribute to the teachers, speaking of the pride the Ontario Conference has in its teachers and for the quality of the education they provide.

Principal Wendy Hutchinson proudly introduced her staff, who stood and received hearty applause from the audience. Hutchinson also spoke of the rush to have the school ready for the first day of school on September 2, after having only received the keys a month earlier. She ensured that she recognized everyone, including the Afranes, who gave their time and means to get the school ready in time for the 58 students.

With the arrival of the students, including brand-new kindergarteners, and their parents on the first day of school year, what was simply a building was filled with life and became a school. Since then, the children have stamped their personalities on it. Even the ribbon that was cut to signify the opening of the school was in the form of a banner created by the children.

Perhaps one of the most moving events during the ceremony was the entire school body singing the school song “Ever Forward” and reciting the school pledge.

Mayor David Ryan and Kassandra Cruciano from the office of the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, MPP Pickering-Scarborough East, both presented congratulatory certificates to the school.

Based on the messages from the various speakers, it was evident that the acquisition of the building and its preparation was the outcome of prayer, sacrifice, hard work, and commitment. Parents, area pastors, churches, school staff, Ontario Conference and Toronto Adventist District School Board (TADSB), aligned to firmly establish Crawford Adventist Academy East in its own building.

Much of the credit for the acquisition of the building belongs to the TADSB. Since the school opened seven years ago in Agape Temple’s facilities, the TADSB did not cease its search for a building to permanently house the school. The squeals of delight of children jumping on the bouncy castle in the schoolyard must have brought additional pleasure to the TADSB, even as the opening ceremony closed and guests and parents lined up for a barbecue. ■

SOME FACTS

History: CAA East preceded by Lena Brown School (1977-1993) housed in basement of Toronto East church and later in three rented classrooms at Knob Hill Public School.

1993: merged with Crawford Adventist Academy at 531 Finch Avenue, West.

2007: CAA East began in basement of Agape Temple Adventist Church.

Present pupil enrolment (K-8): 58

Teachers: five full-time and a part-time music teacher

French is also taught

Classrooms: 13, plus two kindergarten rooms and a computer lab

Other facilities: gymnasium, assembly hall, staff room, and administrative offices.

Future projections: (1) provisions for day care, (2) yearly enrolment increase to maximum of 300 pupils.

Oshawa Mayor Opens ABC Christian Bookstore

On Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014, John Henry, mayor of Oshawa, and Dr. Dennis Marshall, general vice-president of the Seventh-day Church in Canada (SDACC), joined Ontario Conference administrators in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the conference's new bookstore in Oshawa.

Nearly 100 people, including families of staff, conference employees, pastors, and interested church members were also present for the opening of the ABC Christian Bookstore outside the premises of what was the Adventist Book Centre on the grounds of Kingsway College.

After prayer by Ulysses Guarin, Ontario Conference treasurer, and welcome by Tonnata Tjhatra, interim manager, both Mayor Henry and Dr. Marshall shared greetings from the City of Oshawa and from the SDACC, respectively.

Following a vocal musical rendition by Alpha Pascual, Dr. Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president, gave an address that highlighted the value of literature in the history and mission of the Adventist Church.

"It is a known fact that people do not read as much as they used to," he said. "But I am encouraged that Seventh-day Adventists still see Christian literature as important to them. This bookstore will provide both them, and the local community, with an ongoing source of materials



for their spiritual growth, education, and witnessing."

Edwards was joined by Henry, Marshall, Guarin, and Pastor Gary Hodder, executive secretary of the Ontario Conference, in the ribbon cutting.

The Ontario Conference assumed ownership of the Adventist Book Centre (ABC) in Ontario on May 25, 2014, after the Pacific Press Publishing Association divested itself of all Adventist Book Centres in North America.

New Manager Appointed

Since the opening ceremony, Donovan Dodd has been appointed as the bookstore manager. Dodd, a member of Downstview Adventist Church and the executive director of the Ontario Conference Masterguide Council, has over 25 years of retail experience. He commenced his new role on Oct. 6, 2014. ■

—Halsey Peat,
Communication Director,
Ontario Conference

SDA Church in Canada

Messenger Wins Again

At the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) convention, held Oct. 16-18, 2014, in Jacksonville, Fla., your *Canadian Adventist Messenger* accepted two awards. Honourable mention was awarded to Tia Lawrence in the class of Best Devotional for "Whole Heart," which was published in the October 2013 issue. Tammie Burak also received an honourable mention in the Best Column or Department class for Creation Corner for Kids. Stan Jensen, editor, and Aimee Perez, secretary, were on hand to accept both awards. SAC,

an organization for communication professionals and university students either employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church or outside of the church structure, celebrated their 25th anniversary by returning to the Southern Union Conference, where the organization was originally established as the Southern Society of Adventist Communicators. ■

■ Announcements

PROCESS:

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Clayton G. Riley was accepted into the church by profession of faith in Kelowna, B.C., on Aug. 30, 2014, by Brian Hawes. He is now a member of the Rutland church.

Ashlee Yap was baptized in Port Alberni, B.C., on Aug. 23, 2014, by Jim Gaull. Ashlee made her decision to be baptized while attending Mountain View Summer Camp in 2013. She studied the book *What We Believe for Kids* by Jerry D. Thomas with her grandfather, Pastor Jim Gaull. She was baptized in Sproat Lake surrounded by friends and family. Ashlee is now a member of the Port Alberni church.

Lily Yu was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Aug. 30, 2014, by Brian Hawes. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

■ Obituaries

Esther Rosalie (née Kingsfield) Anderson was born on Aug. 20, 1920, in Dahinda, Sask., and died on Sept. 18, 2014, in Calgary, Alta. Esther was an LPN during most of

her working years. She was generous, kind, and dedicated to her family and church. She was a woman of courage, tenacity, and unwavering faith whose advice, wisdom, and consistent Christian example will continue to influence her family and those who knew and loved her. Esther is predeceased by her parents, Frederick and Susanna Kingsfield; four brothers; eight sisters; first husband, Clarence Grange; and second husband, Herbert Anderson. Surviving: son, Ronald (Linda) Grange of Yucaipa, Calif.; daughters, Lorna (Gene) Nicol of Calgary, and Ardella (Jerry) Littman of Calgary; seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Ina Baxter-Paul was born on March 11, 1923, in Carbon, Alta., and died on Aug. 15, 2014, in Seneca, S.C. Ina and her husband served the Lord at home and abroad, in Indonesia, Nigeria, Lebanon, Kenya, and Guam. Ina is predeceased by her husband, Percy; and brother, Delbert Huether. Surviving: sons, Ken (Sharon) Paul of Lincoln, Neb., and Keith Paul of Seneca, S.C.; brothers, Donovan Huether of Holbrook, Ariz., and Willard Huether of Lacombe, Alta.; sisters, Elvina Black of Bozeman, Mont., and Della Trenchuk of Seattle, Wash.; three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Winifred (née Sisson) Carnegie was born on June 17, 1923, in Dublin, Ireland, and died on Sept. 9, 2014, in Creston, B.C. Winifred graduated from Newbold College as a bible worker and served as a colporteur in England and Australia. She also worked as a nurse at Branson Hospital in North York, Ont., and Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital in Sydney, Australia, as well as director of nursing at Sherwood Park Care Home in Sherwood Park, Alta. Winifred is predeceased by her husband, Andrew Carnegie; parents, Herbert and Lilian Sisson; five brothers and six sisters.

Dean Kenneth Erhardt died on Nov. 13, 2013, in Kitchener, Ont. Dean came back to church by the grace of God and served Him by building houses for poverty-stricken people in Mexico, spreading the gospel health message, and praying for the kids he loved. Dean is predeceased by his wife, Kathleen Alice (née Vann) Erhardt; and son, Kenneth Alexander Erhardt. Surviving: son, Craig Franklin Erhardt of Brantford, Ont.; daughter, Vivian (Bruce) Ireland of New Hamburg, Ont.; and one grandchild.

Kathleen (née Vann) Erhardt was born on Nov. 15, 1934, in Cambridge, Ont., and died on July 4, 1989, in Brantford, Ont. Kathleen walked and talked Christianity. She was an

amazing youth leader, community service assistant, prayer ministry leader, and helped homeless people. She was a faith champion, mother, and friend who reflected Jesus in every way. Kathleen is predeceased by her son, Kenneth Alexander Erhardt. Surviving: husband, Dean Erhardt; son, Craig Franklin Erhardt of Brantford; daughter, Vivian (Bruce) Ireland of New Hamburg, Ont.; and one grandchild.

Douglas Finlayson was born on June 18, 1931, in Watson, Sask., and died on Feb. 18, 2014, in Quill Lake, Sask. Douglas is predeceased by his parents, Robert and Flossie (née Clark) Finlayson; and brother, Bill Finlayson. Surviving: wife, Patricia Finlayson; sons, Foster (Lois) Finlayson of Quill Lake, Preston (Selene) Finlayson of Victoria, B.C., Clifford Finlayson of Quill Lake, Sheldon (Lynnie) Finlayson of Saskatoon, Sask.; daughters, Patricia (Ron) Hetland of Spalding, Sask., Roberta (Ken) Erickson of Lacombe, Alta.; brother, Glen Finlayson of Chilliwack, B.C.; sister, Jean (Don) Donesky of Bracebridge, Ont.; 18 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Terence Sidney Fry was born on Nov. 25, 1944, in Bristol, England, and died on Aug. 1, 2014, in Victoria, B.C. Surviving: wife, Jo Ann Fry of Lacombe, Alta.; son, Travis (Jessica) Fry of Sherwood Park, Alta.; daughter, Tracy (Clayton) Ganson of Lacombe; and four grandchildren.

Alvin Kurtz was born on July 7, 1936, in Filer, Idaho, and died on Aug. 5, 2014, in Kelowna, B.C. Following a long ministry in the United States, Alvin moved to Canada and pastored in Willowdale, Ont., and Victoria, B.C. After retirement in 1999, Alvin served the Lord in churches throughout the Okanagan Valley through preaching and grief counselling. Alvin is predeceased by his parents, August and Emma Kurtz. Surviving: wife, Elizabeth Frazer-Kurtz; son, Dale Kurtz; daughter, Colleen McGee; brother, Leon; sister, Laura; and three grandchildren.

Beryl (née Newbury) MacKinnon was born in 1921 in Coulsdon, England, and died on Aug. 16, 2014, in Sydney, N.S. In the face of difficult times, Beryl remained faithful to her Lord and church. She is predeceased by her husband, Edgar MacKinnon; son, David MacKinnon; and parents, Fredrick and Agnes Newbury. Surviving: sons, Stewart (Carol) MacKinnon of Vancouver, B.C., and Jeffrey (Mary) MacKinnon of Belleville, Ont.

Elise Mills was born on Sept. 27, 1922, in Edmonton, Alta., and died

on Oct. 5, 2014, in Penticton, B.C. Elise is predeceased by her husband, Esmond Mills; and sons, Michael and Jerome. Surviving: sons, Wayne (Connie) Mills of Langley, B.C., Gaylen (Francine) Mills of Wangi Wangi, Australia; daughters, Debbie Duncan of Penticton, B.C., Roxanna Mills of Penticton, Candace (George) Tyler of 70 Mile House, B.C., Cindy (Michael) Whittaker of Oliver, B.C.; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Karen (née Rose) Redelback was born on Oct. 29, 1956, in Brooks, Alta., and died on Jul. 29, 2014, in Calgary, Alta. Karen loved animals from an early age and excelled in her ability to teach equestrian riding to students of all ages. She willingly helped others and animals in the field of health using alternative methods of treatment. In her last few years, Karen returned to the God of her childhood and faithfully helped wherever she could. Surviving: husband, Dale Redelback; stepsons, Barry Redelback of Edmonton, Alta., Shane Redelback of Calgary; parents, Lavern and Joyce Rose; and brother, Keith (Janice) Rose of Calgary.

John W. Smith was born on May 21, 1918, in Eastend, Sask., and died on Sept. 2, 2014, in McBride, B.C. Throughout his life John was an active member of the Lamming Mills, Grandview Flats, and McBride churches (B.C.), spending countless, happy hours volunteering in both church and community. His abilities as a handyman, welder, and mechanic extended beyond making a living to helping wherever there was a need. John is predeceased by his foster son, Richard Washington of Merritt, B.C. Surviving: wife, Laura (née Dyke) Smith; daughters, Myrtle Smith-Dovich of McBride, Adella (Don) Gordon of McBride, Dianne (Dwayne) Straub of Lacombe, Alta.; foster children, Geraldine Fountain of Kitchener, Ont.; Sandra (Stan) Washington of Merritt, Jim Fountain of Merritt, Lynn (Fred) Paul of Lacombe; and brothers, Floyd Smith of Port Hardy, B.C., and George Smith of Hazelton, B.C.

Leicester (Les) Squires was born on Dec. 22, 1935, in Barbados, West Indies, and died on Aug. 7, 2014, in Toronto, Ont. Les was a member and elder of the Woodstock church for almost 40 years and was active in the advancement of Christian education, both locally and provincially. Les is predeceased by his parents, Rupert and Muriel Squires; brothers, Stanley Cummins, Harold Squires, and Brien Squires. Surviving: wife, Juanita (née Greaves) Squires; sons, Trevor, Carlton, and Andrew; and brother, Marcellous Squires.

Esther (née Spenst) Wecker was born on April 11, 1928, in Waldheim, Sask., and died on Jan. 13, 2014, in Kelowna, B.C. Esther served as a church school teacher for several years in Saskatchewan, as well as Sabbath school superintendent, Sabbath school children's division leader, M.V. leader, and a very efficient and dedicated church treasurer. Esther is predeceased by her parents, Jacob and Elizabeth Spenst; brother, Jacob Spenst; and sisters, Catherine Paul and Ann Parrish. Surviving: daughters, Judy (Terry) Foulston of Lacombe, Alta., Sandra Doucette of Iroquois Falls, Ont., and Glenda (Don) Quiring of Kelowna; brother, Arthur (Dorothy) Spenst of Abbotsford, B.C.; sisters, Marion (Galen) Brown, and Elizabeth Brown; 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Sara (née Klassen) Wiebe was born on Aug. 5, 1924, in Morden, Man., and died on May 21, 2014, in Lacombe, Alta. Sara was a kind and gentle woman. One person described her as being non-judgemental; he always felt safe in her presence. She used to teach in the children's Sabbath school, and picked up seniors and brought them to church. Sara will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Sara is predeceased by her husband, Menno Wiebe; daughter, Caroline Evahnenko; parents, Cornelius and Mary Klassen; brothers, Jake, John, and Peter Klassen; sisters, Mary Dyck, Susan Klassen, Elizabeth Weins, Margaret Lidstone, Anne Wall. Surviving: son, Ken (Vera) Wiebe of Lacombe, Alta.; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

■ Advertisements

Union College seeks committed SDA candidate for tenure track position in voice/choral music beginning June 2015. Responsibilities include overseeing the voice program, directing vocal groups, advising, teaching undergraduate courses and voice lessons. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and references to Bruce Forbes, b2forbes@ucollege.edu. (12/14)

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)

■ Advertising Policies

PROCESS:

- All advertising should be submitted with local conference approval.
- Payment must accompany your ad, or it will not be published.
- The Messenger assumes no responsibility for typographical errors, nor liability for the advertisements. Acceptance of ads does not constitute endorsement of the products or services by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

RATES:

Classified advertising—\$32 for 50 words or less; \$7 for each additional 10 words.

For display ads rates, sizes, deadlines, and more, visit: www.adventist.ca/messenger.

Union College seeks a professor specializing in an area of non-European history, to teach general and upper division courses effective fall 2015. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and references to Michelle Velazquez Mesnard, Humanities Division Chair, mimesnard@ucollege.edu. (12/14)

Serve God as a web developer from home! K3 Integrations creates interactive websites for Adventist ministries. We are seeking programmers who want to make a difference in the world. We focus on Ruby on Rails, but we are willing to train the right candidate. More info: <http://bit.ly/K3-i>. (12/14)

Finding carrot juicing messy and time consuming? Powdered carrot juice eliminates the mess, prep time and even the juicer. An excellent, economical and convenient product. Powdered beet juice proven to reduce hypertension. Read about the amazing detoxifying and anti-aging benefits of beet juice: www.natural-pain-relief-guide.com/beetaging. Call Ray for free information. 888/707-3663 rayfoucher@gmail.com. (12/14)

Planning an evangelistic series or health seminar? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free 800/274-0016 and ask for HOPE customer service, or visit www.hopesource.com. We invite you to experience the Hopesource difference. (12/14)

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)




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)

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from the editor

Avoiding the Sins of Sodom at Christmas

The statement “sins of Sodom” is a topic that often makes quiet people very vocal, and vocal people even more so. Memories of television evangelists speaking of the evil come back to life when these words are heard. But before we go much further, what is the biblical definition of the sins of Sodom? According to the Bible, “Sodom’s sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door” (Ezek. 16:49, NLT).

I hear religious groups state that we need to “put Christ back in Christmas,” calls to protest stores that say “Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas,” and even read about possible boycotts of entire shopping centres. But I believe that if we want to put Christ back in Christmas, we must avoid the sins of Sodom—by practising sincere Christianity.

James 1:27, “Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you” (NLT). We can help struggling single mothers by providing gifts for their children and tasty food for a Christmas dinner. We can help the widows who face spending the holidays alone by inviting them to our family table. That is putting the Christ back in Christmas.

I know a group of people that sends gifts to children with a tag that reads, “Love, Mom.” The compassionate part is that they send these gifts on behalf of mothers who are locked up in prison. This group of women knows how to put Christ back in Christmas. I remember the story of a police officer that came to arrest a desperate single mom who was caught shoplifting presents for her children. The officer told the store manager that he would personally cover the cost of the goods. That officer knew how to put Christ back in Christmas. There are students at our Adventist boarding academies who cannot go home at Christmastime, so staff and community welcome them into their own homes. Those people know how to put Christ back in Christmas.

We can avoid the sins of Sodom by doing things to give folks a helping hand and strengthen their families and lives. Show them love and let them talk about love.

Let’s all put Christ back in Christmas. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

PS: One additional way of avoiding the sins of Sodom is to help ADRA Canada reveal Christlike compassion, by contributing to their gift catalogue: (adra.ca/giftcatalogue/).

THE END OF THE YEAR is a natural time for us to reflect on the past. *What did I accomplish this year?*

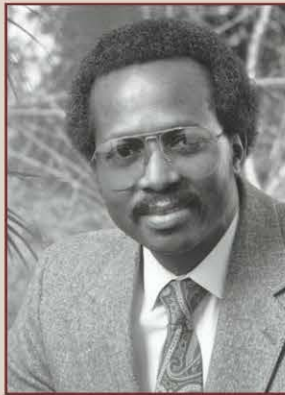
What difference have I made in the world? Whether you are a student or a captain of industry, the tendency for self-evaluation is universal. And so it must have been for past leaders of our church.

This month let's play a game. Below are photos of past leaders and administrators from across Canada. See how many faces you recognize. Answers are listed at the bottom of the page.

1



2



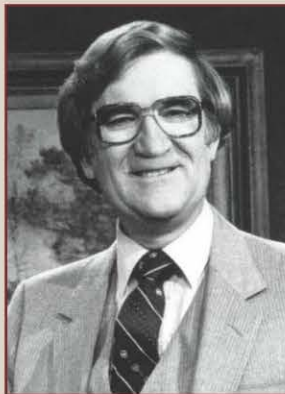
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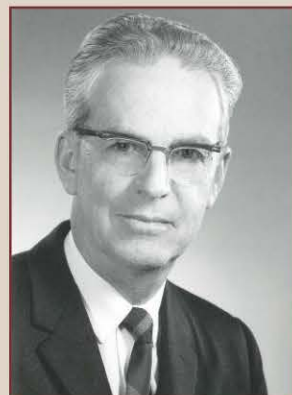
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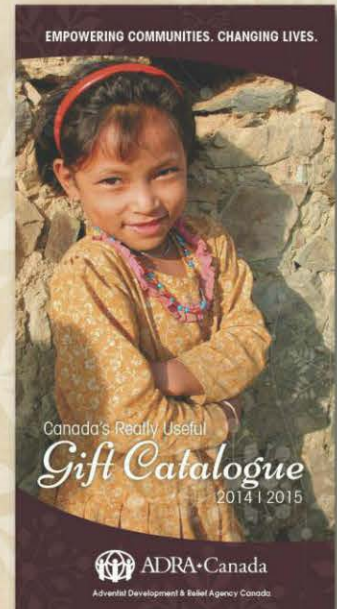
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